

Student Code of Conduct

All students have the right to a safe, peaceful, quality and honest educational environment. Therefore, when in the judgment of College officials a student's conduct disrupts or threatens to disrupt the College community, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken to restore and protect the mission, safety, peace, and integrity of the College.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with generally accepted standards of scholarship and conduct. The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is not to restrict student freedoms but to protect the rights of individuals in their academic pursuits. The actions identified below are specifically prohibited at Gaston College.

Students are responsible for having read and abiding by the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.

1. **Dishonesty** - Students may not cheat, fabricate and falsify information, submit the same assignment multiple times, plagiarize, or be a part of academic dishonesty. Students cannot knowingly provide false information to the College, forge and alter or misuse College documents, accounts, records or instruments of identification. Dishonesty will not be tolerated in any transactions or interactions including the Student Code of Conduct process and other College proceedings. (Please see the Academic Dishonesty Policy, Appendix C of the Student Handbook.)
2. **Theft and Damage to Property** - Students may not steal, damage or misuse College property or the property of anyone on College premises or during any College-sponsored activity off campus.
3. **Trespassing** - Students may not enter or be present on College property or in a College facility or any portion thereof where entry or presence has been restricted, denied, or is unauthorized.
4. **Indecent Behavior** - Students may not exhibit lewd or indecent behavior on College property or at College-sponsored or College-supervised functions.
5. **Inappropriate Behavior** - Students may not engage in behavior or any form of expression which interferes with the learning process, peace, and order of the College. Not following an instructor's classroom policies, being disruptive in or outside the classroom, and using threatening language are some examples of inappropriate behavior.

6. ***Mental or Physical Abuse*** - Students may not strike or threaten to strike a person or engage in verbal or physical actions that threaten or endanger the health, safety or welfare of a person or persons.
7. ***Sexual Offenses and Harassment*** - Students may not engage in verbal or physical acts of a sexually suggestive or harassing nature that create an intimidating, offensive or hostile environment with any student, employee or member of the College community. (Please see Sexual Harassment, Appendix F of the Student Handbook.)
8. ***Disruption*** - Students may not participate in or conduct an assembly in a manner which threatens or causes injury to persons or property; which interferes with free access to College facilities; which is harmful, obstructive or disruptive to the learning environment and the overall mission and functions of the College.
9. ***Unattended Children*** - Students are not allowed to bring children to class or computer labs; only registered adults are authorized to be in a classroom while class is in progress. Minor children should not be unattended, and students are strongly discouraged from bringing them to Gaston College. The College does not assume responsibility for unattended children.
10. ***Misuse of Communication Technologies*** - Students may not use communication technologies (e-mail, telephones, social media, voice mail, fax machines, etc.) to communicate threatening, indecent, abusive, sexually harassing or otherwise disruptive communication to College employees or students.
11. ***Weapon Possession*** – Students may not possess or carry any weapon on College property including firearms, explosives, BB guns, stun guns, air rifles or pistols, sling shots, and knives or other sharp instruments. The only exceptions are for law enforcement and military personnel in the discharge of their official duties or as otherwise permitted by law, for ceremonial or educational purposes, or when tools such as knives are used for construction, maintenance, or food preparation.
12. ***Setting False Alarms*** - Students may not set off a fire alarm or tamper with any fire safety equipment except with reasonable belief that there is an emergency.
13. ***Classroom Misuse of Electronic Communication Devices*** - Students may not use devices in the classroom, such as telephones and other communication devices during labs and test taking situations unless otherwise instructed. (The only exception will be for on-call emergency personnel i.e., EMS, police, fire, who are required to notify their classroom instructor of their need for such devices at the beginning of the term and provide documentation verifying their occupation.)



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14. **Misuse of Computers** - Students may not damage College computer hardware and software, gain unauthorized access to remote sites, and/or view sexually explicit, pornographic or other inappropriate material. (Please see the Computer Resources – Acceptable Use Policy, Appendix G of the Student Handbook.)
15. **Gambling** - Students may not gamble on College premises or at College-sponsored or College-supervised functions.
16. **Use of Tobacco Products** - Students may not smoke or use other forms of tobacco products on College property or at College events. (Please see the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy, Appendix L of the Student Handbook.)
17. **Use or Possession of Drugs and Alcohol** - Students may not manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use a controlled substance or alcohol on College premises or as a part of any College-sponsored activity. (Please see the Drug and Alcohol Policy, Appendix D of the Student Handbook.)
18. **Failure to Comply** - Students may not fail to comply with the directives of College officials or law enforcement officers during the performance of their duties and/or fail to identify themselves to these persons when requested to do so. Failure to respond to a notice of conduct charges is also prohibited.
19. **Fiscal Irresponsibility** - Students may not fail to pay College-levied fines or pass worthless checks to College officials.
20. **Improper Use of a Vehicle** - Students may not violate College regulations regarding the operation and parking of motor vehicles. (Please refer to Traffic and Parking Regulations in the Campus Police Section of the Student Handbook.)
21. **Violation of College Policies or Regulations** - Students may not violate any College policy, College regulation, or the terms of disciplinary probation.
22. **Legal Violations** - Students may not violate a local, state, or federal law.