

Chapter 495E-110 WAC

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE AND HEARING PROCEDURES

The Student Conduct Code and Hearing Procedure can also be viewed on the [Washington State Legislature website for Chapter 495E-110 WAC](#).

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495E-110-010 - Authority.

The board of trustees, acting pursuant to RCW [28B.50.140](#)(14), delegates to the President of the college the authority to administer disciplinary action. Administration of the disciplinary procedures is the responsibility of the Vice President of Student Services or their designee. Except in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the student conduct officer, or delegate, shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code.

495E-110-020 - Statement of student rights.

As members of the academic community, students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in an independent search for truth. Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the larger community. Students should exercise their freedom with responsibility. The responsibility to secure and to respect general conditions conducive to the freedom to learn is shared by all members of the college community.

The following enumerated rights are guaranteed to each student within the limitations of statutory law and college policy, which are deemed necessary to achieve the educational goals of the college:

(1) **Academic freedom.**

(a) Students are guaranteed the rights of free inquiry, expression, and assembly upon and within college facilities that are generally open and available to the public.

(b) Students are free to pursue appropriate educational objectives from among the college's curricula, programs, and services, subject to the limitations of RCW [28B.50.090](#) (3)(b).

(c) Students shall be protected from academic evaluation which is arbitrary, prejudiced, or capricious, but are responsible for meeting the standards of academic performance established by each of their instructors.

(d) Students have the right to a learning environment which is free from unlawful discrimination, inappropriate and disrespectful conduct, and any and all harassment, including sexual harassment.

(2) **Due process.**

(a) The rights of students to be secure in their persons, quarters, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures is guaranteed.

(b) No disciplinary sanction may be imposed on any student without notice to the accused of the nature of the charges.

(c) A student accused of violating this code of student conduct is entitled, upon request, to procedural due process as set forth in this chapter.

495E-110-030 - Prohibited student conduct.

The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student or student group, who commits, attempts to commit, aids, abets, incites, encourages or assists another person to commit, an act(s) of misconduct, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) **Abuse of others.** Assault, physical abuse, verbal abuse, threat(s), intimidation, or other conduct that harms, threatens, or is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of another person or another person's property unless otherwise protected by law.

(2) **Abuse in later life.**

(a) Neglect, abandonment, economic abuse, or willful harm of an adult aged 50 or older by an individual in an ongoing relationship of trust with the victim; or

(b) Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking of an adult aged 50 or older by any individual; and

(c) Does not include self-neglect.

(3) **Academic dishonesty.** Any act of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication.

(a) Cheating includes any attempt to give or obtain unauthorized assistance relating to the completion of an academic assignment.

(b) Plagiarism includes taking and using 's one's own, without proper attribution, the ideas, writings, or work of another person, or artificial intelligence, in completing an academic assignment. Prohibited conduct may also include the unauthorized submission for credit of academic work that has been submitted for credit in another course.

(c) Fabrication includes falsifying data, information, or citations in completing an academic assignment and also includes providing false or deceptive information to an instructor concerning the completion of an assignment.

(d) Deliberate damage - Taking deliberate action to destroy or damage another's academic work or college property in order to gain an advantage for oneself or another.

(e) Academic consequences for academic dishonesty or abetting in academic dishonesty may be imposed at the discretion of a faculty member up to and including a failing grade for the course. Students should refer to each faculty course syllabus. Further academic consequences may follow consistent with the provisions in any program handbook. Incidents of academic dishonesty may also be referred to the student conduct officer for disciplinary action consistent with this chapter in addition to the academic consequences identified above.

(4) **Other dishonesty.** Any other acts of dishonesty. Such acts include,

but are not limited to:

(a) Forgery, alteration, submission of falsified documents, or misuse of any college document, record, or instrument of identification;

(b) Tampering with an election conducted by or for college students; or

(c) Furnishing false information or failing to furnish correct information, in response to the request or requirement of a college officer or employee.

(d) Knowingly making a false statement or submitting false information in relation, or in response, to a college academic or disciplinary investigation or process.

(5) **Obstruction or disruptive conduct.** Conduct, not otherwise protected by law, that interferes with, impedes, or otherwise unreasonably hinders:

(a) Instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding, or other college activities, including the obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular movement on college property or at a college activity; or

(b) Any activity that is authorized to occur on college property, whether or not actually conducted or sponsored by the college.

(6) **Cyber misconduct.** Cyberstalking, cyberbullying or online harassment. Use of electronic communications including, but not limited to, electronic mail, instant messaging, electronic bulletin boards, applications (apps), and social media sites, to harass, abuse, bully, or engage in other conduct which harms, threatens, or is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of another person. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, unauthorized monitoring of another's email communications directly or through spyware, sending threatening emails, disrupting electronic communications with spam or by sending a computer virus, sending false messages to third parties using another's email identity, nonconsensual recording of sexual activity, and nonconsensual distribution of a recording of sexual activity.

(7) **Property violation.** Damage to, misappropriation of, unauthorized use or possession of, vandalism, or other nonaccidental damaging or destruction of college property or the property of another person. Property for purposes of this subsection includes computer passwords, access codes, identification cards, personal financial account numbers, other confidential personal information, intellectual property, and college trademarks.

(8) **Failure to comply with directive.** Failure to comply with the directive of a college officer or employee who is acting in the legitimate performance of their duties, including failure to properly identify oneself to such a person when requested to do so.

(9) **Weapons.** Possession, holding, wearing, transporting, storage or presence of any firearm, dagger, sword, knife or other cutting or stabbing instrument, club, explosive device, or any other weapon apparently capable of producing bodily harm is prohibited on the college campus and during college

programming and activities, subject to the following exceptions:

(a) Commissioned law enforcement personnel or legally authorized military personnel while in performance of their duties;

(b) A student with a valid concealed weapons permit may store a pistol in their vehicle parked on campus in accordance with RCW 9.41.050 (2) or (3), provided the vehicle is locked and the weapon is concealed from view; or

(c) The president may grant permission to bring a weapon on campus upon a determination that the weapon is reasonably related to a legitimate pedagogical purpose. Such permission shall be in writing and shall be subject to such terms or conditions incorporated in the written permission.

(d) This policy does not apply to the possession and/or use of disabling chemical sprays when possessed and/or used for self-defense.

(10) **Hazing.**

(a) Hazing is any act committed as part of:

(i) A person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with a student group; or

(ii) Any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such a student group;

(iii) That causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student.

(b) Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to:

(i) Causing, directing, coercing, or forcing a person to consume any food, liquid, alcohol, drug, or other substance which subjects the person to risk of such harm;

(ii) Humiliation by ritual act;

(iii) Striking another person with an object or body part;

(iv) Causing someone to experience excessive fatigue, or physical and/or psychological shock; or

(v) Causing someone to engage in degrading or humiliating games or activities that create a risk of serious psychological, emotional, and/or physical harm.

(c) "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions.

(d) Consent is not a valid defense against hazing.

(11) **Alcohol.** The use, possession, manufacture, delivery, sale, or distribution of alcoholic beverages or paraphernalia (except as permitted by federal, state, and local laws and applicable college policies), or being observably under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or public intoxication on college premises or at college-sponsored events. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used by, be possessed by, or distributed to any person not of legal age.

(12) **Cannabis, Drug and Tobacco Violations.**

(a) Cannabis. The use, possession, growing, delivery, sale, or being visibly under the influence of cannabis or the psychoactive compounds found in cannabis and intended for human consumption, regardless of form, or the possession of cannabis paraphernalia on college premises or college-sponsored events. While state law permits the recreational use of cannabis, federal law prohibits such use on college premises or in connection with college activities.

(b) Drugs. The use, possession, production, delivery, sale, or being observably under the influence of any legend drug including, anabolic steroids, androgens, or human growth hormones as defined in chapter [69.41](#) RCW, or any other controlled substance under chapter [69.50](#) RCW, except as prescribed for a student's use by a licensed practitioner.

(c) Tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products. The use of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products in any building owned, leased, or operated by the college or in any location where such use is prohibited, including 25 feet from entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes of any building owned, leased, or operated by the college. The use of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products on the college campus is restricted to designated smoking areas. "Related products" include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, bidi, clove cigarettes, waterpipes, hookahs, chewing tobacco, vaporizers, and snuff. There are designated smoking areas on campus.

(13) Discriminatory harassment.

(a) Unwelcome and offensive conduct, including verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct, not otherwise protected by law, that is directed at a person because of such person's protected status and that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to:

(i) Limit the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational and/or social programs and/or student housing;

(ii) Alter the terms of an employee's employment; or

(iii) Create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members.

(b) Protected status includes a person's race; color; creed/religion; national origin; presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability; use of a trained service animal; sex, including pregnancy; marital status; age; genetic information; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; veteran or military status; HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C status; or membership in any other group protected by federal, state or local law.

(c) Discriminatory harassment may be physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct and may include written, social media, and electronic communications not otherwise protected by law.

(14) Harassment or bullying. Conduct unrelated to a protected class that is unwelcome and sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive such that it could reasonably be expected to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive

environment, or has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a person's academic or work performance, or a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the college's programs, services, opportunities, or activities.

(a) Harassing conduct may include, but is not limited to, physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct, including written, social media, and electronic communications not otherwise protected by law.

(b) For purposes of this code, "bullying" is defined as repeated or aggressive unwanted behavior not otherwise protected by law when a reasonable person would feel humiliated, harmed or intimidated.

(c) For purposes of this code, "intimidation" is an implied threat. Intimidation exists when a reasonable person would feel threatened or coerced even though an explicit threat or display of physical force has not been made. Intimidation is evaluated based on the intensity, frequency, context, and duration of the comments or actions.

(15) **Retaliation.** Harming, threatening, intimidating, coercing, or other adverse action taken against any individual for reporting, providing information, exercising one's rights or responsibilities, participating, or refusing to participate, in the process of responding to, investigating, or addressing allegations or violations of federal, state or local law, or college policies.

(16) **Sexual Misconduct.** The term "sexual misconduct" includes sexual harassment, sexual intimidation, and sexual violence. Sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX is defined in the supplemental procedures to this code. (Supplemental Title IX student conduct procedures.)

(a) Sexual harassment. The term "sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual or gender-based conduct, including unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, quid pro quo harassment, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual or a gendered nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive as to:

(i) Deny or limit the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational program;

(ii) Alter the terms or conditions of employment for a college employee(s); and/or

(iii) Creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members.

Sexual harassment does not need to be sexual in nature and can include offensive remarks about a person's gender. There are two types of sexual harassment:

(A) Hostile environment sexual harassment occurs when the conduct is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive and so objectively offensive that it has the effect of altering the terms or conditions of employment or substantially limiting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational and/or social programs and/or student housing.

(B) Quid pro quo harassment occurs when an individual, in a position of real or perceived authority, conditions the receipt of a benefit upon granting of sexual favors.

(b) **Sexual intimidation.** The term “sexual intimidation” incorporates the definition of “sexual harassment” and means threatening or emotionally distressing conduct based on sex including, but not limited to, nonconsensual recording of sexual activity or the distribution of such recording.

(c) **Sexual violence.** “Sexual violence” is a type of sexual discrimination and harassment. Nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are all types of sexual violence.

(i) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse. Any actual or attempted sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object or body part, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual intercourse includes anal or vaginal penetration by a penis, tongue, finger, or object, or oral copulation by mouth to genital contact or genital to mouth contact.

(ii) Nonconsensual sexual contact. Any actual or attempted sexual touching, however slight, with any body part or object, by a person upon another person that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual touching includes any bodily contact with the breasts, groin, mouth, or other bodily orifice of another individual, or any other bodily contact in a sexual manner.

(iii) Incest. Sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person known to be related to them, either legitimately or illegitimately, as an ancestor, descendant, brother, or sister of either wholly or half related. Descendant includes stepchildren and adopted children under the age of 18.

(iv) Statutory rape. Consensual intercourse between a person who is 18 years of age or older, and a person who is under the age of 16.

(v) Domestic violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of State of Washington, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the State of Washington, RCW [26.55.010](#).

(vi) Dating violence, physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person:

(A) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(B) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(I) The length of the relationship;

(II) The type of relationship; and

(III) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

(vii) Sexual exploitation. Taking nonconsensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for the respondent's own advantage or benefit, or to benefit or take advantage of anyone other than the one being exploited, when the behavior does not otherwise constitute one of the other sexual misconduct offenses described herein. Examples of sexual exploitation include, but are not limited to:

- (A) Invading another person's sexual privacy;
- (B) Prostituting another person;
- (C) Nonconsensual photography and digital or video recording of sexual activity;
- (D) Unauthorized sharing or distribution of photographs or digital or video recording of nudity or sexual activity, or audio recording of sexual activity, unless otherwise protected by law;
- (E) Engaging in voyeurism. A person commits voyeurism if they knowingly view, photograph, record, or film another person, without that person's knowledge and consent, while the person being viewed, photographed, recorded, or filmed is in a place where the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy;
- (F) Knowingly or recklessly exposing another person to a significant risk of sexually transmitted disease or infection; or
- (G) Causing the consensual indecent exposure of another person.

(viii) Stalking. Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

- (A) Fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or
- (B) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

(d) For purposes of this chapter, "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity. For consent to be valid, there must be at the time of the act of sexual intercourse or sexual contact actual words or conduct indicating freely given agreement to have sexual intercourse or sexual contact.

A person cannot consent if they are unable to understand what is happening or are disoriented, helpless, asleep or unconscious for any reason, including due to alcohol or other drugs. An individual who engages in sexual activity when the individual knows, or should know, that the other person is physically or mentally incapacitated has engaged in nonconsensual conduct.

(17) **Indecent exposure.** The intentional or knowing exposure of a person's genitals or other private body parts when done in a place or manner in which such exposure is likely to cause affront or alarm. Breastfeeding or expressing breast milk is not indecent exposure.

(18) **Misuse of electronic resources.** Theft or other misuse of computer time or other electronic information resources of the college. Such misuse includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Unauthorized use of such resources or opening of a file, message, or other item;

(b) Unauthorized duplication, transfer, or distribution of a computer program, file, message, or other item;

(c) Unauthorized use or distribution of someone else's password or other identification;

(d) Use of such time or resources to interfere with someone else's work;

(e) Use of such time or resources to send, display, or print an obscene or abusive message, text, or image;

(f) Use of such time or resources to interfere with normal operation of the college's computing system or other electronic information resources;

(g) Use of such time or resources in violation of applicable copyright or other law;

(h) Adding to or otherwise altering the infrastructure of the college's electronic information resources without authorization; or

(i) Failure to comply with the college's electronic use policy.

(19) **Unauthorized access.** Unauthorized possession, duplication, or other use of a key, keycard, or other restricted means of access to college property, or unauthorized entry onto or into college property.

(20) **Safety violations.** Nonaccidental, reckless, or unsafe conduct that interferes with or otherwise compromises any college policy, equipment, or procedure relating to the safety and security of the campus community, including tampering with fire safety equipment and triggering false alarms or other emergency response systems.

(21) **Violation of other laws or policies.** Violation of any federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation or other college rules or policies, including college housing, traffic, and parking rules.

(22) **Ethical violation.** The breach of any generally recognized and published code of ethics or standards of professional practice that governs the conduct of a particular profession for which the student is taking a course or is pursuing as an educational goal or major.

495E-110-035 – Denial of access to Renton Technical College

(1) The Vice President of Student Services, or delegate, may deny admission to a prospective student, or continued attendance to an enrolled student, if it reasonably appears that the student would not be competent to profit from the curriculum offerings of the college, or would, by the student's presence or conduct, create a disruptive atmosphere within the college or a substantial risk of actual harm to self or other members of the campus community.

(2) Denial of access decisions may be appealed, as or like disciplinary actions, to the student conduct committee.

495E-110-040 – Corrective action, disciplinary sanctions, and terms and conditions.

(3) One or more of the following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon students or upon college sponsored student organizations, athletic teams or living groups found to have violated the student conduct code.

(a) **Warning.** A verbal or written statement to a student that there is a violation and that continued violation may be cause for further disciplinary action. Warnings are corrective actions, not disciplinary, and may not be appealed.

(b) **Written reprimand.** Notice in writing that the student has violated one or more terms of this code of conduct and that continuation of the same or similar behavior may result in more severe disciplinary action.

(c) **Disciplinary probation.** Formal action placing specific conditions and restrictions upon the student's continued attendance depending upon the seriousness of the violation and which may include a deferred disciplinary sanction. If the student subject to a deferred disciplinary sanction is found in violation of any college rule during the time of disciplinary probation, the deferred disciplinary sanction which may include, but is not limited to, a suspension or a dismissal from the college, shall take effect immediately without further review. Any such sanction shall be in addition to any sanction or conditions arising from the new violation. Probation may be for a limited period of time or may be for the duration of the student's attendance at the college.

(d) **Disciplinary suspension.** Dismissal from the college and from the student status for a stated period of time. There will be no refund of tuition or fees for the quarter in which the action is taken.

(e) **Dismissal.** The revocation of all rights and privileges of membership in the college community and exclusion from the campus and college-owned or controlled facilities without any possibility of return. There will be no refund of tuition or fees for the quarter in which the action is taken.

(4) Disciplinary terms and conditions that may be imposed in conjunction with the imposition of a disciplinary sanction include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) **Restitution.** Reimbursement for damage to or misappropriation of property, or for injury to persons, or for reasonable costs incurred by the college in pursuing an investigation or disciplinary proceeding. This may take the form of monetary reimbursement, appropriate service, or other compensation.

(b) **Professional evaluation.** Referral for drug, alcohol, psychological, or medical evaluation by an appropriately certified or licensed professional may be required. The student may choose the professional within the scope of practice and with the professional credentials as defined by the college. The student will sign all necessary releases to allow the college access to any such evaluation. The student's

return to college may be conditioned upon compliance with recommendations set forth in such a professional evaluation. If the evaluation indicates that the student is not capable of functioning within the college community, the student will remain suspended until future evaluation recommends that the student is capable of reentering the college and complying with the rules of conduct.

(c) **Not in good standing.** A student may be deemed "not in good standing" with the college. If so, the student shall be subject to the following restrictions:

(i) Ineligible to hold an office in any student organization recognized by the college or to hold any elected or appointed office of the college;

(ii) Ineligible to represent the college to anyone outside the college community in any way, including representing the college at any official function, or any forms of intercollegiate competition or representation.

(d) **No contact order.** An order directing a student to have no contact with a specified student, college employee, a member of the college community, or a particular college facility.

(e) **Education.** Participation in or successful completion of an educational assignment designed to create an awareness of the student's misconduct.

(f) **Loss of privileges.** Denial of specified privileges for a designated period of time.

(g) **Trespass or restriction.** A student may be restricted from any or all college premises and/or college-sponsored activities based on the violation.

(3) If a student withdraws from the college or fails to reenroll before completing a disciplinary sanction or condition, the disciplinary sanction or condition must be completed either prior to or upon the student's reenrollment, depending on the nature of the sanction, condition, and/or the underlying violation. Completion of disciplinary sanctions and conditions may be considered in petitions for readmission to the college.

495E-110-045 – Hazing prohibited, sanctions.

(1) Hazing by a student or a student group is prohibited pursuant to WAC **495E-110-030 (10)**.

(2) No student may conspire to engage in hazing or participate in hazing of another. State law provides that hazing is a criminal offense, punishable as a misdemeanor.

(3) Washington state law provides that:

(a) Any student group that knowingly permits hazing is strictly liable for harm caused to persons or property resulting from hazing. If the organization, association, or student living group is a corporation whether for profit or nonprofit, the individual directors of the corporation may be held individually liable for damages.

(b) Any person who participates in the hazing of another shall forfeit any entitlement to state-funded grants, scholarships, or awards for a period of time determined by the college.

(c) Student groups that knowingly permits hazing to be conducted by its members or by others subject to its direction or control shall be deprived of any official recognition or approval granted by the college.

(d) Student groups found responsible for violating the code of student conduct, college antihazing policies, or state or federal laws relating to hazing or offenses related to alcohol, drugs, sexual assault, or physical assault will be disclosed in a public report issued by the college setting forth the name of the student group, the date the investigation began, the date the investigation ended, a finding of responsibility, a description of the incident(s) giving rise to the finding, and the details of the sanction(s) imposed.

495E-110-050 - Statement of jurisdiction.

(1) The student conduct code shall apply to conduct by students and student groups that occurs:

- (a) On college premises;
- (b) At or in connection with college-sponsored activities; or
- (c) To off-campus conduct that in the judgment of the college adversely affects the college community or the pursuit of its objectives, or the ability of a student or staff to participate in the college's programs and activities.

(2) Jurisdiction extends to, but is not limited to, locations in which students or student groups are engaged in official college activities including, but not limited to, foreign or domestic travel, activities funded by the associated students, athletic events, training internships, cooperative and distance education, online education, practicums, supervised work experiences or any other college-sanctioned social or club activities and college-sanctioned housing.

(3) Students are responsible for their conduct through the last day of enrollment or the actual receipt of a certificate or degree, even though conduct may occur before classes begin or after classes end, as well as during the academic year and during periods between terms of actual enrollment.

(4) These standards shall apply to a student's conduct even if the student withdraws from college while a disciplinary matter is pending.

(5) The student conduct officer has sole discretion, on a case-by-case basis, to determine whether the student conduct code will be applied to conduct by students or student groups that occurs off campus.

(6) In addition to initiating discipline proceedings for violation of the student conduct code, the college may refer any violations of federal, state, or local laws to civil and criminal authorities for disposition. The college reserves the right to pursue student disciplinary proceedings regardless of whether the underlying conduct is subject to civil or criminal prosecution.

495E-110-060 - Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply for purpose of this student conduct code:

(1) "Business day" means a weekday, excluding weekends and college holidays.

(2) "College premises" shall include all campuses of the college, wherever located, and includes all land, buildings, facilities, vehicles, equipment, and other property owned, used, or controlled by the college.

(3) A "complainant" is an alleged victim of misconduct.

(4) "Conduct review officer" is the Vice President of Student Services or other college administrator designated by the president to be responsible for receiving and for reviewing or referring appeals of student disciplinary actions in accordance with the procedures of this code.

(5) "Disciplinary action" is the process by which the student conduct officer imposes discipline against a student for a violation of the student conduct code. A written or verbal warning is not a disciplinary action.

(6) "Disciplinary appeal" is the process by which an aggrieved party can appeal the discipline imposed or recommended by the student conduct officer. Disciplinary appeals from a suspension in excess of ten instructional days or a dismissal are heard by the student conduct committee. Appeals of all other appealable disciplinary action shall be reviewed through brief adjudicative proceedings.

(7) "Filing" is the process by which a document is officially delivered to a college official responsible for facilitating a disciplinary review. Unless otherwise provided, filing shall be accomplished by:

(a) Hand delivery of the document to the specified college official or college official's assistant; or

(b) By sending the document by email and first-class mail to the specified college official's office and college email address.

Papers required to be filed shall be deemed filed upon actual receipt during office hours at the office of the specified college official.

(8) "Pregnancy or Related Conditions" means:

(a) pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation;

(b) medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation; or

(c) recovery from pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, or related medical conditions.

(9) "Program" or "Programs and activities" means all operations of the College.

(10) "Relevant" means related to the allegations of misconduct under investigation. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged misconduct occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decisionmaker in determining whether the alleged misconduct occurred.

(11) "Remedies" means measures provided to a complainant or other person whose equal access to the college's educational programs and activities has been limited or denied by misconduct. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that misconduct has occurred.

(12) "Respondent" is a student who is alleged to have violated the student conduct code.

(13) "Service" is the process by which a document is officially delivered to a party. Unless otherwise provided, service upon a party shall be accomplished by:

- (a) Hand delivery of the document to the party; or
- (b) Sending the document by email and by certified mail or first-class mail to the party's last known address.

Service is deemed complete upon hand delivery of the document or upon the date the document is emailed and deposited in the mail, whichever is first.

(14) "Student" includes all persons taking courses at or through the college, whether on a full-time or part-time basis, and whether such courses are credit courses, noncredit courses, online courses, or otherwise. Persons who withdraw after allegedly violating the code, who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the college, or who have been notified of their acceptance for admission are considered "students" for purposes of this chapter.

(15) "Student conduct officer" is a college administrator designated by the President or Vice President of Student Services to be responsible for implementing and enforcing the student conduct code.

(16) "Student employee" means an individual who is both a student and an employee of the college. When a complainant or respondent is a student employee, the college must make a fact-specific inquiry to determine whether the individual's primary relationship with the college is to receive an education and whether any alleged student conduct code violation, including but not limited to sexual harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(17) "Student group" for purposes of this code, is a student organization, athletic team, or living group including, but not limited to, student clubs and organizations, members of a class or student cohort, student performance groups, and student living groups within student

housing.

(18) "Supportive measures" means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, non-punitive and non-disciplinary measures offered by the college to the complainant or respondent without unreasonably burdening either party, and without fee or charge for purposes of:

(a) Restoring or preserving a party's access to the college's educational program or activity, including measures that are designed to protect the safety of the parties or the college's educational environment; or providing support during the college's investigation and disciplinary procedures, or during any informal resolution process; or

(b) Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to: counseling; extensions of deadlines and other course-related adjustments; campus escort services; increased security and monitoring of certain areas of campus; restriction on contact applied to one or more parties; a leave of absence; change in class, work, housing, or extracurricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs.

(19) "The President" is the President of the college. The President is authorized to:

(a) Delegate any of their responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary; and

(b) Reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary.

(20) "Title IX Coordinator" is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

495E-110-070 - Initiation of disciplinary actions.

(1) Any member of the college community may file a complaint against a student or student group for possible violations of the student conduct code.

(2) The student conduct officer, or designee, may review and investigate any complaint to determine whether it appears to state a violation of the student conduct code.

(a) **Sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment.** The college's Title IX Coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment that occurs during an "educational program or activity" as defined in WAC [**495E-110-250**](#). Allegations of non-Title IX sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, by a student shall be addressed through the student conduct code. Allegations involving employees or third parties associated with the college will be handled in accordance with college policies.

(b) **Hazing by student groups.** A student conduct officer, or designee, may review and investigate any complaint or allegation of hazing by a student group. A student group will be notified through its named officer(s) and address on file with the college. A student group may designate one representative who may speak on behalf of a student group during any investigation and/or disciplinary proceeding. A student group will have the rights of a respondent as set forth below.

(3) Investigations will be completed in a timely manner and the results of the investigation shall be referred to the student conduct officer for disciplinary action.

(4) If a student conduct officer determines that a complaint appears to state a violation of the student conduct code, the student conduct officer will consider whether the matter might be resolved through agreement with the respondent or through alternative dispute resolution proceedings involving the complainant and the reporting party.

(a) If the parties elect to mediate a dispute through informal dispute resolution, either party shall be free to discontinue mediation at any time.

(5) If the student conduct officer has determined that a complaint has merit and if the matter is not resolved through agreement or informal dispute resolution, the student conduct officer may initiate disciplinary action against the respondent.

(6) Both the respondent and the complainant in cases involving allegations of non-Title IX sexual misconduct shall be provided the same procedural rights to participate in student discipline matters, including the right to participate in the disciplinary process and to appeal any disciplinary

decision.

(7) All disciplinary actions will be initiated by the student conduct officer. If that officer is the subject of a complaint initiated by the respondent, the president shall, upon request and when feasible, designate another person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities relative to the complainant.

(8) The student conduct officer shall initiate disciplinary action by serving the respondent with written notice directing them to attend a disciplinary meeting. The notice shall briefly describe the factual allegations, the provision(s) of the conduct code the respondent is alleged to have violated, the range of possible sanctions for the alleged violation(s), and specify the time and location of the meeting.

(9) At the meeting, the student conduct officer will present the allegations to the respondent and the respondent shall be afforded an opportunity to explain what took place. If the respondent fails to attend the meeting, the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.

(10) Within 10 business days of the initial disciplinary meeting, and after considering the evidence in the case, including any facts or argument presented by the respondent, the student conduct officer shall serve the respondent with a written decision setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their decision, the specific student conduct code provisions found to have been violated, the discipline imposed, if any, and a notice of any appeal rights with an explanation of the consequences of failing to file a timely appeal. Except in cases of sexual misconduct falling under Title IX jurisdiction, this period may be extended at the sole discretion of the student conduct officer, if additional information is necessary to reach a determination. The student conduct officer will notify the parties of any extension period and the reason therefore.

(11) The student conduct officer may take any of the following disciplinary actions:

(a) Exonerate the respondent and terminate the proceedings.

(b) Impose a disciplinary sanction(s), with or without conditions, as described in WAC [495E-110-040](#).

(c) Refer the matter directly to the student conduct committee for such disciplinary action as the committee deems appropriate. Such referral shall be in writing, to the attention of the chair of the student conduct committee, with a copy served on the respondent.

(12) In cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the student conduct officer, on the same date that a disciplinary decision is served on the respondent, will serve a written notice informing the complainant whether the allegations of sexual misconduct were found to have merit and describing any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions imposed upon the respondent for the complaint's protection, including disciplinary suspension or dismissal of the

respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights.

495E-110-080 - Appeal from disciplinary action.

(1) The respondent may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the conduct review officer within twenty-one (21) calendar days of service of the student conduct officer's decision. Failure to timely file a notice of appeal constitutes a waiver of the right to appeal, and the student conduct officer's decision shall be deemed final.

(2) The notice of appeal must include a brief statement explaining why the respondent is seeking review.

(3) The parties to an appeal shall be the respondent, complainant if any, and the student conduct officer.

(4) A respondent, who timely appeals a disciplinary action or whose case is referred to the student conduct committee, has a right to a prompt, fair, and impartial hearing as provided for in these procedures.

(5) On appeal, the college bears the burden of establishing the evidentiary facts underlying the imposition of a disciplinary sanction by a preponderance of the evidence.

(6) Imposition of disciplinary action for violation of the student conduct code shall be stayed pending appeal, unless respondent has been summarily suspended.

(7) The student conduct committee shall hear appeals from:

(a) The imposition of disciplinary suspensions in excess of 10 instructional days;

(b) Dismissals; and

(c) Discipline cases referred to the committee by the student conduct officer, the conduct review officer, or the President.

(8) Student conduct appeals from the imposition of the following disciplinary sanctions shall be reviewed through a brief adjudicative proceeding:

(a) Suspensions of 10 instructional days or less;

(b) Disciplinary probation;

(c) Written reprimands; and

(d) Any conditions or terms imposed in conjunction with one of the foregoing disciplinary actions.

(9) Except as provided elsewhere in these rules, warnings and dismissals of disciplinary actions are final action and are not subject to appeal.

(10) In cases involving allegations of non-Title IX sexual misconduct, the complainant has the right to appeal the following actions by the student conduct officer following the same procedures as set forth above for the respondent:

(a) The dismissal of a non-Title IX sexual misconduct complaint; or

(b) Any disciplinary sanction(s) and conditions imposed against a

respondent for a sexual misconduct violation, including a warning.

(11) If the respondent timely appeals a decision imposing discipline for a sexual misconduct violation, the college shall notify the complainant of the appeal and provide the complainant an opportunity to intervene as a party to the appeal.

(12) Except as otherwise specified in this chapter, a complainant who timely appeals a disciplinary decision or who intervenes as a party to the respondent's appeal of a disciplinary decision shall be afforded the same procedural rights as are afforded the respondent.

495E-110-090 - Brief adjudicative proceedings—Initial hearing.

(1) Brief adjudicative proceedings shall be conducted by a conduct review officer. The conduct review officer shall not participate in any case in which he or she is a complainant or witness, or in which they have direct or personal interest, prejudice, or bias, or in which they have acted previously in an advisory capacity.

(2) The parties to a brief adjudicative proceeding are the respondent, the student conduct officer, and in cases involving sexual misconduct, the complainant. If the complainant chooses, a non-attorney advisor may attend in their place. Before taking action, the conduct review officer shall conduct an informal hearing and provide each party:

- (a) An opportunity to be informed of the agency's view of the matter; and
- (b) An opportunity to explain the party's view of the matter.

(3) The conduct review officer shall serve an initial decision upon the respondent and the student conduct officer within 10 business days of consideration of the appeal. The initial decision shall contain a brief written statement of the reasons for the decision and information about how to seek administrative review of the initial decision. If no request for review is filed within 21 calendar days of service of the initial decision, the initial decision shall be deemed the final decision.

(4) In cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the conduct review officer, on the same date as the initial decision is served on the respondent, will serve a written notice upon the complainant informing the complainant whether the allegations of sexual misconduct were found to have merit and describing any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions imposed upon the respondent for the complainant's protection. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights.

(5) If the conduct review officer upon review determines that the respondent's conduct may warrant imposition of a disciplinary suspension in excess of 10 instructional days or dismissal, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

495E-110-100 - Brief adjudicative proceedings—Review of an initial decision.

(1) An initial decision is subject to review by the president, provided the respondent files a written request for review with the conduct review officer within 21 calendar days of service of the initial decision.

(2) The President shall not participate in any case in which they are a complainant or witness, or in which they have direct or personal interest, prejudice, or bias, or in which they have acted previously in an advisory capacity.

(3) During the review, the President shall give each party an opportunity to file written responses explaining their view of the matter and shall make any inquiries necessary to ascertain whether the sanctions should be modified or whether the proceedings should be referred to the student conduct committee for a formal adjudicative hearing.

(4) The decision on review must be in writing and must include a brief statement of the reasons for the decision and must be served on the parties within 20 calendar days of the initial decision or of the request for review, whichever is later. The decision on review will contain a notice that judicial review may be available. A request for review may be deemed to have been denied if the President does not make a disposition of the matter within 20 calendar days after the request is submitted.

(5) If the President upon review determines that the respondent's conduct may warrant imposition of a disciplinary suspension of more than 10 instructional days or dismissal, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the President, on the same date as the final decision is served on the respondent, will serve a written notice upon the complainant informing the complainant whether the allegations of sexual misconduct were found to have merit and describing any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions imposed upon the respondent for the complainant's protection, including suspension or dismissal of the respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights.

495E-110-110 - Student conduct committee.

(1) The student conduct committee shall consist of five members:

(a) Two full-time students appointed by the student government;

(b) Two faculty members appointed by the President; and

(c) One faculty member or administrator (other than an administrator serving as a student conduct or conduct review officer) appointed by the President at the beginning of the academic year.

(2) The faculty member or administrator, appointed on a yearly basis, shall serve as the chair of the committee and may take action on preliminary hearing matters prior to convening the committee.

(3) Hearings may be heard by a quorum of three members of the committee so long as the chair, one faculty member, and one student are included on the hearing panel. Committee action may be taken upon a majority vote of all committee members attending the hearing.

(4) Members of the student conduct committee shall not participate in any case in which they are a party, complainant, or witness, in which they have direct or personal interest, prejudice, or bias, or in which they have acted previously in an advisory capacity. Any party may petition for disqualification of a committee member.

(5) For cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, members of the student conduct committee must receive training on serving impartially, avoiding prejudgment of facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias. The chair must also receive training on the student conduct process for sexual misconduct cases, as well as the meaning and application of the term, "relevant," in relations to questions and evidence, and the types of evidence that are impermissible.

(6) The College may, in its sole discretion, contract with an administrative law judge or other qualified person to act as the presiding officer, authorized to exercise any or all duties of the student conduct committee and/or committee chair.

495E-110-120 -Student conduct committee - prehearing.

(1) Proceedings of the student conduct committee shall be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter **34.05** RCW.

(2) The student conduct committee chair shall serve all parties with written notice of the hearing not less than seven calendar days in advance of the hearing date. The chair may shorten this notice period if both parties agree, and also may continue the hearing to a later time for good cause shown. The notice must include:

- (a) a copy of the student conduct code;
- (b) the basis for jurisdiction;
- (c) the alleged violation(s);
- (d) a summary of facts underlying the allegations;
- (e) the range of possible sanctions that may be imposed; and
- (f) a statement that retaliation is prohibited.

(3) The committee chair is authorized to conduct prehearing conferences and/or to make prehearing decisions concerning the extent and form of any discovery, issuance of protective decisions, and similar procedural matters.

(4) Upon request filed at least five calendar days before the hearing by any party or at the direction of the committee chair, the parties shall exchange, no later than the third day prior to the hearing, lists of potential witnesses and copies of potential exhibits that they reasonably expect to present to the committee. Failure to participate in good faith in such a requested exchange may be cause for exclusion from the hearing of any witness or exhibit not disclosed, absent a showing of good cause for such failure.

(5) The committee chair may provide to the committee members in advance of the hearing copies of (a) the conduct officer's notification of imposition of discipline (or referral to the committee), and (b) the notice of appeal (or any response to referral) by the respondent. If doing so, however, the chair should remind the members that these "pleadings" are not evidence of any facts they may allege.

(6) The parties may agree before the hearing to designate specific exhibits as admissible without objection and, if they do so, whether the committee chair may provide copies of these admissible exhibits to the committee members before the hearing.

(7) The student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in procuring the presence of college students, employees, staff, and volunteers to appear at a hearing, provided the respondent and complainant provide a witness list to the student conduct officer no less than three (3) business days in advance of the hearing. The student conduct officer shall notify the respondent and

complainant no later than 24 hours in advance of the hearing if they have been unable to contact any prospective witnesses to procure their appearance at the hearing. The committee chair will determine how to handle the absence of a witness and shall describe on the record their rationale for any decision.

(8) Communications between committee members and other hearing participants regarding any issue in the proceeding, other than procedural communications that are necessary to maintain an orderly process, are generally prohibited without notice and opportunity for all parties to participate, and any improper "ex parte" communication shall be placed on the record, as further provided in RCW [34.05.455](#).

(9) In cases heard by the committee, each party may be accompanied at the hearing by an assistant of their choice, which may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(10) The committee will ordinarily be advised by an Assistant Attorney General or their designee. If the respondent and/or the complainant is represented by an attorney, the student conduct officer may be represented by an Assistant Attorney General.

(11) Attorneys for students must file a notice of appearance with the committee chair at least four business days before the hearing. Failure to do so may, at the discretion of the committee chair, result in a waiver of the attorney's ability to represent the student at the hearing, although an attorney may still serve as an advisor to the student.

495E-110-130 - Student conduct committee hearings— Presentations of evidence.

(1) Upon the failure of any party to attend or participate in a hearing, the student conduct committee may either:

- (a) Proceed with the hearing and issuance of its decision; or
- (b) Serve a decision of default in accordance with RCW [34.05.440](#).

(2) The hearing will ordinarily be closed to the public. However, if all parties agree on the record that some or all of the proceedings be open, the chair shall determine any extent to which the hearing will be open. If any person disrupts the proceedings, the chair may exclude that person from the hearing room.

(3) The chair shall cause the hearing to be recorded by a method that they select, in accordance with RCW [34.05.449](#). That recording, or a copy, shall be made available to any party upon request. The chair shall assure maintenance of the record of the proceeding that is required by RCW [34.05.476](#), which shall also be available upon request for inspection and copying by any party. Other recording shall also be permitted, in accordance with WAC [10-08-190](#).

(4) The chair shall preside at the hearing and decide procedural questions that arise during the hearing, except as overridden by majority vote of the committee.

(5) The student conduct officer (unless represented by an assistant attorney general) shall present the case for imposing disciplinary sanctions.

(6) All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. Evidence shall be admitted or excluded in accordance with RCW [34.05.452](#).

(7) In cases involving allegations of non-Title IX sexual misconduct, the complainant and respondent may not directly question one another or other witnesses. In such circumstances, the chair will determine whether questions will be submitted to the chair, who will then ask questions of the parties and witnesses or allow questions to be asked directly of any party or witnesses by a party's attorney. The committee chair may revise this process if, in the chair's determination, the questioning by any party, attorney, or advisor, becomes contentious or harassing.

(a) Prior to any question being posed to a party or witness, the chair must determine whether the question is relevant and not otherwise impermissible; and must explain any decision to exclude a question that is deemed not relevant or is otherwise impermissible. The chair will retain for the record copies of any written questions provided by any party.

(b) The chair must not permit questions that are unclear or harassing; but shall give the party an opportunity to clarify or revise such a question.

(c) The chair shall exclude, and the committee shall not consider legally privileged information unless the individual holding the privilege has waived the privilege. Privileged information includes, but is not limited to information protected

by the following: (a) spousal/domestic partner privilege; (b) attorney-client communications and attorney work product privilege; (c) clergy privileges; (d) medical or mental health providers and counselor privileges; (e) sexual assault and domestic violence advocate privileges; and (f) other legal privileges set forth in **RCW 5.60.060** or federal law.

(d) The chair shall exclude and the committee shall not consider questions or evidence that relate to the complainant's sexual interests or prior sexual conduct, unless such question or evidence is offered to prove someone other than the respondent committed the alleged conduct, or is evidence of specific instances of prior sexual conduct with the respondent that is offered to prove consent to the alleged sexual harassment. The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the complainant and respondent does not by itself demonstrate or imply the complainant's consent to the alleged sexual harassment or preclude determination that sexual harassment occurred.

(e) The committee may choose to place less or no weight upon statements by a party or witness who refuses to respond to questions deemed relevant and not impermissible. The committee must not draw an inference about whether sexual misconduct occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

(8) Except in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the chair has the discretion to determine whether a respondent may directly question any witnesses; and if not, to determine whether questions must be submitted to the chair to be asked of witnesses, or to allow questions to be asked by an attorney or advisor for the respondent.

495E-110-140 - Student conduct committee—Initial decision.

(1) At the conclusion of the hearing, the student conduct committee shall permit the parties to make closing arguments in whatever form it wishes to receive them. The committee also may permit each party to propose findings, conclusions, and/or a proposed decision for its consideration.

(2) Within 20 calendar days following the later of the conclusion of the hearing or the committee's receipt of closing arguments, the committee shall issue an initial decision in accordance with RCW [34.05.461](#) and WAC [10-08-210](#). The initial decision shall include findings on all material issues of fact and conclusions on all material issues of law, including which, if any, provisions of the student conduct code were violated. Any findings based substantially on the credibility of evidence, or the demeanor of witnesses shall be so identified.

(3) The committee's initial order shall also include a determination on appropriate discipline, if any. If the matter was referred to the committee by the student conduct officer, the committee shall identify and impose disciplinary sanction(s) or conditions (if any) as authorized in the student code. If the matter is an appeal by a party, the committee may affirm, reverse, or modify the disciplinary sanction and/or conditions imposed by the student conduct officer and/or impose additional disciplinary sanction(s) or conditions as authorized herein.

(4) The committee chair shall cause copies of the initial decision to be served on the parties and their attorneys, if any. The notice will inform all parties of their appeal rights. The committee chair shall also promptly transmit a copy of the decision and the record of the committee's proceedings to the President.

(5) In cases involving allegations of non-Title IX sexual misconduct, the chair of the student conduct committee, on the same date as the initial decision is served on the respondent, will serve a written notice upon the complainant informing the complainant whether the allegations of sexual misconduct were found to have merit and describing any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions imposed upon the respondent for the complainant's protection, including suspension or dismissal of the respondent. The complainant may appeal the student conduct committee's initial decision to the president subject to the same procedures and deadlines applicable to other parties. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights.

495E-110-150 - Appeal from student conduct committee initial decision.

(1) Any party, including a complainant in sexual misconduct cases, may appeal the committee's initial decision to the President by filing a notice of appeal with the President's office within 21 calendar days of service of the committee's decision. Failure to file a timely appeal constitutes a waiver of the right and the decision shall be deemed final.

(2) The written appeal must identify the specific findings of fact and/or conclusions of law in the decision that are challenged and must contain argument why the appeal should be granted. Appeals may be based upon, but are not limited to:

(a) Procedural irregularity that would change the outcome;

(b) New evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the initial decision was made; and

(c) The investigator, decisionmaker, or Title IX Coordinator had a conflict of interest or bias for or against a respondent or complainant individually or respondents or complainants generally.

(3) Upon receiving a timely appeal, the President or a designee will promptly serve a copy of the appeal on all non-appealing parties, who will have 10 business days from the date of service to submit a written response addressing the issues raised in the appeal to the President or a designee and serve it on all parties. Failure to file a timely response constitutes a waiver of the right to participate in the appeal.

(4) If necessary to aid review, the President may ask for additional briefing from the parties on issues raised on appeal. The President's review shall be restricted to the hearing record made before the student conduct committee and will normally be limited to a review of those issues and arguments raised in the appeal.

(5) The President shall serve a written decision on all parties and their attorneys, if any, within 20 calendar days after receipt of the appeal. The President's decision shall be final and subject to judicial review pursuant to

Chapter 34.05 RCW, Part V.

(6) In cases involving allegations of non-Title IX sexual misconduct, the president, on the same date that the final decision is served upon the respondent, shall serve a written notice informing the complainant whether the sexual misconduct allegation was found to have merit and describe any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions imposed upon the respondent for the complainant's protection, including suspension or dismissal of the respondent.

(7) The President shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of

the parties regarding an appeal.

495E-110-160 - Summary suspension.

(1) Summary suspension is a temporary exclusion from specified college premises or denial of access to all activities or privileges for which a respondent might otherwise be eligible, while an investigation and/or formal disciplinary procedures are pending.

(2) The student conduct officer may impose a summary suspension if there is probable cause to believe that the respondent:

- (a) Has violated any provision of the code of conduct; and
- (b) Presents an immediate danger to the health, safety or welfare of members of the college community; or
- (c) Poses an ongoing threat of substantial disruption of, or interference with, the operations of the college.

(3) Notice. Any respondent who has been summarily suspended shall be served with oral or written notice of the summary suspension. If oral notice is given, a written notification shall be served on the respondent within two calendar days of the oral notice.

(4) The written notification shall be entitled "Notice of summary suspension" and shall include:

- (a) The reasons for imposing the summary suspension, including a description of the conduct giving rise to the summary suspension and reference to the provisions of the student conduct code or the law allegedly violated;
- (b) The date, time, and location when the respondent must appear before the conduct review officer for a hearing on the summary suspension; and
- (c) The conditions, if any, under which the respondent may physically access the campus or communicate with members of the campus community. If the respondent has been trespassed from the campus, a notice against trespass shall be included warning the respondent that their privilege to enter into or remain on college premises has been withdrawn, and that the respondent shall be considered trespassing and subject to arrest for criminal trespass if they enter the college campus other than to meet with the student conduct officer or conduct review officer, or to attend a disciplinary hearing.

(5) The conduct review officer shall conduct a hearing on the summary suspension as soon as practicable after imposition of the summary suspension.

(a) During the summary suspension hearing, the issue before the conduct review officer is whether there is probable cause to believe that the summary suspension should be continued pending the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings and/or whether the summary suspension should be less restrictive in scope.

(b) The respondent shall be afforded an opportunity to explain why summary suspension should not be continued while disciplinary proceedings are pending or why the summary suspension should be less restrictive in scope.

(c) If the respondent fails to appear at the designated hearing time, the conduct review officer may order that the summary suspension remain in place pending the conclusion of the disciplinary proceedings.

(d) As soon as practicable following the hearing, the conduct review officer shall issue a written decision which shall include a brief explanation for any decision continuing and/or modifying the summary suspension and notice of any right to appeal.

(e) To the extent permissible under applicable law, the conduct review officer shall provide a copy of the decision to all persons or officers who may be bound or protected by it.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the complainant shall be notified that a summary suspension has been imposed on the same day that the summary suspension notice is served on the respondent. The college will also provide the complainant with timely notice of any subsequent changes to the summary suspension order.

495E-110-220 - Brief adjudicative proceedings—Agency record.

The agency record for brief adjudicative proceedings shall consist of any documents regarding the matter that were considered or prepared by the presiding officer for the brief adjudicative proceeding or by the reviewing officer for any review. These records shall be maintained as the official record of the proceedings.

495E-110-225 – Sexual misconduct proceedings.

Both the respondent and the complainant in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct subject to Title IX jurisdiction shall be provided the same procedural rights to participate in student discipline matters, including the right to participate in the initial disciplinary decision-making process and to appeal any disciplinary decision.

495E-110-230 – Order of precedence.

This supplemental procedure applies to allegations of sexual harassment subject to Title IX jurisdiction pursuant to regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education. See 34 C.F.R. Sec. 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with the college's standard disciplinary procedures, WAC **495E-110-010** through **495E-110-220**, these supplemental procedures shall take precedence.

495E-110-240 – Prohibited conduct under Title IX.

Pursuant to RCW **28B.50.140(13)** and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, **20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681**, the college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student who commits, attempts to commit, or aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit, an act(s) of “sexual harassment.”

For purposes of this supplemental procedure, “sexual harassment” means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one of more of the following:

(1) Quid pro quo harassment. A college employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of college on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(2) Hostile environment. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the college’s educational programs or activities, or changes the terms of their employment.

(3) Sexual assault. Sexual assault includes the following conduct:

(a) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse. Any actual or attempted sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object or body part, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual intercourse includes anal or vaginal penetration by a penis, tongue, finger, or object, or oral copulation by mouth to genital contact or genital to mouth contact.

(b) Nonconsensual sexual contact. Any actual or attempted sexual touching, however slight, with any body part or object, by a person upon another person that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual touching includes any bodily contact with the breasts, groin, mouth, or other bodily orifice of another individual, or any other bodily contact in a sexual manner.

(c) Incest. Sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person known to be related to them, either legitimately or illegitimately, as an ancestor, descendant, brother, or sister of either wholly or half related. Descendant includes stepchildren and adopted children under the age of eighteen.

(d) Statutory rape. Non-forcible sexual intercourse between someone who is eighteen years of age or older and someone who is under the age of sixteen.

(4) Domestic violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabited with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, RCW **26.55.010**.

(5) Dating violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person:

(a) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(b) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(i) The length of the relationship;

(ii) The type of relationship; and

(iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

(6) Stalking. Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.

495E-110-250 – Title IX jurisdiction.

- (1) This supplemental procedure applies only if the alleged misconduct:
 - (a) Occurred in the United States;
 - (b) Occurred during a college educational program or activity; and
 - (c) Meets the definition of sexual harassment as that term is defined in this supplemental procedure.
- (2) For purposes of this supplemental procedure, an “educational program or activity” is defined as locations, events, or circumstances over which the college exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the alleged sexual harassment occurred. This definition includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the college.
- (3) Proceedings under this supplemental procedure must be dismissed if the decision maker determines that one or all of the requirements of subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section have not been met. Dismissal under this supplemental procedure does not prohibit the college from pursuing other disciplinary action based on allegations that the respondent violated other provisions of the college’s student conduct code, WAC **495E-110-030**.
- (4) If the student conduct officer determines the facts in the investigation report are not sufficient to support Title IX jurisdiction and/or pursuit of a Title IX violation, the student conduct officer will issue a notice of dismissal in whole or part to both parties explaining why some or all of the Title IX claims have been dismissed.

495E-110-260 – Initiation of discipline.

(1) Upon receiving a Title IX investigation report from the Title IX coordinator, the student conduct officer will independently review the report to determine whether there are sufficient grounds to pursue a disciplinary action against the respondent for engaging in prohibited conduct under Title IX.

(2) If the student conduct officer determines that there are sufficient grounds to proceed under these supplemental procedures, the student conduct officer will initiate a Title IX disciplinary proceeding by filing a written disciplinary notice with the chair of the student conduct committee and serving the notice on the respondent and the complainant, and their respective advisors. The notice must:

- (a) Set forth the basis for Title IX jurisdiction;
- (b) Identify the alleged Title IX violation(s);
- (c) Set forth the facts underlying the allegation(s);
- (d) Identify the range of possible sanctions that may be imposed if the respondent is found responsible for the alleged violation(s); and
- (e) Explain that the parties are entitled to be accompanied by their chosen advisors during the hearing and that:
 - (i) The advisors will be responsible for questioning all witnesses on the party's behalf;
 - (ii) An advisor may be an attorney; and
 - (iii) The college will appoint an advisor of the college's choosing at no cost to the party, if the party fails to do so.
- (f) Explain that if a party fails to appear at the hearing, a decision of responsibility may be made in their absence.

495E-110-270 – Prehearing procedure.

(1) Upon receiving the disciplinary notice, the chair of the student conduct committee will send a hearing notice to all parties, in compliance with WAC **495E-110-120**. In no event will the hearing date be set less than ten days after the Title IX coordinator provided the final investigation report to the parties.

(2) A party may choose to have an attorney serve as their advisor at the party's own expense. This right will be waived unless, at least five days before the hearing, the attorney files a notice of appearance with the committee chair with copies to all parties and the student conduct officer.

(3) In preparation for the hearing, the parties will have equal access to all evidence gathered by the investigator during the investigation, regardless of whether the college intends to offer the evidence at the hearing.

495E-110-280 – Rights of parties.

(1) The college's student conduct procedures, WAC [495E-110-120](#), and this supplemental procedure shall apply equally to all parties.

(2) The college bears the burden of offering and presenting sufficient testimony and evidence to establish that the respondent is responsible for a Title IX violation by a preponderance of the evidence.

(3) The respondent will be presumed not responsible until such time as the disciplinary process has been finally resolved.

(4) During the hearing, each party shall be represented by an advisor. The parties are entitled to an advisor of their own choosing, and the advisor may be an attorney. If a party does not choose an advisor, then the Title IX coordinator will appoint an advisor of the college's choosing on the party's behalf at no expense to the party.

495E-110-290 – Evidence.

The introduction and consideration of evidence during the hearing is subject to the following procedures and restrictions:

(1) Relevance: The committee chair shall review all questions for relevance and shall explain on the record their reasons for excluding any question based on lack of relevance.

(2) Relevance means that information elicited by the question makes facts in dispute more or less likely to be true.

(3) Questions or evidence about a complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant and must be excluded, unless such question or evidence:

(a) Is asked or offered to prove someone other than the respondent committed the alleged misconduct; or

(b) Concerns specific incidents or prior sexual behavior between the complainant and the respondent, which are asked or offered on the issue of consent.

(4) Complainant and Respondent may not ask questions directly of one another. The advisors will be responsible for questioning all witnesses on the party's behalf.

(5) No negative inference: The committee may not make an inference regarding responsibility solely on a witness's or party's absence from the hearing or refusal to answer questions.

(6) Privileged evidence: The committee shall not consider legally privileged information unless the holder has effectively waived the privilege. Privileged information includes, but is not limited to, information protected by the following:

- (a) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;
- (b) Attorney-client and attorney work product privileges;
- (c) Privileges applicable to medical providers, mental health therapists, and counselors;
- (e) Privileges applicable to sexual assault and domestic violence advocates; and
- (f) Other legal privileges identified in RCW [5.60.060](#).

495E-110-300 – Initial order.

In addition to complying with WAC [495E-110-140](#), the student conduct committee will be responsible for conferring and drafting an initial order that:

- (1) Identifies the allegations of sexual harassment;
 - (2) Describes the procedural steps taken from receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to parties, interviews with witnesses and parties, site visits, methods used to gather evidence, and hearings held;
 - (3) Makes findings of fact supporting the determination;
 - (4) Reaches conclusions regarding responsibility by applying the conduct code to the facts;
 - (5) Contains a statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility;
 - (6) Describes any disciplinary sanction or conditions imposed against the respondent, rising from the committee's determination that the respondent violated the conduct code;
 - (7) Determines whether remedies designed to restore or preserve complainant's equal access to the college's educational programs or activities will be provided by the college;
 - (8) Describes the process for appealing the initial order to the college president;
- and
- (9) The committee chair will serve the initial order on the parties simultaneously.

495E-110-310 – Appeals.

(1) All parties, including the student conduct officer in their capacity as a representative of the college, have the right to appeal from the determination of responsibility and/or from a dismissal, in whole or part, of a formal complaint during the investigative or hearing process. Appeals must be in writing and filed with the President's office within 21 calendar days of service of the initial order or notice of dismissal that the appealing party is challenging and must contain argument as to why the appeal should be granted. Failure to file a timely appeal constitutes a waiver of the right to appeal and the initial order or notice of dismissal shall be deemed final.

(2) Upon receiving a timely appeal, the President's office will serve a copy of the appeal on all parties, who will have 10 business days from the date of service to submit written responses to the President's office addressing issues raised in the appeal. Failure to file a timely response constitutes a waiver of the right to participate in the appeal. Upon receipt of written responses, the President's office shall serve copies of the responses to the other parties.

(3) Parties receiving a copy of the responses shall have 5 business days in which to submit a written reply addressing issues raised in the responses to the President's office.

(4) The President or their delegate, based on their review of parties' submissions and the hearing or investigative record, will determine whether the grounds for appeal have merit, provide the rationale for this conclusion, and state whether a dismissal is affirmed or denied, or if the disciplinary sanctions and conditions imposed in the initial order are affirmed, vacated, or amended, and if amended, set forth the new disciplinary sanctions and conditions.

(5) President's office shall serve the final decision on the parties simultaneously.

(6) All administrative decisions reached through this process may be judicially reviewed pursuant to applicable provisions of RCW [34.05](#), including, but not limited to, the timelines set forth in RCW [34.05.542](#).