

The role of Galveston College is to encourage individuals of all ages to develop their skills and talents based on their abilities and interests, so that collectively they may contribute to the growth and development of this democracy. College policies, procedures, and regulations are formulated to promote an appropriate teaching and learning environment where each student has the freedom to learn and where the constitutional rights of others are protected.

The concept of rights and freedom, no matter how basic or widely accepted, carries with it corresponding responsibilities. Students, as well as other members of the college community, enjoy the same constitutional and civil rights guaranteed all citizens; at the same time, they are subject to the laws of the nation, the State of Texas, and the local community. All members of the college community have a strong responsibility to protect and maintain an academic climate in which the freedom to learn can be enjoyed by all. To this end, certain basic regulations and policies have been developed to govern the behavior of students as members of the college community.

Violations of student conduct regulations will be handled through the Vice President of Student Services. Violations of federal, state, and/or local laws make a student subject to civil or criminal action in addition to disciplinary action by the college. Each student is responsible for knowing the policies and regulations of the college.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The rights of free speech and peaceable assembly are fundamental to the democratic process. The college supports the right of students of the college community to express their views and opinions on actions or ideas, to associate freely with others, and to assemble peacefully.

Whether expressing themselves as individuals or in organized groups, members of the college community are expected to conduct themselves responsibly, according to law, and to respect the basic educational goals of the college. Accordingly, the College insists that free expression not violate the rights of others.

Disruption of the educational process and functions of the College, or violation of law, will constitute such a violation.

FREEDOM OF ACCESS

Within the limits of its resources, Galveston College shall be open to all applicants who are qualified according to current admission requirements. Galveston College does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services, programs, and activities.

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

Students are free to associate to promote their common interests. They have the right to seek, through official procedures, and establish organizations of their choosing so long as such are not in conflict with the educational purposes of the college. Students have the right to affiliate with officially recognized campus organizations of their choice, within the requirements of those organizations relative to membership.

ACADEMIC RIGHTS OF STUDENTS

The College has the responsibility of providing a program of quality education in keeping with its financial resources; students have protection through campus designed procedures against prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation. Student performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students are responsible for completing their academic program, being familiar with all requirements of the college catalog, and for maintaining their grade point average for degree requirements.

STUDENT RECORDS

Student records are maintained in confidence and in compliance with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission retention schedule. Student records are used to promote the instruction, career development, guidance, and educational progress of the student. In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93-380, as amended, the student has access to specific information contained in his or her official records as specified by that act. Student records may be released to other persons, agencies, or institutions with a demonstrated interest in the student only if a written release has been signed by the student. College staff shall have access to student records when there is a demonstrated educational interest in the student.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN INSTITUTIONAL DECISION-MAKING The primary route of Galveston College students in decision making shall be through participation in the Student Government Association. Students also may be invited to serve on one of the various institutional committees.

Student opinions on food services, student housing, student activities, etc., are gathered from a number of surveys.

All student input, whether it be through organized clubs, committees, or questionnaires, is given serious consideration as suggestions for change in and improvement of the College.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT Galveston College considers cultivation of self-discipline by its students to be of great importance in the development of responsible citizens. Therefore, the College expects its students to maintain standards of personal discipline that are in harmony with the educational goals and purpose of the College. Galveston College's primary concern is for the student. The faculty and staff strive to provide an environment that is conducive to teaching and learning, social growth, and individual responsibility.

Disciplinary action, including expulsion or suspension, may result from violating the Student Code of Conduct, notwithstanding any action taken by civil authorities as a result of the violation. Each student is expected to be fully acquainted with all published policies, rules, and regulations of the College. The College will hold each student responsible for compliance with these policies, rules, and regulations. The College considers the Student Code of Conduct and expectations as being consistent with its purpose as an educational institution. It is not a comprehensive code of conduct, but a prescription of procedures necessary for meeting practical, routine requirements of an academic community.

For additional information regarding the Student Code of Conduct, please see Policy FLB (Local) Student Code of Conduct.
