

**WSR 24-16-004**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**BIG BEND**  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

[Filed July 24, 2024, 3:11 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring Big Bend Community College's (college) student conduct code (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedures recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

In addition to complying with the new final rule, the college is updating its student conduct code to address the standard of the model code. These new definitions of prohibited behavior and updated procedures are necessary to address conduct that may pose a threat to the general welfare of the college community and/or college operations and to protect the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 16, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 24, 2024.

Melinda Owens  
Executive Assistant to the President

**OTS-5634.1**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-11-048, filed 5/11/23, effective 6/11/23)

**WAC 132R-04-015 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter, terms are defined as follows:

(1) "Student conduct officer" is a college administrator designated by the president to be responsible for implementing and enforcing the student conduct code. The vice president of learning and student success will serve as the student conduct officer or may appoint a designee.

(2) "Conduct review officer" is a college administrator designated by the president to be responsible for ~~((receiving and facilitating))~~ reviewing or referring appeals ~~((from))~~ of student disciplinary actions ~~((and for reviewing initial decisions issued in a brief adjudicative proceeding. The conduct review officer shall be designated by the president and shall be authorized to grant appropriate relief upon review))~~ as specified in this code. The director of student programs will serve as the conduct review officer, unless otherwise designated by the president.

(3) "The president" is the president of the college. The president is authorized to delegate any and all of his or her responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary and to reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary.

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

(5) "Disciplinary appeal" is the process by which an aggrieved student can appeal the discipline imposed or recommended by the student conduct officer. Disciplinary appeals from a suspension in excess of 10 instructional days or ~~((an expulsion))~~ dismissal from the college are heard by the ~~((disciplinary))~~ student conduct committee. Appeals of all other ~~((appealable))~~ disciplinary action may be reviewed through brief adjudicative proceedings.

(6) "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.

(7) "Program" or "programs and activities" means all operations of the college.

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

(9) "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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

~~((10))~~ (10) "Respondent" is the student ((against whom disciplinary action is being taken)) who is alleged to have violated the student conduct code.

~~((7))~~ (11) "Service" is the process by which a document is officially delivered to a party. Unless expressly specified otherwise, service upon a party shall be accomplished by:

(a) Hand delivery of the document to the party; or

(b) By sending the document ~~((to the college assigned))~~ by email, once one has been generated, and by certified 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, if possible, and deposited into the mail.

~~((8))~~ (12) "Filing" is the process by which a document is officially delivered to a school official responsible for facilitating a disciplinary review by a presiding officer. Unless expressly specified otherwise, filing shall be accomplished by:

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

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

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

~~((9))~~ (13) "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.

~~((10))~~ (14) "Student" is defined as all persons taking courses at or through the college, including those concurrently attending secondary or postsecondary institutions and college, whether on a full-time or part-time basis, and whether such courses are credit courses, noncredit courses (excluding those trainings occurring through the Center for Business and Industry Service and the Japanese Agriculture Training Program), irrespective of modality. Persons who withdraw after allegedly violating the student code of conduct, 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 the purposes of this chapter. "Continuing relationship" is established when a student is registered for an upcoming term or has indicated an intent to do so via a transaction, such as submitting a financial aid application for an upcoming term.

~~((11))~~ (15) "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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(16) "Supportive measures" means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 extra-curricular or any other activity regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(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.

~~((12))~~ (18) "Title IX coordinator" is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations, and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

(19) "Business day" means a weekday, excluding weekends and college holidays. If a time period is not specifically stated in business days, then calendar days apply.

~~((13))~~ (20) "Complainant" means ((any person who files a complaint alleging that a student or student organization violated the standards of conduct for students. Complainant also refers to the college when the college files the complaint)) the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee; or

(b) A person other than a person or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

~~((14))~~ (21) "Sexual misconduct" has the meaning ascribed to this term in WAC 132R-04-057.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-11-048, filed 5/11/23, effective 6/11/23)

**WAC 132R-04-017 Statement of jurisdiction.** (1) The student conduct code shall apply to conduct by students and student groups that occurs:

(a) On college premises; or

(b) At or in connection with ((college-sponsored)) college programs or 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 programs or 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 from notification of admission to the college through 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-22-054, filed 10/25/17, effective 11/25/17)

**WAC 132R-04-053 Authority.** The Big Bend Community College (BBCC) board of trustees, acting according to RCW 28B.50.140(14), delegates to the president of the college the authority to administer student disciplinary action. Administration of the student disciplinary procedures is the responsibility of the vice president of learning and student success. The vice president of learning and student success will serve as the student conduct officer, or appoint a designee, except in the cases involving allegations of sex discrimination including sex-based harassment when the Title IX coordinator or designee will serve as the student conduct officer. Unless otherwise specified, the student conduct officer or designee shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-11-048, filed 5/11/23, effective 6/11/23)

**WAC 132R-04-057 (~~(Student code of conduct violations.)~~) Prohibited student conduct.** The college may impose 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 includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

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

(a) Cheating includes, but is not limited to, any attempt to give or obtain unauthorized assistance relating to the completion of an academic assignment.

(b) Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, taking and using as 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 in an instructional course concerning the completion of an assignment.

(d) This section shall not be construed as preventing an instructor from taking immediate disciplinary action as provided herein where the instructor is required to act upon such breach of academic dishonesty in order to preserve order and prevent disruptive conduct in the classroom.

(e) This section shall also not be construed as preventing an instructor from adjusting the student's grade on a particular project, paper, test, or class grade for academic dishonesty.

(2) **Other dishonesty.** Acts of dishonesty 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; or

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

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

(a) Any 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.

(4) **Assault, intimidation, harassment.** Unwanted touching, physical abuse, verbal abuse, threat(s), intimidation, harassment, bullying, or other conduct which harms, threatens, or is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of another person or another person's property. For purposes of this code, bullying is repeated or aggressive unwanted behavior, not otherwise protected by law, that humiliates, harms, or intimidates the victim.

(5) **Cyber misconduct.** Cyber misconduct including, but not limited to: Cyberstalking, cyberbullying, or online harassment.

(a) 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.

(b) 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.

(6) **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 the purposes of this subsection includes computer passwords, access codes, identification cards, personal financial account numbers, other confidential personal information, intellectual property, and college trademarks.

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

(8) **Weapons.** Possession 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, unless previously authorized by the vice president of learning and student success. This policy does not apply to the possession of a personal protection spray device, as authorized by RCW 9.91.160. This policy is subject to the following exceptions:

(a) Commissioned law enforcement personnel in the state of Washington, legally authorized military personnel while in performance of their duties, and other persons or entities authorized by contract to carry firearms in the course of their employment;

(b) A student with a valid concealed weapons permit may store a pistol in his or her 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 or designee 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.

(9) **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; or~~

~~(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. See RCW 28B.10.900.~~

~~(d) Consent is not a valid defense against hazing.)~~ Hazing is any act committed as part of a person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with a college sponsored student organization, athletic team, or living group, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization, athletic team, or

living group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student, including 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, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions. Consent is not a valid defense against hazing. Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to:

(a) 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;

(b) Humiliation by ritual act;

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

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

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

**(10) Alcohol, cannabis, drug, and tobacco violations.**

(a) Alcohol. The use, possession, delivery, sale, or being visibly under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, except as permitted by law and applicable college policies.

(b) ((~~marijuana~~)) Cannabis. The use, possession, delivery, or sale of ((~~marijuana~~)) cannabis or the psychoactive compounds found in ((~~marijuana~~)) cannabis intended for human consumption, regardless of form, or being observably under the influence of ((~~marijuana~~)) cannabis or the psychoactive compounds found in ((~~marijuana~~)) cannabis and intended for human consumption, regardless of form. While state law permits the recreational use of ((~~marijuana~~)) cannabis, federal law prohibits such use on college premises or in connection with college activities.

(c) Drugs. The use, possession, production, delivery, sale, or being observably under the influence of any legend drug (including anabolic steroids, androgens, or human grown hormones), narcotic drug or controlled substance as defined in chapters 69.41 and 69.50 RCW, except in accordance with a lawful prescription for that student by a licensed health care professional.

(d) 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, or in any location other than the parking lots, 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.

(11) **Disorderly conduct.** Conduct which is disorderly, lewd, indecent, or obscene, that is not otherwise protected under the law.

(12) **Discriminatory conduct.** Conduct which harms or adversely affects any member of the college community because of race; color; national origin; sensory, mental or physical disability; use of a service animal; gender, including pregnancy; marital status; age (40+);

religion; creed; sexual orientation; gender identity; veteran's status; or any other legally protected classification.

(13) **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. See WAC 132R-04-103.

(a) **Sexual harassment.** The term "sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual or gender-based conduct, including unwelcomed 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 programs or activities;

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

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

(b) **Sexual intimidation.** The term "sexual intimidation" incorporates the definition of sexual harassment and means threatening or emotionally distressing conduct based on sex. This includes, but is 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 object or body part, 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 the state of Washington, or by any other person against an adult or youth who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, RCW 26.50.010.

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

(A) Fear for their safety or the safety of others; or

(B) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

(viii) Consent. Clear, knowing, and voluntary 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 actual words or conduct indicating freely given agreement to the act at the time of the act. Consent cannot be inferred from silence, passivity, or lack of active resistance. Consent can be withdrawn by either party at any point. Consent to engage in one activity, or past agreement to engage in a particular activity, cannot be presumed to constitute consent to engage in a different activity or to engage in the same activity again. There is no consent where there is a threat of force or violence or any other form of coercion or intimidation, physical or psychological. A person cannot consent if they are unable to understand what is happening or are disoriented, or if they are 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 incapable of consent has engaged in nonconsensual conduct. Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(14) **Discriminatory harassment.** 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 (~~serious~~) severe, persistent, or pervasive, so as to deny or limit, and that does deny or limit, the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational program and/or social programs and/or student housing; alter the terms of an employee's employment; or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members. Protected status includes a person's race; color; national origin; presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability; use of a trained service animal; (~~gender~~) sex, including pregnancy; marital status; age (40+); religion; creed; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; veteran's or military status; HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C status; or membership in any other ((legally)) group protected ((classification)) by federal, state, or local law. See supplemental definitions: "Sexual misconduct" for the definition of "sexual harassment." Harassing conduct may include, but is not limited to, physical conduct, verbal, written, social media and electronic communications not otherwise protected by law.

(15) **Retaliation.** Harming, threatening, intimidating, coercing, or taking adverse action of any kind against a person because such person reported an alleged violation of this code or college policy, provided information about an alleged violation of federal, state, or

local law, or participated as a witness or in any other capacity in a college investigation or disciplinary proceeding.

(16) **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.

(17) **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.

(18) **Safety violations.** Safety violation includes any 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.

(19) **Abuse of process.** Abuse or misuse of any of the procedures relating to student complaints or misconduct including, but not limited to:

(a) Failure to obey a subpoena or order to appear at a hearing;

(b) Falsification or misrepresentation of information;

(c) Disruption, or interference with the orderly conduct, of a proceeding;

(d) Interfering with someone else's proper participation in a proceeding;

(e) Destroying or altering potential evidence, or attempting to intimidate or otherwise improperly pressure a witness or potential witness;

(f) Attempting to influence the impartiality of, or harassing or intimidating, a student disciplinary committee member; or

(g) Failure to comply with any disciplinary sanction(s) imposed under this student conduct code.

(20) **Unsafe vehicle operation.** Operation of any motor vehicle on college property in an unsafe manner or in a manner which is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of another person.

(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 stu-

dent is taking a course or is pursuing as an educational goal or major.

(23) **Aiding or abetting.** Aiding, abetting, inciting, encouraging, or assisting another person to commit any of the foregoing acts of misconduct.

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 shall proceed with student disciplinary proceedings regardless of whether the underlying conduct is subject to civil or criminal prosecution.

(24) **Sex discrimination.** The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis (insignificant) harm on the basis of sex.

(a) **Sex-based harassment.** "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) **Quid pro quo harassment.** A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) **Sexual violence.** "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(A) **Nonconsensual sexual intercourse** is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling)** is 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** is 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.

(D) **Statutory rape (rape of a child)** is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) **Domestic violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) **Dating violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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.

(G) **Stalking** means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) **Consent.** For purposes of this code "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) **Title IX retaliation** means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testi-

fied, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing, including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-11-048, filed 5/11/23, effective 6/11/23)

**WAC 132R-04-061 Hazing (~~(prohibited)~~) sanctions.** (1) Hazing by a student or a student group is prohibited pursuant to WAC 132R-04-057.

(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. See RCW 28B.10.901 (2) and (3).

(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. RCW 28B.10.901(3).

(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. RCW 28B.10.902(1).

(c) Student groups that knowingly permit 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. RCW 28B.10.902(2).

(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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-21-080, filed 10/14/19, effective 11/14/19)

**WAC 132R-04-063 Corrective action, disciplinary ((actions)) sanctions terms and conditions.** One or more corrective actions or disciplinary ((actions)) sanctions include, but are not limited to, the following sanctions that may be imposed alone or in conjunction upon students found to have committed the violations in WAC 132R-04-057. The college may impose additional sanctions on a student who fails to comply with any imposed sanctions including, but not limited to, preventing that student from registering for classes.

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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. Other conditions and restrictions may include, but not be limited to, restrictions from being present on certain parts of the campus or in certain college buildings; restriction from attending certain college activities or participation in extra-curricular activities; orders of no contact between the student under probation and other students, college employees, or other persons.

(4) **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:

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

(b) 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.

(5) **Education.** The college may require the student to complete an educational project or attend sessions, at the student's expense, which address the student's behavior such as anger management or counseling.

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

(7) **No contact ((order)) directive.** 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.

(8) 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.

(9) 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.

(10) 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.

(11) **Expulsion:** Permanent separation of the student from the college with no promise (implied or otherwise) that the student may return at any future time. There will be no refund of tuition or fees for the quarter in which the action is taken. The student will also be barred from college premises. Expulsion actions will be accomplished by issuing both an order of expulsion and a notice of trespass pursuant to WAC 132R-117-020(2). The notice of trespass may be given by any manner specified in chapter 9A.52 RCW.

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

(13) **Residence hall suspension or termination.** Removal from a residence hall for a specified period or permanently. Conditions may be imposed before a student is permitted to return to a residence hall.

More than one of the disciplinary terms and conditions listed above may be imposed for any single violation.

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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-22-054, filed 10/25/17, effective 11/25/17)

**WAC 132R-04-064 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 (or designee) 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 disruption of, or interference with, the operations of the college.

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

(4) The written notification shall be entitled "Notice of Summary Suspension Proceedings" and shall include:

(a) The reasons for imposing the summary suspension, including 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 chair of the student disciplinary committee 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 that warns the student that his or her privilege to enter into or remain on college premises has been withdrawn, that the respondent shall be considered trespassing and subject to arrest for criminal trespass if the respondent enters the college campus other than to meet with the student conduct officer or designee, or to attend a disciplinary hearing.

(5) (a) The conduct review officer or designee shall conduct a hearing on the summary suspension as soon as practicable after imposition of the summary suspension. The hearing will be conducted as a brief adjudicative proceeding.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) If the notice of summary suspension proceedings has been served upon the respondent in accordance with these rules and the student 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.

(e) As soon as practicable following the hearing, the conduct review officer shall issue a written decision, which shall include a brief statement of findings of fact and conclusions of law, the policy reasons justifying imposition of the summary suspension. If summary suspension is upheld and/or other discipline imposed, the order shall inform the respondent of the duration of the summary suspension or the nature of the disciplinary action(s), conditions under which the summary suspension may be terminated or modified, and procedures by which the order may be appealed.

(f) The interim suspension shall not replace the regular discipline process, which shall proceed as quickly as feasible in light of the interim suspension.

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

(6) In cases involving allegations of sexual (~~misconduct~~) discrimination, the complainant will 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-22-054, filed 10/25/17, effective 11/25/17)

**WAC 132R-04-112 Initiation of disciplinary action.** (~~((1) All disciplinary proceedings will be initiated by the student conduct officer or a designee. 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.~~

~~(2) The student conduct officer shall initiate disciplinary action by serving the respondent with written notice directing the respondent to attend a disciplinary meeting. The notice shall briefly describe the factual allegations, the provision(s) of the conduct code the respondent is charged with violating, the range of possible sanctions for the alleged violation(s), and specify the time and location of the meeting. 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 appear after proper notification, the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.~~

~~(3) The student conduct officer, prior to initiating taking disciplinary action in a case involving allegations of sexual misconduct, will make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to discuss the results of the investigation and possible disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions (if any) that may be imposed upon the respondent if the allegations of sexual misconduct are found to have merit.~~

~~(4) Within ten 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 specific student conduct code provisions alleged to have been violated, the action taken, and a notice of appeal rights (if any).~~

~~(5) The student conduct officer may take any of the following actions:~~

~~(a) Exonerate the respondent and terminate the proceeding;~~

~~(b) Dismiss the case after providing appropriate counseling and advice to the respondent. Such action is final and is not subject to review on appeal;~~

~~(c) Issue a verbal warning to the respondent directly. Such action is final and is not subject to review on appeal;~~

~~(d) Impose a disciplinary action(s), as described in WAC 132R-04-063. Such actions are subject to review on appeal as provided in this chapter. Any decision imposing a disciplinary action(s) must state the facts and conclusions supporting the student conduct officer's decision, the specific student conduct code provision(s) found to have been violated, the details of the discipline imposed, and a notice of any appeal rights with an explanation of the consequences of failing to file a timely appeal;~~

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

~~(6) 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 complainant's protection, including disciplinary suspension or dismissal of the respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of his or her appeal rights. If protective sanctions and/or conditions are imposed, the student conduct officer shall make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to ensure prompt notice of the protective disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions.)~~ (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) **Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment.** The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. Allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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) Informal dispute resolution shall not be used to resolve sex-based harassment complaints without written permission from both the complainant and the respondent.

(b) 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 sex discrimination 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, the president shall, upon request and when feasible, designate another person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities relative to the complaint.

(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 after proper service of notice, the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.

(10) Within 10 calendar 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. 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 132R-04-063; or

(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 sex discrimination, the student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) In cases involving sex discrimination, the student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing before the matter can be dismissed.

(g) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation.

(h) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(i) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-22-054, filed 10/25/17, effective 11/25/17)

**WAC 132R-04-113 Appeal from disciplinary action.** (1) Except as specified for cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, as set forth in WAC 132R-04-057, the respondent may appeal ((the results of)) a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the conduct review officer within ((twenty)) 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 order 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 conduct review officer.

(4) A respondent, who timely appeals a disciplinary action or whose case is referred to the student disciplinary 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) In the event of a conflict between this student conduct code and the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW, this student conduct code will govern.

~~((6))~~ (7) The college hereby adopts the Model rules of procedure, chapter 10-08 WAC, by reference. To the extent there is a conflict between these rules and chapter 10-08 WAC, these rules shall control.

~~((7))~~ (8) Imposition of discipline for violation of the student conduct code shall be stayed pending appeal, unless respondent has been summarily suspended.

~~((8))~~ (9) The student disciplinary committee shall hear the following cases as fully adjudicated proceedings:

- (a) Appeals from suspensions in excess of ten instructional days;
- (b) Appeals from dismissals;
- (c) Discipline cases referred to the committee by the student conduct officer, the conduct review officer, or the president; and
- (d) Cases in which students request to have their discipline case heard by the committee.

~~((9))~~ (10) Student conduct appeals involving the following disciplinary actions shall be reviewed as brief adjudicative proceedings:

- (a) Suspensions of ten instructional days or less;
- (b) Disciplinary probation;
- (c) Reprimands; and
- (d) Any conditions or terms imposed in conjunction with one of the foregoing disciplinary actions.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-22-054, filed 10/25/17, effective 11/25/17)

**WAC 132R-04-116 Brief adjudicative proceedings—Initial hearing.**

(1) Brief adjudicative proceedings shall be conducted by the student conduct officer. The presiding 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 and the student conduct officer. Before taking action, the conduct review officer shall conduct an informal hearing and provide each party (a) an opportunity to be informed of the college'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 all the parties within ~~((ten-business))~~ 10 calendar days of consideration of the initial hearing. 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 ~~((twenty-one))~~ 21 calendar days of service of the initial decision, the initial decision shall be deemed the final order.

(4) If the conduct review officer upon review determines that the respondent's conduct may warrant imposition of a disciplinary suspension ~~((of more than ten))~~ in excess of 10 instructional days or expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student disciplinary committee for a disciplinary hearing. The conduct review officer may enter

an interim order suspending the student until a hearing can be held by the student disciplinary committee. The interim order shall provide a brief explanation as to facts supporting the interim order of suspension and give the necessary notices that the case has been referred to the student disciplinary committee.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-22-054, filed 10/25/17, effective 11/25/17)

**WAC 132R-04-1170 Brief adjudicative proceedings—Review of an initial decision.** (1) An initial decision is subject to review by the president or his or her designee, provided the respondent files a written request for review with the conduct review officer within (~~twenty-one~~) 21 calendar days of service of the initial decision.

(2) The president or designee 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.

(3) During the review, the president or designee 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 proceedings must be referred to the student disciplinary 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 (~~twenty~~) 20 calendar days of the initial decision or of the request for review, whichever is later. The order 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 reviewing officer does not make a disposition of the matter within (~~twenty~~) 20 calendar days after the request is submitted.

(5) If the president or designee upon review determines that the respondent's conduct may warrant imposition of a disciplinary suspension of more than (~~ten~~) 10 instructional days or expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student disciplinary committee for a disciplinary hearing. The president or designee may enter an interim order suspending the student until a hearing can be held by the student disciplinary committee. The interim order shall provide a brief explanation as to facts supporting the interim order of suspension and give the necessary notices that the case has been referred to the student disciplinary committee.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-22-054, filed 10/25/17, effective 11/25/17)

**WAC 132R-04-125 Student (~~(disciplinary)~~) conduct committee—General.** (1) The student (~~(disciplinary)~~) conduct committee shall consist of five members:

- (a) Two full-time students appointed by the student government;
- (b) Two faculty members recommended by the faculty association and appointed by the president;

(c) The conduct review officer or other member of the administration appointed by the president at the beginning of the academic year.

(2) The conduct review officer shall serve as the committee chair and may take action on preliminary hearing matters prior to the appointment of the committee. The committee chair shall receive annual training on protecting victims and promoting accountability in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct.

(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 disciplinary 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 the committee for disqualification of a committee member.

(5) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination cases, as well as the meaning and application of the term "relevant" in relation to questions and evidence, and the types of evidence that are impermissible, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

(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.

In sex discrimination cases, the college may, in its sole and exclusive 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-22-054, filed 10/25/17, effective 11/25/17)

**WAC 132R-04-130 Student disciplinary committee—((Hearing)) Pre-hearing.** (1) The student conduct administrative panel will conduct full adjudicative proceedings in accordance with the provisions of this standards of conduct for students code, the Administrative Procedure Act (chapter 34.05 RCW), and the model rules of procedure (chapter 10-08 WAC) including a hearing, determination of findings, conclusions, and sanctions. To the extent there is a conflict between the conduct code and the model rules, this student conduct code shall control.

(2) The committee chair shall serve all parties with written notice of the hearing not less than seven business 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.

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

(4) Upon request filed at least five business days before the hearing by either party or at the direction of the committee chair, the parties shall exchange, no later than the third business day prior to the hearing, lists of potential witnesses and copies of potential exhibits that they reasonably expect to present in their respective cases. 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, unless the party can show good cause for such failure.

(5) The committee chair may provide to the committee members in advance of the hearing copies of (i) the student conduct officer's notification of imposition of discipline (or referral to the committee) and (ii) 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, upon request, in obtaining relevant and admissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(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; any improper "ex parte" communication shall be placed on the record, as further provided in RCW 34.05.455.

(9) Each party may be accompanied at the hearing by a nonattorney assistant of their choice. A respondent or complainant in a case involving allegations of sexual misconduct may elect to be represented by an attorney at their own cost, but will be deemed to have waived that right unless, at least four business days before the hearing, written notice of the attorney's identity and participation is filed with the committee chair with a copy to the student conduct officer. The committee will ordinarily be advised by an assistant attorney general. If the respondent or complainant is represented by an attorney, the student conduct officer may also be represented by a second, appropriately screened assistant attorney general.

(10) In circumstances involving more than one accused student, the student conduct officer may permit joint or separate hearings upon request by a party.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-22-054, filed 10/25/17, effective 11/25/17)

**WAC 132R-04-131 Student disciplinary committee hearing—Presentation of evidence.** (~~((1) Upon the failure of any party to attend or participate in a hearing, the committee may either (a) proceed with the hearing and issuance of its order or (b) serve an order of default~~

in accordance with RCW 34.05.440. If an accused student, with notice, does not appear before a student conduct administrative panel hearing, the information in support of the complaint is presented and considered in the absence of the accused student.

(2) The hearing will ordinarily be closed to the public. However, if all parties agree on the record or in writing that some or all of the proceedings should be open, the committee chair shall determine any extent to which the hearing will be open. For hearings involving sexual misconduct allegations, complainant, accused student, and their respective attorney representatives may attend portions of the hearing where argument, testimony, and/or evidence are presented to the student disciplinary committee. If any person disrupts the proceedings, the chair may exclude that person from the hearing room.

(3) The committee chair shall cause the hearing to be recorded by a method that the committee chair selects, in accordance with RCW 34.05.449. Panel deliberations are not recorded. The recording, or a copy, is property of the college, but will be made available to the respondent 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 the respondent. Other recording shall also be permitted, in accordance with WAC 10-08-190.

(4) The committee chair shall preside at the hearing and decide procedural questions that arise during the hearing, except as overridden by majority vote of the committee, and make rulings on the admissibility of evidence, motions, objections, and on challenges to the impartiality of board members, unless a hearing examiner is appointed as provided below. These rulings shall be made on the record. The Washington rules of evidence shall serve as guidelines for those rulings on the admissibility of evidence, in conjunction with the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW. Questions related to the order of the proceedings are also determined by the committee chair.

(5) The student conduct officer (unless represented by an assistant attorney general) shall present the case for disciplinary action. The facts justifying any such action must be established by a preponderance of the evidence.

(6) All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. The panel chair determines which records, exhibits, and written statements may be accepted as information for consideration by the panel. These rulings shall be made on the record. Evidence shall be admitted or excluded in accordance with RCW 34.05.452.

(7) The president of the college or designee, the chair of the student disciplinary committee, the administrators assigned to the student disciplinary committee, deans, and/or the student conduct officer have the authority to issue subpoenas.

(8) The accused student and the student conduct officer may arrange for witnesses to present pertinent information to the student disciplinary committee. Each party is responsible for informing their witnesses of the time and place of the hearing.

(9) The committee chair may accommodate concerns for the personal safety, well-being or fears of confrontation during the hearing by providing separate facilities, or by permitting participation by telephone, audio tape, written statement, or other means. In making such accommodations, the rights of the other parties must not be prejudiced and must have the opportunity to participate effectively in, to hear, and, if technically economically feasible, to see the entire proceeding while it is taking place.

~~(10) In cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, neither party shall directly question or cross examine one another. Attorneys for the parties are also prohibited from questioning the opposing party absent express permission from the committee chair. Subject to this exception, all cross-examination questions shall be submitted in writing to the committee chair, who in his or her discretion shall pose the questions on the party's behalf.~~

~~(11) At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee shall permit the parties to make closing arguments in whatever form it wishes to receive them. The committee may also permit each party to propose findings, conclusions, and/or an order for its consideration.)~~ (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 ensure 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 college's case.

(6) All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. Except as otherwise provided in this section, evidence shall be admitted or excluded in accordance with RCW 34.05.452.

(7) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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 or advisor. 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:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;  
(ii) Attorney-client communications and attorney work product privilege;  
(iii) Clergy privileges;  
(iv) Medical or mental health providers and counselor privileges;  
(v) Sexual assault and domestic violence advocate privileges; and  
(vi) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

(8) Except in cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-22-054, filed 10/25/17, effective 11/25/17)

**WAC 132R-04-150 Appeal from student ((disciplinary)) conduct committee initial decision.** ~~((1) A respondent who is aggrieved by the findings or conclusions issued by the student disciplinary committee may appeal the committee's initial decision to the president by filing a notice of appeal with the president's office within twenty calendar days of service of the committee's initial decision.~~

~~(2) The notice of appeal must assign error to specific findings of fact and/or conclusions of law in the initial decision and must contain argument regarding why the appeal should be granted. The president's review on appeal shall be limited to a review of those issues and arguments raised in the notice of appeal. Review shall be restricted to the record created below.~~

~~(3) The president shall provide a written order to all parties within forty-five calendar days after receipt of the notice of appeal. The president's decision shall be final.~~

~~(4) The president may exercise discretion to suspend any disciplinary action pending review of the merits of the findings, conclusions, and disciplinary actions imposed.~~

~~(5) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.~~

~~(6) Respondents and complainants in a case involving allegations of sexual misconduct shall have the right to be accompanied by an at-~~

~~torney or nonattorney assistant of their choosing during the appeal process, but will be deemed to have waived that right unless they file with the president a written notice of the attorney's identity and participation within twenty calendar days of service of the committee's initial decision.~~

~~(7) Complainant may appeal the student conduct committee's initial decision to the president subject to the same procedures and deadlines applicable to other parties.~~

~~(a) In addition to the appeal rights provided to the respondent above, a complainant may also appeal the following actions by the student conduct officer:~~

~~(i) The dismissal of a sexual misconduct complaint; or~~

~~(ii) Any disciplinary sanction(s) and conditions imposed against a respondent for a sexual misconduct violation, including a disciplinary warning.~~

~~(b) 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.~~

~~(c) The president will serve complainant a written notice indicating that the appeal has been resolved on the same date that the final order is served upon the respondent. This notice shall inform the complainant whether the sexual misconduct allegation was found to have merit and describe any sanctions and/or conditions imposed upon the respondent for the complainant's protection, including suspension or dismissal of the respondent.)~~ (1) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's decision to the president by filing a written 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, decision maker, 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 nonappealing 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 sex-based harassment, the president's decision must be served simultaneously on the complainant, respondent, and Title IX coordinator.

(7) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-08-012, filed 3/26/21, effective 4/26/21)

**WAC 132R-04-320 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 132R-04-130. 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.)~~ (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 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 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 chair may provide to the committee members in advance of the hearing copies of:

(a) The student 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) (Optional: 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 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) (Optional: In cases heard by the committee, each party may be accompanied at the hearing by an advisor of their choice, which may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.)

(10) (Optional: For any matters involving a disciplinary sanction of suspension of more than one quarter, dismissal, or sex-based harassment, the college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if they have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist them during the hearing.) 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.

(12) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) **Notice.** The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in subsection (2) of this section, and a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) **Advisors.** The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the

hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (13)(b) of this section.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(13) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) **Notice.** In addition to all information required in subsection (2) of this section, the notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) **Advisors.** The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing

directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) **Separate locations.** The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) **Withdrawal of complaint.** If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

**WSR 24-16-006**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

[Order 24-138—Filed July 24, 2024, 4:49 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: This emergency rule is needed to close retention and possession of copper, quillback, and vermillion rockfish in Marine Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4 (west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line).

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 220-314-020.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: This rule closes copper rockfish, quillback rockfish, and vermillion rockfish retention and possession in coastal Marine Areas. It is necessary because preliminary in-season estimates through mid-July indicate total mortality is likely to exceed the state-specific federal annual limit set for these species. The populations of these rockfish species are likely healthy but smaller than previously understood. Allowing retention in August, September, and through the third Saturday in October was intended to provide access to fish for biological sampling. However, this action is required to reduce catch to stay within state-specific federal annual limits. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 24, 2024.

Kelly Susewind  
Director

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-314-02000I Possession limits—Bottomfish.** Effective August 1, 2024, until further notice, the following provisions of WAC 220-314-020, regarding copper rockfish, quillback rockfish, and vermillion rockfish in Marine Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4 (West of the Bonilla-

Tatoosh line) shall be modified as described herein. All other provisions of WAC 220-314-020 not addressed herein, or unless otherwise amended, remain in effect:

Marine Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4 (West of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line):  
It is unlawful to retain or possess copper rockfish, quillback rockfish, and vermillion rockfish.

**WSR 24-16-007**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

[Order 24-139—Filed July 25, 2024, 9:12 a.m., effective July 26, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: July 26, 2024.

Purpose: This emergency rule opens one day of recreational salmon fishing in Catch Record Card Area 7.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 220-313-060.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: This emergency rule is necessary to open one day of recreational fishing in Catch Record Card Area 7.

Catch estimates for the Marine Area 7 summer Chinook fishery indicate that through July 21, 67 percent of the harvest quota (1,465 of 2,181), 32 percent of unmarked encounters (1,228 of 3,845), and 26 percent of sublegal encounters (558 of 2,141) have been reached. Based on daily catch rates, sufficient quota remains to allow for this additional opening of the 2024 summer Chinook season.

There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 24, 2024.

Kelly Susewind  
Director

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-313-06000Z Puget Sound salmon—Saltwater seasons and daily limits.** Effective only the day of July 26, 2024, salmon rules for Catch Record Card Area 7, shall be modified as described herein. All other provisions of WAC 220-313-060 not addressed herein, or unless otherwise amended by emergency rule, remain in effect:

**Catch Record Card Area 7, except waters listed as closed to salmon fishing in WAC 220-313-020 during the effective time period (Bel-**

lingham Bay, Samish Bay, and Southern Rosario Strait and eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca), and waters of Lummi Bay east of a line from Gooseberry Point to Sandy Point:

Salmon: Effective July 26, 2024 (one day): Daily limit 1. Release chum, wild Chinook, and wild coho.

**WSR 24-16-008**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

[Order 24-136—Filed July 25, 2024, 9:25 a.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to close Wenatchee River salmon seasons.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 220-312-05000T.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: This rule is necessary to close Wenatchee River salmon seasons.

The current and projected hatchery and natural-origin summer Chinook return to the Wenatchee River is below what is needed to meet minimum spawning escapement and broodstock objectives for the Wenatchee River.

There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 24, 2024.

Kelly Susewind  
Director

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-312-05000T Exceptions to statewide rules—Eastside.** The following provisions of WAC 220-312-050 regarding Wenatchee River (Chelan County) recreational salmon seasons shall be modified as described below. All other provisions of WAC 220-312-050 not addressed herein, and unless otherwise amended by emergency rule, remain in effect:

**Wenatchee River (Chelan County); from mouth to the Icicle Road Bridge crossing the Wenatchee River (near Leavenworth):**

Effective August 1 through September 30, 2024: Salmon: Closed.

**WSR 24-16-012**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

[Order 24-141—Filed July 25, 2024, 12:14 p.m., effective July 26, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: July 26, 2024.

Purpose: This emergency rule opens one day of recreational salmon fishing in Catch Record Card Area 7 with daily limits and release requirements consistent with the list of agreed fisheries (LOAF).

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-313-06000Z; and amending WAC 220-313-060.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: This emergency rule is necessary to open one day of recreational fishing in Catch Record Card Area 7. This rule sets daily limits and release requirements consistent with LOAF.

Catch estimates for the Marine Area 7 summer Chinook fishery indicate that through July 21, 67 percent of the harvest quota (1,465 of 2,181), 32 percent of unmarked encounters (1,228 of 3,845), and 26 percent of sublegal encounters (558 of 2,141) have been reached. Based on daily catch rates, sufficient quota remains to allow for this additional opening of the 2024 summer Chinook season.

There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 25, 2024.

Kelly Susewind  
Director

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-313-06000A Puget Sound salmon—Saltwater seasons and daily limits.** Effective only the day of July 26, 2024, salmon rules for Catch Record Card Area 7, shall be modified as described herein. All other provisions of WAC 220-313-060 not addressed herein, or unless otherwise amended by emergency rule, remain in effect:

**Catch Record Card Area 7, except waters listed as closed to salmon fishing in WAC 220-313-020 during the effective time period (Bel-lingham Bay, Samish Bay, and Southern Rosario Strait and eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca); and waters of Lummi Bay east of a line from Gooseberry Point to Sandy Point:**

Salmon: Effective July 26, 2024 (one day): Daily limit 2 including no more than 1 Chinook. Release chum, sockeye, wild Chinook, and wild coho.

REPEALER

The following section of Washington Administrative Code is repealed, effective immediately:

WAC 220-313-06000Z Puget Sound salmon—Saltwater seasons and daily limits. (24-139)

**WSR 24-16-015**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**OF SPOKANE**

[Filed July 25, 2024, 2:51 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring the Community College of Spokane's student conduct code (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedures recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending chapter 132Q-10 WAC.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 9, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 25, 2024.

John O'Rourke  
Rules Coordinator

**OTS-5663.1**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-12-002, filed 5/19/22, effective 6/19/22)

**WAC 132Q-10-600 Sex discrimination—Supplemental student conduct code and procedures—Order of precedence.** This supplemental student conduct code and procedure applies to allegations of (~~sexual harassment~~) sex discrimination for incidents occurring on or after August 1, 2024, subject to Title IX jurisdiction pursuant to regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education. See 34 C.F.R. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with the Community Colleges of Spokane's standard disciplinary procedures, WAC 132Q-10-101 through 132Q-10-503, these supplemental procedures shall take precedence. (~~The college may, at its discretion, contract with an administrative law judge or other person to act as presiding officer and assign such presiding officer to exercise any or all of the duties in lieu of the student conduct committee and committee chair.~~)

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-010, filed 4/23/21, effective 5/24/21)

**WAC 132Q-10-601 Sex discrimination—Prohibited conduct ((under Title IX)) and definitions.** Pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(13) and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681, the Community Colleges of Spokane 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)~~ sex discrimination."

For purposes of this supplemental procedure, ("~~sexual harassment~~" encompasses the following conduct:

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

(2) ~~Hostile environment.~~ Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the Community Colleges of Spokane's educational programs or activities, or 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. Consensual 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 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 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 26.50.010.~~

~~(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.) the following definitions apply:~~

(1) "Complainant" means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee; or

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(2) "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.

(3) "Program" or "programs and activities" means all operations of the college.

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

(5) "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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

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

(7) "Sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis (insignificant) harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis harm on the basis of sex.

(a) Sex-based harassment. "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) Quid pro quo harassment. A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) Hostile environment. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) Sexual violence. "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(A) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling) is 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 is 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.

(D) Statutory rape (rape of a child) is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) Domestic violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) Dating violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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.

(G) Stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) "Consent." For purposes of this code, "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) "Title IX retaliation" means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part, including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

(8) "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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(9) "Student group" 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.

(10) "Supportive measures" means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 or work schedules, or extracurricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(11) "Title IX coordinator" is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-010, filed 4/23/21, effective 5/24/21)

**WAC 1320-10-602 ((Title IX)) Sex discrimination jurisdiction.**

~~((1))~~ This supplemental procedure applies only if the alleged misconduct meets the definition of "sex discrimination" as that term is defined in WAC 1320-10-601 and occurs:

~~((a) Occurred in the United States;~~

~~(b) Occurred during a Community Colleges of Spokane 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 Community Colleges of Spokane 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 Community Colleges of Spokane.~~

~~(3) Proceedings under this supplemental procedure must be dismissed if one or all of the requirements of subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section have not been met. Upon receipt of the formal complaint, the Title IX coordinator shall make an initial inquiry into whether Title IX jurisdiction extends to the complaint. If the Title~~

~~IX coordinator determines there is no Title IX jurisdiction, the Title IX coordinator will issue a notice of dismissal in whole or part explaining why some or all of the Title IX claims have been dismissed. Dismissal under this supplemental procedure does not prohibit the Community Colleges of Spokane from pursuing other disciplinary action based on allegations that the respondent violated other provisions of the Community Colleges of Spokane's student conduct code, WAC 132Q-10-101 through 132Q-10-503.~~

~~(4) After receipt of the investigation report, 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. Dismissal under this supplemental procedure does not prohibit the Community Colleges of Spokane from pursuing other disciplinary action based on allegations that the respondent violated other provisions of the Community Colleges of Spokane's student conduct code, WAC 132Q-10-101 through 132Q-10-503))~~

~~(1) On college premises;~~

~~(2) At or in connection with college programs or activities; or~~

~~(3) Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, the pursuit of its objectives, or the ability of a student or staff to participate in the college's programs and activities.~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-010, filed 4/23/21, effective 5/24/21)

**WAC 132Q-10-603 Sex discrimination—Dismissal and initiation of discipline.** ~~((1) Upon receiving the Title IX investigation report from the Title IX coordinator or designee, 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 administrative panel 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 Community Colleges of Spokane will appoint the party an advisor of the college's choosing at no cost to the party, if the party fails to do so.~~

~~(3) Explain that if a party fails to appear at the hearing, a decision of responsibility may be made in their absence.))~~ (1) Any member of the college community may file a complaint against a student or student group for conduct which may constitute sex discrimination.

(2) The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The disciplinary process for allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, against a student shall be addressed through the student conduct code.

(3) Both the respondent and the complainant in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination 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.

(4) When interim suspension or other restriction proceedings are conducted under WAC 1320-10-320, the complainant shall be notified that an interim suspension has been imposed on the same day that the interim suspension notice is served on the respondent. The college will also provide the complainant with timely notice of any subsequent changes to the interim suspension order.

(5) The student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct administrative panel.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct administrative panel.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) The student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint. In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the complainant must withdraw their complaint in writing;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the service of the written recommendation.

(g) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(h) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-010, filed 4/23/21, effective 5/24/21)

**WAC 132Q-10-604 Sex discrimination—Prehearing procedure.** ~~((1) Upon receiving the disciplinary notice, the chair of the student conduct administrative panel will send a hearing notice to all parties, in compliance with WAC 132Q-10-315. In no event will the hearing date be set less than ten days after the Title IX coordinator or designee 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 Community Colleges of Spokane intends to offer the evidence at the hearing.)~~ (1) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, members of the student conduct administrative panel 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 sex discrimination 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, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

(2) In sex discrimination cases, the college may, in its sole and exclusive 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 administrative panel and/or committee chair.

(3) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the dis-

ciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) Notice. The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in WAC 1320-10-315, and a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) Advisors. The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (4) (b) of this section.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(4) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) Notice. In addition to all information required by WAC 1320-10-315, the prehearing notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) Advisors. The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but is not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) Separate locations. The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) Withdrawal of complaint. If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-010, filed 4/23/21, effective 5/24/21)

**WAC 132Q-10-606 ~~Sex discrimination—Presentation of 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 of prior sexual behavior between the complainant and the respondent, which are asked or offered on the issue of consent.~~

~~(4) Cross-examination required: If a party or witness does not submit to cross-examination during the live hearing, the committee must not rely on any statement by that party or witness in reaching a determination of responsibility.~~

~~(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 members of the clergy and priests;~~  
~~(d) 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.)~~ In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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 or advisor. 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.

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

(5) 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-010, filed 4/23/21, effective 5/24/21)

**WAC 132Q-10-607 Sex discrimination—Initial order.** (1) (~~In addition to complying~~) The student conduct administrative panel will comply with WAC 132Q-10-330 (~~, the student conduct administrative panel will be responsible for conferring and drafting an initial order that:~~

- ~~(a) Identifies the allegations of sexual harassment;~~
- ~~(b) Describes the grievance and disciplinary procedures, starting with filing of the formal complaint through the determination of responsibility, including notices to parties, interviews with witnesses and parties, site visits, methods used to gather evidence, and hearings held;~~
- ~~(c) Makes findings of fact supporting the determination of responsibility;~~
- ~~(d) Reaches conclusions as to whether the facts establish whether the respondent is responsible for engaging in sexual harassment in violation of Title IX;~~
- ~~(e) Contains a statement of, and rationale for, the student conduct administrative panel's determination of responsibility for each allegation;~~
- ~~(f) Describes any disciplinary sanction or conditions imposed against the respondent, if any;~~
- ~~(g) Describes to what extent, if any, complainant is entitled to remedies designed to restore or preserve complainant's equal access to the Community Colleges of Spokane's education programs or activities; and~~
- ~~(h) Describes the process for appealing initial orders from Spokane Community College to Spokane Falls Community College's vice president of student affairs or initial orders from Spokane Falls Community College to the vice president of student services).~~

(2) (~~The committee chair will serve the initial order on the parties simultaneously.~~) In cases involving sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-12-002, filed 5/19/22, effective 6/19/22)

**WAC 132Q-10-608 Sex discrimination—Appeals.** (~~(1) All parties, including the student conduct officer in their capacity as a representative of the college shall 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 appropriate vice president's office within 21 days of service of the initial order or notice of dismissal. Appeals must identify the specific findings of fact and/or conclusions of law in the initial order or 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 dismissal shall be deemed final.~~

~~(2) For appeals coming from Spokane Community College, the vice president of student affairs at Spokane Falls Community College will process the appeal. For appeals coming from Spokane Falls Community College, the vice president of student services at Spokane Community College will process the appeal.~~

~~(3) Upon receiving a timely appeal, the appropriately identified vice president's office will serve a copy of the appeal on all parties, who will have 10 days from the date of service to submit written responses to the appropriate vice 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 appropriate vice president shall serve copies of the responses to the other parties.~~

~~(4) Parties receiving a copy of the responses shall have five days in which to submit a written reply addressing issues raised in the responses to the appropriate vice president's office.~~

~~(5) The appropriate vice president or their delegate, based on their review of parties' submission 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 if affirmed or denied, or if the disciplinary sanctions and conditions imposed in the initial order are affirmed, vacated, or amended, and if amended set for the new disciplinary sanctions and conditions.~~

~~(6) The appropriate vice president of student affairs/services shall serve the final decision on the parties simultaneously.~~

~~(7) All administrative decisions reached through this process are and may be judicially appealed pursuant to applicable provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW including, but not limited to, the timelines set forth in RCW 34.05.542.)~~ (1) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's decision to the president by filing a written appeal with the appropriate vice president's office (appeal authority) 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. For appeals coming from Spokane Community College, the vice president of student affairs at Spokane Falls Community College will process the appeal as the appeal authority. For appeals coming from Spokane Falls Community College, the vice president of student services at Spokane Community College will process the appeal as the appeal authority.

(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, decision maker, 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 appeal authority will promptly serve a copy of the appeal on all nonappealing 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 appeal authority may ask for additional briefing from the parties on issues raised on appeal. The appeal authority's review shall be restricted to the hearing record made before the student conduct administrative panel and will normally be limited to a review of those issues and arguments raised in the appeal.

(5) The appeal authority shall serve a written decision on all parties and their attorneys, if any, within 20 calendar days after receipt of the appeal. This decision shall be final and subject to judicial review pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, Part V.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the appeal decision must be served simultaneously on the complainant, respondent, and Title IX coordinator.

(7) The appeal authority shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

#### REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

WAC 132Q-10-605          Rights of parties.

**WSR 24-16-020**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

[Order 24-140—Filed July 25, 2024, 4:17 p.m., effective July 25, 2024, 4:17 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: This emergency rule:

(1) Opens Region 2E, Subregion 1B, the Discovery Bay Shrimp District, Subareas 26B-1 and 26B-2 to commercial harvest effective July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024.

(2) Closes all areas open to commercial spot shrimp harvest on August 20 through August 22, 2024, to allow staff to assess catch data to ensure consistency with comanager agreements.

(3) Designates the commercial spot shrimp catch accounting periods and catch limits.

(4) Implements a reduced pot limit in Region 5 congruent with RCW 77.50.100.

(5) Closes Subregion 1B to commercial nonspot shrimp harvest effective one hour after official sunset on July 31, 2024.

(6) Designates the commercial nonspot shrimp catch accounting periods and biweekly catch limit for harvest from Subregions 1B and 1C and Region 2E.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-340-52000W; and amending WAC 220-340-520.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: Permanent rules regulating state commercial shrimp harvest in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca require the adoption of harvest seasons contained in this emergency rule. This emergency rule is necessary to prosecute state commercial shrimp pot fisheries in Puget Sound. This rule closes a quota area to commercial harvest following the projected attainment of the available harvest. This rule allows harvesters to respond to dynamic changes in market conditions and promotes full utilization of both the commercial spot and nonspot shares. These rules are in congruence with comanager agreements. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 25, 2024.

Kelly Susewind  
Director

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-340-52000X Commercial shrimp pot fishery—Puget Sound.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-340-520, effective immediately, until further notice, it is unlawful to fish for shrimp for commercial purposes using pot gear in Puget Sound except as provided for in this section:

(1) Spot Shrimp Pot Harvest:

(a) Spot shrimp harvest is permitted as indicated in the following table opening one hour before official sunrise on the first day of the open period. Any closures take effect one hour after official sunset on the closing day of the open period.

<b>Geographical Management Unit (WAC 220-320-140; WAC 220-320-120)</b>	<b>Open Period</b>
Subregion 1A	Closed.
Subregion 1B	July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Subregion 1C	Closed.
Region 2E	July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Region 2W	Immediately, until further notice.
Subarea 23A-E	Closed.
Subarea 23A-W	Immediately, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Subarea 23A-C and MSFS Catch Area 23B	Immediately, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Subarea 23A-S and MSFS Catch Area 23D	Immediately, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
MFSF Catch Area 23C	Immediately, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
MFSF Catch Area 25A, excluding the Discovery Bay Shrimp District	Closed; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Discovery Bay Shrimp District	July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
MFSF 29 (Straits - Neah Bay)	Immediately, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Subarea 26B-1 and MFSF Catch Area 26C	July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Subarea 26B-2	July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Region 5	July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
MFSF Catch Area 26D	Closed.
MFSF Catch Areas 28A, 28B, 28C, and 28D	Closed.

(b) The first spot shrimp catch accounting period starts one hour before official sunrise on May 1, 2024, through one hour after official sunset on July 30, 2024.

(c) It is unlawful for the combined total harvest during the first spot shrimp accounting period to have exceeded 4,800 pounds of spot shrimp per license from all Puget Sound shrimp management regions combined.

(d) The second spot shrimp catch accounting period will start one hour before official sunrise on July 31, 2024, through one hour after official sunset on August 20, 2024.

(e) It is unlawful for the combined total harvest during the first and second spot shrimp accounting periods to have exceeded 5,300 pounds of spot shrimp per license from all Puget Sound shrimp management regions combined.

(f) Harvesters may deploy no more than 50 spot shrimp pots per license in Shrimp Management Region 5.

(g) It is lawful to possess deactivated non-spot shrimp pots on-board a commercial vessel that is listed on a Puget Sound shrimp pot license while fishing for spot shrimp.

A deactivated pot is un-baited, has the drawstring or door fastened open, and/or is unable to be readily fished.

(2) Non-spot shrimp pot harvests:

(a) Non-spot shrimp pot harvest is permitted as indicated in the following table opening one hour before official sunrise on the first day of the open period. Any closures take effect one hour after official sunset on the closing day of the open period.

Geographical Management Unit (WAC 220-320-140; WAC 220-320-120)	Open Period
Subregion 1A	Immediately, until further notice.
Subregion 1B	Immediately, through July 31, 2024.
Subregion 1C	Closed
Region 2E	Immediately, until further notice.
Region 2W	Immediately, until further notice.
Region 3, not including Discovery Bay Shrimp District	Immediately, until further notice.
Discovery Bay Shrimp District	Immediately, until further notice.
Region 4	Closed
Region 5	Closed
Region 6	Closed

(b) The non-spot shrimp catch accounting periods begin one hour before official sunrise and end one hour after official sunset on the date listed in the following table:

Period Number	Start Date	End Date
1	5/1/2024	5/14/2024
2	5/15/2024	5/28/2024
3	5/29/2024	6/11/2024
4	6/12/2024	6/25/2024
5	6/26/2024	7/9/2024
6	7/10/2024	7/23/2024
7	7/24/2024	8/6/2024
8	8/7/2024	8/20/2024
9	8/21/2024	9/3/2024
10	9/4/2024	9/17/2024
11	9/18/2024	10/1/2024
12	10/2/2024	10/15/2024

(c) It is unlawful for total harvest of non-spot shrimp to exceed 1,400 pounds per non-spot shrimp catch accounting period from subregions 1B, 1C, and Region 2E combined during catch accounting periods 1 through 12.

(d) There is no weekly harvest limit of non-spot shrimp from subregion 1A, Region 2W, Region 3, or the Discovery Bay Shrimp District.

(e) Harvest of non-spot shrimp is not permitted deeper than 175 feet in Catch Area 23A and all of its subareas (23AE, 23AW, 23AC, 23AS).

(f) Harvest of non-spot shrimp is not permitted deeper than 175 feet in subregion 1A.

(g) It is unlawful to harvest non-spot shrimp in more than one geographical management unit listed in subsection 3(a) in a single day with the following exceptions:

(i) Non-spot shrimp may be harvested from more than one subregion of Region 1 on the same day.

(ii) Non-spot shrimp may be harvested from Discovery Bay Shrimp District and Region 3 on the same day.

(h) It is lawful to possess deactivated spot shrimp pots on-board of a commercial vessel that is listed on a Puget Sound shrimp pot license while fishing for non-spot shrimp.

A deactivated pot is un-baited, has the drawstring or door fastened open, and/or is unable to be readily fished.

**Reviser's note:** The typographical errors in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appear in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

#### REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed, effective immediately:

WAC 220-340-52000W Commercial shrimp pot fishery—Puget Sound. (24-132)

WSR 24-16-021  
EMERGENCY RULES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 24-142—Filed July 25, 2024, 4:54 p.m., effective August 5, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 5, 2024.

Purpose: This emergency rule opens Puget Sound commercial sea cucumber harvest seasons and landing limits.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 220-340-730.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: This emergency rule sets the initial 2024-25 Puget Sound commercial sea cucumber seasons. Harvestable surpluses of sea cucumbers exist in the districts specified. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 25, 2024.

Amy H. Windrope  
for Kelly Susewind  
Director

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-340-73000Q Sea cucumbers** Effective August 5, 2024, until further notice, the following provisions of WAC 220-340-730 regarding Puget Sound commercial sea cucumber harvest seasons and landing limits shall be as described herein. All other provisions of WAC 220-340-730 not addressed herein, and unless otherwise amended, remain in effect:

(1) Sea cucumber harvest using shellfish diver gear is allowed in Sea Cucumber Districts 1, 2-1, 2-2 Monday through Sunday of each week.

(2) Sea cucumber harvest using shellfish diver gear is allowed in Sea Cucumber District 5 except for all waters in Gig Harbor and adja-

cent waters within a one nautical mile radius of the Gig Harbor entrance, Monday through Sunday of each week.

(3) It is unlawful for any harvester to fish for, take, or possess for commercial purposes more than 1,500 pounds of sea cucumber per license for each weekly fishery opening period.

(4) The maximum cumulative landing of sea cucumbers from August 5 through November 17, 2024, is 9,300 pounds per valid designated sea cucumber harvest license.

## WSR 24-16-027

## EMERGENCY RULES

## EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

[Filed July 27, 2024, 12:50 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Other Findings Required by Other Provisions of Law as Precondition to Adoption or Effectiveness of Rule: As identified in chapter 172-108 WAC, Eastern Washington University (EWU) declines to adopt the model rules of procedure issued by the office of administrative hearings. Instead, these rules are designed to emphasize the educational nature of the EWU community and to provide a prompt and equitable process for resolving concerns consistent with the requirements of Title VI and Title IX.

Purpose: To comply with new Title IX regulations that are effective August 1, 2024, EWU has designed an updated process for receiving and responding to concerns about students engaging in discrimination, discriminatory harassment, sexual violence, or interpersonal violence (chapter 172-125 WAC). EWU's previous procedures were contained in chapter 172-121 WAC, Student conduct code. To make the regulation more accessible for students and to provide greater support to students throughout the process, the procedures for handling complaints involving discrimination, discriminatory harassment, sexual violence, and interpersonal violence have been moved from the student conduct code to this new code. Definitions have also been updated to comply with the new Title IX regulations.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 172-125-010, 172-125-020, 172-125-030, 172-125-040, 172-125-200, 172-125-210, 172-125-220, 172-125-230, 172-125-240, 172-125-250, 172-125-300, 172-125-301, 172-125-302, and 172-125-305.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.35.120(12).

Other Authority: 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: Revised definitions and procedures, including procedures for responding to complaints of discrimination against students, are required to comply with updated Title IX regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 106. The Title IX regulations go into effect on August 1, 2024; thus, this emergency rule is being filed with an effective date of August 1, 2024.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 14, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: June 20, 2024.

Annika Scharosch  
Associate Vice President for Civil Rights

OTS-5550.1

**Chapter 172-125 WAC**  
**DISCRIMINATION AND TITLE IX VIOLATIONS BY STUDENTS**

**PART I: COMMITMENT TO NONDISCRIMINATION**

NEW SECTION

**WAC 172-125-010 Commitment to nondiscrimination and standards of conduct for students.** Eastern Washington University (EWU) is committed to equity and justice, and respect for the rights and dignity of all people. EWU is committed to providing a learning, living, and working environment free from discrimination and harassment. To fulfill these commitments, this code prohibits students and student organizations from engaging in discrimination, discriminatory harassment, interpersonal violence, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, or retaliation. This code sets forth the expectations for EWU student and student organization behavior and the process for addressing potential violations of the following standards of conduct. More specifically, students and student organizations are prohibited from engaging in:

(1) **Discrimination.** Adverse treatment of another individual because of the person's protected status or perception of a person's protected status. "Protected status" includes race, color, creed, religion, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, genetic information, age, marital status, families with children, protected veteran or military status, HIV or hepatitis C, status as a mother breastfeeding her child, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability. Individuals and student organizations may be treated differently on the basis of sex only to the extent permitted by Title IX and the Washington Law Against Discrimination.

(2) **Discriminatory harassment.** Physical or verbal conduct that:

(a) Denigrates or shows hostility toward an individual because of their protected status (as defined above) or perceived protected status;

(b) Is subjectively and objectively offensive; and

(c) Is sufficiently severe or pervasive as to unreasonably interfere with an individual's academic or work performance, or ability to participate in or benefit from the university's programs and activities.

(3) **Interpersonal violence.** Interpersonal violence encompasses domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. These terms are defined as:

(a) **Domestic violence:** Any act of violence or threatened act of violence that occurs between individuals who are involved or have been involved in a sexual relationship, are current or former family members, or adult persons who presently reside together. This includes, but is not limited to, physical abuse, threats of bodily harm or safety, or coercive control. Coercive control is: (i) A pattern of behavior used to cause another to suffer physical, emotional, or psychological harm; (ii) and is intended to or has the effect of unreasonably interfering with a person's free will and personal liberty. Examples of coercive control are identified in RCW 7.105.010(4).

(b) **Dating violence:** Is domestic violence as defined above except the acts are committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the complainant. In determining whether such a relationship exists, the following factors are considered:

(i) The length of time the relationship has existed;

(ii) The type of relationship; and

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

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

(i) Fear for their health and/or safety or the health/safety of others; or

(ii) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

(4) **Sex-based harassment.** Harassment on the basis of a person's sex, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or pregnancy or related conditions, that meets one of the following standards:

(a) **Hostile environment:** Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is:

(i) Subjectively and objectively offensive; and

(ii) So severe or pervasive that it created a hostile environment by limiting or denying a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the university's programs or activities.

In determining whether or not such an environment exists, the university will consider: (A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access university's programs or activities; (B) the type, frequency, and duration of the conduct; (C) the parties' ages, roles within the university, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct; (D) the location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and (E) other sex-based harassment in the university's programs or activities. These are factors for consideration; each factor does not need to be met for a hostile environment to exist.

(b) **Quid pro quo harassment:** If a student is working as a university employee or otherwise has the authority to offer benefits or service to students, sex-based harassment exists if the respondent explicitly or impliedly conditioned the provision of such benefit or service on the complainant's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(5) **Sexual assault.** Any sexual act directed against another person, without a person's consent, including instances where a person is not capable of giving consent. Consent means actual words or conduct

indicating freely given agreement to the sexual act. Consent cannot be inferred from silence, passivity, or lack of active resistance. There is no consent where there is a threat of force or violence, any form of coercion, or physical or psychological intimidation. Sexual activity is nonconsensual when one person is incapable of consent by reason of mental incapacity, drug/alcohol use, illness, unconsciousness, age, or physical condition. Incapacitation due to drugs or alcohol refers to an individual who is in a state of intoxication such that the individual is incapable of making rational, reasonable decisions because the person lacks the capacity to give knowing consent.

**Sexual assault includes:**

(a) **Rape:** The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus, with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without a person's consent.

(b) **Fondling:** The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the person's consent. Private body parts include, but are not limited to, breasts, genitalia, thighs, and buttocks.

(c) **Sodomy:** Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the complainant's consent.

(d) **Incest:** Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by state law.

(e) **Statutory rape:** Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the age of consent as defined by state law.

(6) **Sexual misconduct.** Other forms of inappropriate sexual misconduct include indecent liberties; indecent exposure; sexual exhibitionism; prostitution or the solicitation of a prostitute; peeping or other voyeurism; sexual misconduct with a minor; sharing nude images of another without their permission; sextortion; or going beyond the boundaries of consent, such as allowing others to view consensual sex or the nonconsensual recording of sexual activity.

(7) **Retaliation.** Any intimidation, threat, coercion, or discrimination against a person for the purpose of interfering with a person's rights or privileges under this code, or because a person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, informal resolution, or hearing under this code is prohibited. Any actual or threatened retaliation is prohibited and is a separate violation of this code. If the complainant or respondent engages in retaliatory behavior, the university shall take immediate steps to protect the complainant or respondent from further harassment or retaliation.

Additional standards for student conduct are contained in the student conduct code, chapter 172-121 WAC, and the academic integrity code, chapter 172-90 WAC. Standards for employees are contained in university policy.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 172-125-020 Scope and jurisdiction.** EWU shall have jurisdiction over student behavior which occurs on EWU premises or during an EWU-sponsored program or activity. EWU may also exercise jurisdiction over student conduct which occurs at off-campus locations if the behavior adversely affects EWU or an EWU community member. EWU has

sole discretion in determining what conduct adversely impacts EWU or an EWU community member.

This code shall apply to conduct without regard to a student's academic status at the time the conduct took place. It applies to all conduct occurring on or after August 1, 2024. This includes all periods from the time of application for admission through the actual awarding of a degree, including times between academic periods, breaks in enrollment, or outside of normal business hours. The university may continue a student conduct process even after a student withdraws or graduates. The term "student" is further defined in WAC 172-125-300.

#### NEW SECTION

##### **WAC 172-125-030 Reporting, resources, and supportive measures.**

(1) **Reporting.** Individuals who believe a student or student organization has engaged in discrimination, harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, or retaliation may report such concerns to any of the following offices:

- (a) Civil rights office ([www.inside.ewu.edu/civilrights](http://www.inside.ewu.edu/civilrights));
- (b) Title IX coordinator ([www.inside.ewu.edu/titleix](http://www.inside.ewu.edu/titleix)); or
- (c) Student rights and responsibilities ([www.inside.ewu.edu/srr](http://www.inside.ewu.edu/srr)).

This code refers to people who were directly negatively impacted by conduct in violation of this code as "complainants" regardless of whether or not they file a formal complaint with EWU.

(2) **Initial meeting.** After receiving a report, the Title IX coordinator, student accommodations and support services, or their designees will promptly reach out to the complainant, which may or may not be the same as the reporting party, to provide information about EWU's process, their rights, reporting options, resources, and available supportive measures. This will include information about:

(a) **Reporting options:** EWU encourages people to report incidents of discrimination, discriminatory harassment, interpersonal violence, sexual assault, sexual misconduct or retaliation. Complainants have the choice as to whether or not they would like to file a complaint with EWU and/or law enforcement. People can file a complaint, with the help of the Title IX coordinator upon request, with EWU or with local law enforcement, or both, using one of the following options:

(i) EWU process: Complaints may be filed with the Title IX coordinator. This includes complaints against EWU students, employees, contractors, vendors, volunteers, and visitors.

(ii) Criminal: Criminal complaints can be filed with the EWU police department or any law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the location where the incident occurred.

(iii) Both: A complainant may report an incident to both EWU and law enforcement.

(b) **Resources:** Complainants will be provided with information about university and community resources relevant to the particular concern, including:

(i) A list of resources for obtaining protective, no contact, restraining, or similar orders;

(ii) How to seek medical treatment, the importance of preserving evidence relevant to the alleged conduct or that may be helpful in obtaining a protective order, and procedures to follow to preserve such evidence; and

(iii) A list of existing on and off campus counseling, health care services, mental health services, victim advocacy, financial aid, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, and other services for complainants and respondents;

(c) **Overview of EWU's discrimination and Title IX processes:** Information will also be provided about EWU's process for responding to complaints under this code, including:

(i) Importance of preserving evidence that may assist in investigation of the incident or that may be helpful in obtaining a protection order;

(ii) EWU's policies regarding the confidentiality of complaints;

(iii) How to request supportive measures;

(iv) EWU's investigative and hearing process, including who will receive a copy of the investigative report;

(v) Options for informal resolution; and

(vi) EWU's prohibition against retaliation and how to report retaliation.

(3) **Supportive measures.** After receiving a report of discrimination, the Title IX coordinator or designee will review the complaint and determine whether or not supportive measures or interim restrictions are needed. Supportive measures are available for all students and employees regardless of whether someone wants to file a complaint. Requests for supportive measures may be directed to student accommodations and support services or the Title IX coordinator. Supportive measures may be in place before a complaint is filed, during the investigation and decision-making process, informal resolution process, and/or after the final determination of responsibility. Supportive measures are also available for both complainants and respondents.

Supportive measures are provided by EWU free of charge and may include, but are not limited to, safety planning with EWU, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, academic or workplace modifications, leaves of absence, increased security, counseling options on campus, or campus housing modifications. Supportive measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to EWU's educational programs or activities without unreasonably burdening either party, including protecting the safety of all parties and EWU's educational environment, or deterring sexual misconduct or discrimination. Supportive measures may be provided for a specific period of time or throughout the remainder of a student's time at EWU.

If a complainant or respondent disagrees with the supportive measures determination, they may file a written appeal with the dean of students within 10 calendar days of the determination by emailing dos@ewu.edu. The dean of students, or designee, may affirm, modify, or reverse the supportive measures determination. Such decision shall be served on the appealing party in writing. If a student's circumstances change materially, they may request new or additional supportive measures.

Supportive measures are confidential and will only be shared with those people who need to know such information to enable EWU to provide the supportive measures. The Title IX coordinator or designee is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures. All supportive measures should be documented and retained for seven years. If supportive measures are not provided, EWU must document the reasons why such measures were not needed.

(4) **Confidentiality.** Information gathered during an investigation and adjudication of a complaint under this code will be maintained in a confidential manner to the extent permitted by law. During an inves-

tigation, complaint information will be disseminated only on a need-to-know basis. If the complainant wishes to remain anonymous, the university will take all reasonable steps to investigate the allegation without disclosing the name of the complainant to the extent allowed by state and federal law. If the complainant wishes to remain anonymous, the university shall inform them that its ability to investigate and respond to the allegation will be limited. The university cannot ensure confidentiality, as its legal obligations under federal or state law may require investigation of the allegation and possible disclosure of the complainant's name. Reports of crime to the campus community, timely warnings, and EWU's annual security report shall not include the names of the complainants or victims. Files subject to public disclosure will be released to the extent required by law.

The university will not require a complainant or respondent to abide by a nondisclosure agreement that would prevent the redisclosure of information related to an investigation or disciplinary action under this policy.

#### NEW SECTION

##### **WAC 172-125-040 Complaints. (1) Filing of complaints.**

(a) **Who can file a complaint.** Complaints can be filed by anyone who has been directly impacted by conduct that violates this code or by such person's authorized legal representatives, such as a minor's parent or legal guardian. The Title IX coordinator can also file a complaint against a student or student organization on behalf of the university. If a complaint is filed by the Title IX coordinator, the Title IX coordinator will not be considered a complainant for the purposes of participating in the investigation and hearing process.

(b) **How to file a complaint.** To initiate a complaint, a person must submit a request for the university to investigate their concerns either verbally or in writing to the Title IX coordinator or designee. Complaints must be filed in good faith.

(c) **Other complaint options.** Filing a complaint under this code does not prohibit or limit a person's right to file complaints or charges with other civil and/or criminal authorities for violations of local, county, state, or federal law.

(d) **Student conduct code violations.** All complaints against students that do not fall within the scope of this code will be forwarded to student rights and responsibilities for further review and action under the student conduct code, chapter 172-121 WAC.

(2) **Complaint review and dismissal/referral.** Upon receipt of a complaint, the Title IX coordinator shall review the complaint to determine whether it includes allegations of violations of this code and to determine which process applies within 14 calendar days of receiving such complaint. This time may be extended if the Title IX coordinator needs additional information to make such determination or if there is an active criminal investigation. If a complaint falls within the scope of this code, it shall be addressed in accordance with the procedures below and the Title IX coordinator shall determine whether or not the Level One Process or Level Two Process applies. If the complainant or respondent has requested informal resolution, the Title IX coordinator will determine whether or not informal resolution is appropriate and, if so, refer the matter to the person designated to handle informal resolutions. If the complaint falls outside of the

scope of this code, it shall be referred to the office of student rights and responsibilities for review under the student conduct code, chapter 172-121 WAC.

Additionally, even if a complaint falls within the scope of this code, the Title IX coordinator may dismiss the complaint if:

(a) EWU is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(b) The respondent is not a student or student organization. Complaints against university employees, volunteers, contractors, and program participants are handled under EWU policy and are outside of the scope of this code;

(c) The complainant voluntarily withdraws any or all of the allegations in the complaint in writing, the Title IX coordinator declines to initiate a complaint on behalf of the university, and, without the complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not meet the definition of discrimination, discriminatory harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, interpersonal violence, or retaliation under this code even if proven; or

(d) The conduct alleged in the complaint, even if substantiated by a preponderance of the evidence, would not constitute a violation of this code. Prior to making this determination, the Title IX coordinator or investigator must make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

The Title IX coordinator will inform the complainant in writing of the reason for dismissing the complaint. If the respondent has already received a notice of investigation, the respondent will also be simultaneously served with notice of the dismissal and the reasons for the dismissal.

Even if a complaint is dismissed, the complainant will be offered supportive measures. If the respondent has already been notified, the respondent will also be offered supportive measures. The Title IX coordinator will also take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that discrimination does not continue or recur within EWU programs or activities.

The Title IX coordinator may consolidate complaints under this code when the allegations of discrimination, harassment, interpersonal violence, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, or retaliation arise out of the same facts or circumstances. When more than one complaint is involved, all references to the "complainant" throughout this code include all individuals who have filed a complaint against the respondent that are consolidated into one investigation.

(3) **Informal resolution.** If a complainant and respondent are both interested in informal resolution and the Title IX coordinator determines informal resolution is appropriate, EWU will follow the process identified in WAC 172-125-200.

(4) **Appeal of dismissal.** If the complainant or respondent disagrees with the Title IX coordinator's decision to dismiss a complaint, the party may file an appeal with the dean of students within three calendar days of the Title IX coordinator's decision by emailing such appeal to dos@ewu.edu. Appeals may be filed for one or more of the following reasons:

(a) Procedural irregularity that would change the outcome of the Title IX coordinator's decision;

(b) New evidence that would change the Title IX coordinator's decision that was not reasonably available when the dismissal was made; or

(c) The Title IX coordinator or designee had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual parties that would change the outcome.

If the respondent has not been notified of the complaint prior to the dismissal, the respondent will not be notified of the dismissal or appeal. If the respondent has been notified of the complaint, the respondent will also be provided with notice of the dismissal and given the same opportunity to appeal the determination. They will also receive notice if the complainant appeals. If one party appeals and the other party is entitled to notice, the other party will be given notice of the appeal and three calendar days to provide a response to the appeal. The dean of students or designee can affirm, reverse, or remand the Title IX coordinator's decision and such decision must be served in writing simultaneously to the parties who participated in the appeal.

(5) **Interim restrictions.** The Title IX coordinator or designee will also determine whether or not interim restrictions are needed after conducting an individualized safety and risk determination in conjunction with other EWU officials. Interim restrictions must be in place in situations where there is cause to believe that a student or a student organization poses an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the alleged misconduct, including themselves. After interim restrictions are imposed, the complaint will be referred for investigation under this code.

(a) Interim restrictions may include, but are not limited to:

(i) Denial of access to certain areas, assignment to alternate university housing or removal from university housing, limitation of access to university facilities, limitations on engaging in certain activities, or restriction of communication with specific individuals or groups;

(ii) Interim suspension, including temporary total removal from the university or restriction of access to campus;

(iii) Mandatory medical/psychological assessment of the student's capability to remain in the university; or

(iv) Administrative leave for student employees.

(b) The Title IX coordinator or investigator will issue a notice identifying the interim restrictions that will be served on the restricted student. At minimum, the notice will include:

(i) The alleged act(s) or behavior(s) of the student or student organization which prompted the interim restriction;

(ii) How those alleged act(s) or behavior(s) could constitute a violation of this code;

(iii) How the circumstances of the case necessitated the interim restriction action(s); and

(iv) An explanation of the process for emergency appeal reviews.

(c) The complainant will also be provided with notice of any interim restrictions that relate directly to the complainant. If the respondent appeals such interim restrictions, the complainant will be given notice of the respondent's appeal and an opportunity to submit a statement within five calendar days of the notice as to why the interim restriction should or should not be modified.

(d) Emergency appeal review.

(i) If a student has been suspended on an interim basis, the student will automatically receive an emergency appeal review with the vice president for student affairs, or designee. If the interim restriction is something less than a suspension, the student or student

organization subject to the interim restriction must file a written appeal with the vice president for student affairs within five calendar days after service of the interim restriction. In all cases, the student must submit any information the student wishes the vice president to consider submitted within five calendar days after service of the interim restriction. The appealing party should outline the desired modification(s) to the interim restriction as well as the specific challenge(s) to the interim restriction decision. Challenges to interim restriction decisions are limited to whether or not there is adequate cause to believe a student or a student organization poses an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of any student or other individual. Appealing parties are limited to submitting their own written statements. Any other evidence should be submitted to the investigator during the investigative process.

(ii) The vice president for student affairs, or designee, will conduct an emergency appeal review after receiving the respondent's review and complainant's response, if any. Emergency appeal reviews will address only the interim restriction decision of the Title IX coordinator and the basis on which the restriction modification or termination is requested by the appealing party. The emergency appeal review does not replace the regular investigative process. In the emergency appeal review, the vice president will only review materials available to and information considered by the Title IX coordinator at the time the interim restriction was imposed, written statements by the two parties, and information that becomes available as a part of the university's investigation that the vice president deems relevant.

(iii) If a complainant believes the interim restriction does not adequately protect their health and safety, the complainant may appeal the interim restriction using the process outlined in this subsection. If the complainant files an appeal, all parties shall be given notice of the appeal and shall be provided the opportunity to submit a written statement to the vice president within five calendar days of receiving notice of the complainant's appeal.

(iv) During the emergency appeal review, the vice president for student affairs will review available materials and statements. The vice president for student affairs will issue a written decision upholding, modifying, or terminating the interim restriction decision. The written decision shall include a rationale for the basis of the decision and be served within 14 calendar days of the date all appeal materials were submitted.

(v) The interim restriction does not replace the regular investigative process, which will proceed as quickly as feasible consistent with this code.

(e) Duration. An interim restriction will remain in effect until terminated, in writing, by a decision-maker following the Level One or Level Two processes outlined in this code or following a timely appeal of the restriction.

**PART II: RESOLUTION OPTIONS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**NEW SECTION

**WAC 172-125-200 Informal resolution.** (1) **Referral.** The Title IX coordinator or investigator may refer any report or complaint to the informal resolution process. It is not necessary that a formal complaint be filed for a report to be referred to this process. A report/complaint may be referred to the informal resolution process at any time prior to the completion of an investigation. The Title IX coordinator may determine informal resolution is not appropriate, even if requested by both parties, if the alleged conduct could present a future risk of harm to others.

(2) **Voluntary participation.** Informal resolution processes may include a variety of voluntary processes that are structured to facilitate dialogue between impacted parties while balancing support and accountability. The various types of informal resolution options available at EWU and procedures for resolution are available on the EWU Title IX website. In all cases, the impacted parties must agree in writing to participate in the informal process and EWU will not require or pressure a party to participate in the informal process. A party is not required to waive the right to an investigation and/or hearing to participate in this process.

(3) **Informal resolution officer.** Informal resolutions will be handled by an EWU employee who is trained to facilitate such processes. In no case will the informal resolution officer be the same person as the investigator or any EWU employee who will make a decision regarding the complaint if informal resolution is not successful. The informal resolution officer must also not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

(4) **Written information about the process.** Before beginning the informal resolution process, EWU will provide both parties with the following information in writing:

- (a) Summary of the alleged conduct;
- (b) The requirements of the informal resolution process;
- (c) Notice that, prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and to initiate or resume the investigative process;
- (d) That the parties' agreement to a resolution at the conclusion of the informal resolution process will preclude the parties from initiating or resuming a formal complaint process arising from the same allegations;
- (e) The potential terms that may be requested or offered in an informal resolution agreement, including notice that an informal resolution agreement is binding only on the parties; and
- (f) What information EWU will maintain and whether and how EWU might use such information if the formal complaint process is initiated or resumed.

(5) **Options for resolution.** Potential terms that may be included in an informal resolution agreement include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Restrictions on contact;
  - (b) Restrictions on the respondent's participation in university programs or activities or attendance at specific events;
  - (c) Training; or
  - (d) Any other terms the parties agree upon that the informal resolution officer deems appropriate.
- (6) **Written agreement.** Any informal resolution agreement must be in writing and signed by the parties and the informal resolution officer. In the agreement, the parties must be advised in writing that:
- (a) The agreement is final, and they are waiving any right to a formal complaint process, including any right to appeal; and
  - (b) If a student does not successfully complete all aspects of an agreement, they may be charged with failure to comply under the student conduct code, chapter 172-121 WAC, and/or any possible violation of this code for the conduct that was the basis for the informal resolution.
- (7) **Referral back to the formal complaint process.** If any party decides to leave the informal resolution process or the informal resolution officer determines the process is no longer appropriate, then the matter shall be referred back to the Title IX coordinator to determine the next steps under this code.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 172-125-210 Level one process.** (1) **Applicability.** The Level One Process applies to all violations of this code that do not involve felony-level crimes or that would not result in the suspension or expulsion of a student. If the alleged misconduct could constitute a felony-level crime or result in a student's suspension or expulsion, it must be referred to the Level Two Process outlined in WAC 172-125-220. The Level One Process is considered a brief adjudicative proceeding pursuant to RCW 34.05.482.

If the alleged conduct could constitute a violation of this code and the student conduct code, chapter 172-121 WAC, and the alleged violations arise out of the same facts or circumstances, the Level One Process outlined in this code may be used to determine violations of this code and the student conduct code in lieu of having two separate proceedings. The investigator will determine whether or not to include violations of either code as documented in the notice of investigation and allegations.

(2) **Notice of investigation and allegations.** If the Title IX coordinator refers a complaint to investigation, the Title IX coordinator will assign an investigator to conduct an investigation. The investigator will serve the respondent and complainant with a notice of investigation and allegations that meets the following requirements:

- (a) Is made in writing;
- (b) Includes a written list of the allegations against the respondent with sufficient details of the allegations based on current information including, if known, date and time of the incident, description of the conduct, and the specific sections of this code and the student conduct code allegedly violated;
- (c) Contact information for the investigator;
- (d) Parties' rights during the process, including:
  - (i) Right to a fair and equitable process.

- (ii) Right to have investigators and decision-makers that do not have a conflict of interest or bias against the parties.
  - (iii) Right to remain silent during the investigation.
  - (iv) Right to have an advisor of their choice, at their cost, during the process. The advisor may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. During the investigative process, the advisor may be present and advise the party, but may not answer questions on the party's behalf.
  - (v) Right to request the investigator ask questions of the other party (cross-examination).
  - (vi) Right to be presumed not responsible and that a conclusion of responsibility is not made until the conclusion of the investigative process.
  - (vii) Right to request an accommodation or interpreter for the process.
  - (e) Information about the investigative process and, if applicable, informal resolution;
  - (f) A statement that complainants, respondents, and witnesses are prohibited from knowingly making false statements or furnishing false information during the process. A person will not be disciplined for making a false statement based solely on whether or not EWU determines a complaint under this code is substantiated.
  - (g) EWU's prohibition on retaliation and how to report acts of retaliation;
  - (h) Information about how the parties will be provided an equal opportunity to access relevant information gathered during the investigation; and
  - (i) Information about supportive measures and resources available to both parties.
- (3) **Investigative process.** During the investigation, the investigator is responsible for gathering sufficient evidence to determine whether or not this code has been violated. The investigator has discretion in determining the formality, scope, and process of the investigation. If additional allegations are discovered during the course of the investigation, the investigator shall issue an updated notice of investigation. Before scheduling an interview with a complainant or respondent, the investigator must provide the party with written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the meeting with sufficient time for the party to prepare. The investigative process must include:
- (a) Contacting the complainant to review the complaint, gather more information, and to identify relevant witnesses and relevant evidence (emails, social media posts, photos, etc.). If necessary, the investigator may contact the complainant on more than one occasion during the course of the investigation to obtain additional information and clarification. If the investigator is not able to obtain sufficient information or if the complainant withdraws the complaint during the investigative process, the investigator may refer the complaint back to the Title IX coordinator to determine whether or not dismissal is appropriate.
  - (b) Contacting the respondent to review the complaint, gather more information, and to identify relevant witnesses and relevant evidence (emails, social media posts, photos, etc.).
  - (c) Conducting interviews with witnesses who have knowledge of the alleged behavior and gathering relevant evidence. Witnesses may be contacted once or numerous times as necessary to gather the relevant information.

(d) Parties may identify fact witnesses, expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. If a party wishes to provide information from an expert witness, the party is responsible for any costs associated with the expert witness.

(e) The investigator must have the ability to question parties and witnesses to assess their credibility to the extent credibility is both in dispute and relevant. The investigator may ask questions during individual meetings with a party or witness. The investigator must also allow each party to propose questions that the party wants asked of any party or witness. The investigator will then ask those questions of the party/witness, subject to the limits below, during an individual meeting and will provide each party with an audio or audiovisual recording or transcript of the investigative interview with enough time for the party to have a reasonable opportunity to propose follow-up questions. The investigator may determine a proposed question is not relevant or is otherwise impermissible and must explain their decision to exclude a question in the investigative report. If the party's proposed question is relevant and not otherwise impermissible, then the question must be asked unless the question is unclear or harasses the party or witnesses being questioned. If the investigator believes the question is unclear or harassing, they must give the proposing party an opportunity to clarify or revise the question.

(f) The investigator may choose to place less or no weight upon statements by a party or witness who refuses to respond to the investigator's questions. The investigator, however, must not draw an inference about whether or not this code was violated based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to the investigator's questions.

(g) After gathering the relevant evidence, the investigator must provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is relevant to the allegations raised in the complaint and not otherwise impermissible. The investigator must take reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties' and their advisors' unauthorized disclosure of information and evidence obtained solely through the Level One Process.

(h) The investigation shall not include evidence nor shall any information provided be disclosed to another person if such information:

(i) Is evidence protected under a legal privilege recognized by federal or state law, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality;

(ii) Records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless EWU obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use of the information in the investigation;

(iii) Information about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior, unless the evidence is relevant to demonstrate that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or the evidence concerns specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and is relevant to the question of consent. The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the complainant and respondent does not by itself demonstrate or imply the complainant's consent in the incident under investigation.

**(4) Investigative report and determinations of responsibility.**

(a) After gathering the relevant evidence, the investigator must objectively evaluate the information gathered and determine the credibility of the parties. Credibility determinations must not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness. The investigator will prepare an investigative report that accurately summarizes the information gathered and makes determinations on whether or not this code or the student conduct code has been violated based on a preponderance of the evidence, meaning it is more probable than not that an act occurred.

(b) If the investigator determines the respondent has not violated this code or any provision of the student conduct code, the investigator will simultaneously serve the investigative report on the complainant and respondent along with information about how to appeal the investigator's decision.

(c) If the investigator determines the respondent has violated this code or any provision of the student conduct code, the investigator will send the investigative report to the director of student rights and responsibilities. The director or director's designee will then determine the appropriate sanction for the misconduct substantiated by the investigator within seven calendar days of receiving the investigative report. The director will also determine whether or not remedies for the complainant or other impacted students are appropriate. Remedies must be provided to the complainant or other impacted students if needed to restore or preserve equal access to the university's educational programs or activities. The director or designee will add an additional section to the investigative report setting forth their decision as to the appropriate sanction and the reasons for their decision. The director or designee will then simultaneously serve the full investigative report and sanctioning decision on the complainant and respondent along with information about how to appeal the investigator and director's decisions. In addition to sanctions under this code, if the student is also an employee of the university, the director's decision may be forwarded to the student's supervisor to determine whether any employment actions outside of this code should be taken in accordance with the university policy.

(5) **Timelines and extensions.** EWU must respond to complaints under this code in a prompt and equitable manner. To assist EWU in reaching this goal, this code includes various timelines. EWU's goal is to complete investigations within 90 days. If EWU needs additional time, the investigator must provide written notice to the complainant and respondent of the delay and reasons for the delay. Delays and extensions beyond 90 days must be based on good cause.

(6) **Appeals.**

(a) **Timeline.** Either party may file an appeal from the investigator's decision regarding responsibility or the director's decision regarding the sanction. Appeals must be submitted in writing by 5:00 p.m. PST within 21 calendar days from the date the investigative report is sent to the parties. Appeals must be submitted via email to [srr@ewu.edu](mailto:srr@ewu.edu). The appeal must include the party's name and why they believe the investigator or director's decision was incorrect based on the bases for appeal outlined below. If no appeal is timely filed, the investigator/director's decisions are final.

(b) **Basis for appeal.** Appeals may be filed for one or more of the following reasons:

(i) Procedural irregularity that would change the outcome of the investigator or director's decisions;

(ii) New evidence that would change the investigator's decision that was not reasonably available when the investigative report was finalized; or

(iii) The investigator or director had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual parties that would change the outcome of the investigation.

(c) Once an appeal is filed, the office of student rights and responsibilities will serve the other party with a copy of the appeal. The other party will be given five calendar days to provide a written response to the appeal.

(d) Stay of sanctions. Sanctions go into effect immediately after the director's decision is issued. If the respondent wishes to have a sanction stayed during the appeal process, a request for a stay must be filed along with the notice of appeal. The request for the stay will be reviewed by the director or designee. The stay may be granted in part or in its entirety, at the discretion of the director. The decision will be served on the respondent and the complainant. This decision is not subject to appeal.

(e) Appeals will be determined by the dean of students or designee. The director will provide the appeal authority with the notice of appeal, any responses to the appeal, and the investigative report. Before rendering a decision, the appeal authority may request additional information or explanation from the parties. However, except as required to explain the basis of new information, an appeal shall be limited to a review of the investigative report.

(f) After reviewing the appeal, the appeal authority may affirm, reverse, modify, or remand the decision(s) of the investigator and/or director. The appeal decision shall include an explanation of the appeal authority's decision and rationale. The appeal decision must be served on the complainant and respondent within 30 calendar days of the appeal authority receiving all necessary documentation. In cases where the appeal authority remands the decision or sanction, the case will be returned to either the investigator or director for reconsideration or other action as specified by the appeal authority. With respect to sanctions, the appeal authority may affirm, reverse, remand, or modify the sanctions assigned to the respondent. When determining sanctions, the appeal authority may consider the complete record of the respondent's prior conduct and academic performance in addition to all other information associated with the case.

(g) Notification. Once the appeal authority has made a final decision to affirm or reverse and/or to modify the sanctions assigned, the appeal authority shall draft a brief written statement setting forth the outcome of the appeal and the basis for their decision. This is then forwarded to the director. The director shall serve the written statement on the complainant and respondent. The notice will also inform the parties that the appeal authority's decision is final and no further appeals may be made within the university. Judicial review of the university's decision may be available under chapter 34.05 RCW.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 172-125-220 Level two process.** (1) **Applicability.** The Level Two Process applies to all violations of this code that involve felony-level crimes or that may result in the suspension or expulsion of a student. If any of the alleged misconduct could constitute a felony-

level crime or result in a student's suspension or expulsion, it must be referred to the Level Two Process outlined in this section. The Level Two Process is considered a full adjudicative proceeding pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW.

If the alleged conduct could constitute a violation of this code and a violation of the student conduct code, chapter 172-121 WAC, and the alleged violations arise out of the same facts or circumstances, the Level Two Process outlined in this code may be used to determine violations of this code and the student conduct code in lieu of having two separate proceedings. The investigator will determine whether or not to include violations of either code as documented in the notice of investigation and allegations.

(2) **Notice of investigation and allegations.** If the Title IX coordinator refers a complaint to investigation under the Level Two Process, the Title IX coordinator will assign an investigator to conduct an investigation. The investigator will serve the respondent and complainant with a notice of investigation and allegations that meets the following requirements:

- (a) Is made in writing;
- (b) Includes a written list of the allegations against the respondent with sufficient details of the allegations based on current information including, if known, date and time of the incident, description of the conduct, and the specific sections of this code and the student conduct code allegedly violated;
- (c) Contact information for the investigator;
- (d) Parties' rights during the process, including:
  - (i) Right to a fair and equitable process.
  - (ii) Right to have investigators and decision-makers that do not have a conflict of interest or bias against the parties.
  - (iii) Right to remain silent during the investigation.
  - (iv) Right to have an advisor of their choice, at their cost, during the process. The advisor may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. During the investigative process, the advisor may be present and advise the party, but may not answer questions on the party's behalf.
  - (v) Right to request the investigator ask questions of the other party (cross-examination).
  - (vi) Right to be presumed not responsible and that a conclusion of responsibility is not made until the conclusion of the investigative process.
  - (vii) Right to request an accommodation or interpreter for the process.
- (e) Information about the investigative process and, if applicable, informal resolution;
- (f) A statement that complainants, respondents, and witnesses are prohibited from knowingly making false statements or furnishing false information during the process. A person will not be disciplined for making a false statement based solely on whether or not EWU determines a complaint under this code is substantiated;
- (g) EWU's prohibition on retaliation and how to report acts of retaliation;
- (h) Information about how the parties will be provided an equal opportunity to access relevant information gathered during the investigation; and
- (i) Information about supportive measures and resources available to both parties.

(3) **Investigative process.** During the investigation, the investigator is responsible for gathering sufficient evidence to determine whether or not this code has been violated. The investigator has discretion in determining the formality, scope, and process of the investigation. If additional allegations are discovered during the course of the investigation, the investigator shall issue an updated notice of investigation. Before scheduling an interview with a complainant or respondent, the investigator must provide the party with written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the meeting with sufficient time for the party to prepare. The investigative process must include:

(a) Contacting the complainant to review the complaint, gather more information, and identify relevant witnesses and relevant evidence (emails, social media posts, photos, etc.). If necessary, the investigator may contact the complainant on more than one occasion during the course of the investigation to obtain additional information and clarification. If the investigator is not able to obtain sufficient information or if the complainant withdraws in writing the complaint during the investigative process, the investigator may refer the complaint back to the Title IX coordinator to determine whether or not dismissal is appropriate. Any withdrawal must be in writing.

(b) Contacting the respondent to review the complaint, gather more information, and to identify relevant witnesses and relevant evidence (emails, social media posts, photos, etc.).

(c) Conducting interviews with witnesses who have knowledge of the alleged behavior and gathering relevant evidence. Parties and witnesses may be contacted once or numerous times as necessary to gather the relevant information.

(d) Parties may present fact witnesses, expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. If a party wishes to present information from an expert witness, the party is responsible for any costs associated with the expert witness.

(e) The investigator must have the ability to question parties and witnesses to assess their credibility to the extent credibility is both in dispute and relevant. The investigator may ask questions during individual meetings with a party or witness. The investigator must also allow each party to propose questions that the party wants asked of any party or witness. The investigator will then ask those questions of the party/witness, subject to the limits below, during an individual meeting and will provide each party with an audio or audiovisual recording or transcript of the investigative interview with enough time for the party to have a reasonable opportunity to propose follow-up questions. The investigator may determine a proposed question is not relevant or is otherwise impermissible and must explain such decision to exclude a question in the investigative report. If the party's proposed question is relevant and not otherwise impermissible, then the question must be asked unless the question is unclear or harasses the party or witnesses being questioned. If the investigator believes the question is unclear or harassing, they must give the proposing party an opportunity to clarify or revise the question.

(f) The investigator may choose to place less or no weight upon statements by a party or witness who refuses to respond to the investigator's questions. The investigator, however, must not draw an inference about whether or not this code was violated based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to the investigator's questions.

(g) After gathering the relevant evidence, the investigator must provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is relevant to the allegations raise in the complaint and not otherwise impermissible. The investigator must take reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties' and their advisors' unauthorized disclosure of information and evidence obtained solely through the Level Two Process.

(h) The investigation shall not include evidence nor shall any information provided be disclosed to another person if such information:

(i) Is evidence protected under a legal privilege recognized by federal or state law, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality;

(ii) Records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless EWU obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use of the information in the investigation;

(iii) Information about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior, unless the evidence is relevant to demonstrate that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or the evidence concerns specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and is relevant to the question of consent. The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the complainant and respondent does not by itself demonstrate or imply the complainant's consent in the incident under investigation.

**(4) Investigative report and determinations of responsibility.**

(a) After gathering the relevant evidence, the investigator must objectively evaluate the information gathered and determine the credibility of the parties. Credibility determinations must not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness. The investigator will prepare an investigative report that accurately summarizes the information gathered and makes determinations on whether or not this code or the student conduct code has been violated based on a preponderance of the evidence.

(b) If the investigator determines the respondent has not violated this code or any provision of the student conduct code, the investigator will simultaneously serve the complainant and respondent with the investigative report along with information about how to appeal the investigator's decision.

(c) If the investigator determines the respondent has violated this code or any provision of the student conduct code, the investigator will send the investigative report to student rights and responsibilities. The director or director's designee will then determine the appropriate sanction for the misconduct substantiated by the investigator within seven calendar days of receiving the investigative report. The director will also determine whether or not remedies for the complainant or other impacted students are appropriate. Remedies must be provided to the complainant or other impacted students if needed to restore or preserve equal access to the university's educational programs or activities. The director or designee will add an additional section to the investigative report setting forth their decision as to the appropriate sanction and the reasons for their decision. The director or designee will then simultaneously serve the complainant and respondent with the full investigative report and sanctioning deci-

sion, along with information about how to appeal the investigator and director's decisions. In addition to sanctions under this code, if the student is also an employee of the university, the director's decision may be forwarded to the student's supervisor to determine whether any employment actions outside of this code should be taken in accordance with university policy.

(5) **Timelines and extensions.** EWU must respond to complaints under this code in a prompt and equitable manner. To assist EWU in reaching this goal, this code includes various timelines. EWU's goal is to have investigations completed within 90 days. If the university needs additional time, the investigator must provide written notice to the complainant and respondent of the delay and reasons for the delay. Delays and extensions beyond 90 days must be based on good cause.

(6) **Initial appeal to student disciplinary council.** If either party disagrees with the decision of the investigator or director, they may request a full de novo hearing by filing a request for hearing with the office of student rights and responsibilities. The request for hearing must be sent in writing to srr@ewu.edu by 5:00 p.m. PST within 21 calendar days from the date the investigative report is sent to the parties. If a timely request for hearing is received, the director will refer the case to a full hearing before the student disciplinary council under WAC 172-125-230.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 172-125-230 Full hearings before the student disciplinary council.** (1) **Appointment of council.** When a student disciplinary council is needed for a full hearing following a request for a full hearing under the Level Two Process, the Title IX coordinator or dean of students shall appoint a presiding officer and members to serve on the council consistent with the procedures for appointing a council under the student conduct code, chapter 172-121 WAC. Full hearings are determined by a majority vote of the council and are conducted de novo.

(2) **Prehearing.** Following receipt of a timely request for a full hearing, the director or designee will notify both parties of the date, time, and location of the prehearing. The purpose of the prehearing is to explain the hearing procedures to the parties, schedule a date for the full hearing, and to address any preliminary matters or motions. A full hearing must be scheduled within 30 calendar days of the date of the request for a hearing from a party, absent good cause for an extension.

(3) **Notice of hearing.** Following the prehearing conference, the director shall schedule the hearing and serve the respondent and complainant with notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the hearing. At the discretion of the presiding officer, and where the rights of the parties will not be prejudiced thereby, all or part of any hearing may be conducted by telephone or other electronic means. Each party in the hearing must have an opportunity to participate effectively in the hearing. This may include remote participation via audiovisual means. The notices will include information about how to request accommodations or interpreters for any parties or witnesses. Any request for the presence of an emotional support animal or any other accommodation must be directed to student accommodation and support services and approved as a reasonable accommo-

dation in advance of the hearing. A person may bring a certified therapy animal with a handler to a hearing. The notice of hearing must be served on the respondent and complainant at least seven calendar days prior to the hearing. The director may coordinate with the parties to facilitate scheduling, but is not required to do so.

(4) **General hearing procedures.**

(a) **Hearing authority.** The presiding officer exercises control over hearing proceedings. All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the presiding officer. The presiding officer chairs the disciplinary council.

(b) **Closed hearings.** All conduct review hearings will be closed. Admission of any person to a conduct review hearing shall be at the discretion of the presiding officer.

(c) **Appearance.**

(i) Failure to appear. In cases where proper notice has been given but the respondent fails to attend the hearing, the council shall decide the case based on the information available, without the respondent's input. The council may not make an inference about the determination regarding responsibility based solely on a party's or witness's failure to appear at the hearing. However, nonappearance by a party may impact the evidence available for the council to make a decision.

(ii) Options for appearing. The parties will be provided options for reasonable alternative arrangements if they do not wish to be present in the same room as the other student during the hearing. The parties may appear at the conduct review hearing in person via a method that allows the council to hear the parties and physically observe them while testifying, subject to the limits set forth in (e) of this subsection. If a party does not appear at the hearing, the council will decide the case based on the information available. The council cannot draw an inference regarding responsibility based on the failure to appear or refusal to answer cross-examination or other questions.

(d) **Advisors.** The complainant and the respondent may be assisted by one advisor during conduct review hearings. The advisor is there to provide guidance and advice to the party, but is not allowed to speak on behalf of the party, answer questions on the parties behalf, or question the other party or witnesses.

(e) **Disruption of proceedings.** Any person, including a party or advisor, who disrupts a hearing or does not follow the standards of decorum set by the presiding officer, may be excluded from the proceedings.

(f) **Remote appearance.** In the interest of fairness and expedience, the presiding officer may permit any person to appear by a method that allows the person to be seen and heard by the council.

(g) **Standard of evidence.** The council shall determine whether the respondent violated this code and the student conduct code, as charged in the notice of allegations sent by the investigator, based on a preponderance of the evidence. A preponderance means, based on the evidence admitted, whether it is more probable than not that the respondent violated this code or the student conduct code.

(h) **Evidence.** The council will be provided with a copy of the investigative report and all associated exhibits. The investigative report and exhibits will be admitted into evidence. If the parties wish the council to consider additional documentary evidence, such evidence should be provided to the director in advance of the hearing. Council may review proposed exhibits prior to the hearing.

(i) Evidence, including hearsay evidence, is admissible if in the judgment of the presiding officer it is the kind of evidence on which reasonably prudent persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of their affairs. The presiding officer shall exclude evidence that is excludable on constitutional or statutory grounds or on the basis of evidentiary privilege recognized by Washington courts. The presiding officer may exclude irrelevant material. If not inconsistent with this section, the presiding officer shall refer to the Washington rules of evidence as guidelines for evidentiary rulings. Prior or subsequent conduct of the respondent may be considered in determining opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, identity, a pattern of conduct, credibility, or absence of mistake or lack of knowledge. Prior to allowing a question to be answered during a hearing, the presiding officer must determine whether the question is relevant and, if excluded, the presiding officer must explain the basis for their decision.

(ii) The respondent and complainant have the right to view all material presented during the course of the hearing. If a respondent's disciplinary history is considered solely for sanctioning purposes, the complainant does not have a right to review the history.

(iii) All testimony of parties and witnesses shall be made under oath or affirmation. Any interpreter shall be proscribed the oath set forth in WAC 10-08-160.

(iv) Documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or excerpts, or by incorporation by reference.

(v) Official notice may be taken of (A) any easily verifiable facts such as dates or weather conditions, (B) technical or scientific facts within EWU's specialized knowledge, such as enrollment status or class schedules, and (C) codes or standards that have been adopted by an agency of the United States, of this state or of another state, or by a nationally recognized organization or association. Parties shall be notified either before or during hearing, or by reference in preliminary reports or otherwise, of the material so noticed and the sources thereof, including any staff memoranda and data, and they shall be afforded an opportunity to contest the facts and material so noticed. A party proposing that official notice be taken may be required to produce a copy of the material to be noticed.

(vi) All rulings upon objections to the admissibility of evidence shall be made in accordance with the provisions of RCW 34.05.452, except for the additional restrictions on the admission of evidence required by Title IX.

(i) **Discovery.** Discovery is not permitted under the code, except for requests for documentary information from the university. Either party may request the university to produce relevant documents in the university's possession as long as such request is submitted at least seven calendar days prior to the hearing, absent extenuating circumstances. If the presiding officer determines the request is not relevant to the present allegation, the presiding officer may deny the request. The university will provide the requested information prior to the hearing to the extent feasible and permitted by state and federal law.

(j) **Subpoenas.** Subpoenas may be issued by the presiding officer or an attorney consistent with RCW 34.05.446. However, for the protection of both parties, a party cannot subpoena the other party. A party may request an exemption from this rule by filing a written request with the presiding officer at least 10 calendar days prior to the hearing. The presiding officer will provide a copy of the request to the other party and give them three days to respond. The presiding of-

ficer will then decide whether or not sufficient cause exists to grant an exemption to this rule and will inform the parties of the decision. Any subpoena issued must conform to EWU's subpoena form. Every subpoena shall identify the party causing issuance of the subpoena and shall state EWU's name and the title of the proceeding and shall direct the person to whom it is directed to attend and give testimony or produce designated books, documents, or things under their control.

A subpoena to a person to provide testimony at a hearing shall specify the time and place set for hearing. A subpoena may be served by any suitable person over 18 years of age, by exhibiting and reading it to the witness, or by giving them a copy thereof, or by leaving such copy at the place of their abode. When service is made by any other person than an officer authorized to serve process, proof of service shall be made by affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury. The presiding officer, upon motion by a party or at their own discretion, may quash or modify the subpoena if it is unreasonable or oppressive. Subpoenas may not be used to threaten or intimidate parties or witnesses.

(k) **Motions.** Motions for summary judgment and motions to dismiss are not permitted under this process.

(l) **Witnesses.**

(i) The complainant, respondent, and the university's presenter may call witnesses at full hearings.

(ii) The person who wishes to call a witness is responsible for ensuring that the witness is available and present at the time of the hearing. An attorney may subpoena a witness to appear at the hearing. Nonattorneys may request the presiding officer to subpoena witnesses. The presiding officer has the discretion to deny a request to issue a subpoena or to quash a subpoena issued by an attorney if the subpoena is unreasonable, oppressive, or does not conform to EWU's subpoena form.

(iii) The presiding officer may exclude witnesses from the hearing room when they are not testifying. The presiding officer is not required to take the testimony of all witnesses called by the parties if such testimony may be irrelevant. Any decision to exclude a witness shall be explained on the record.

(iv) All parties have the right to hear all testimony provided by witnesses during the hearing.

(v) The parties should inform the presiding officer of any possible need for an interpreter or any accommodation requests at least 10 calendar days prior to the hearing. The presiding officer will comply with WAC 10-08-150.

(m) **Questioning.** The university presenter, presiding officer, or the council may ask questions of any witnesses or the parties. The complainant and respondent will both be given the opportunity to submit questions in writing to the presiding officer for each party/witness. The presiding officer will ask the questions of the party/witness proposed by the complainant or respondent as long as the questions are relevant and not otherwise impermissible. The presiding officer will not ask proposed questions that are unclear or that harass the party or witness being questioned. If the presiding officer believes the question is unclear or harassing, the proposing party must be given an opportunity to clarify or revise the question. In no case will the complainant, respondent, or their advisors question witnesses or parties directly.

The presiding officer must exclude and the council shall not consider any questions or evidence pertaining to the complainant's sexual

predisposition or prior sexual behavior, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent. The presiding officer will explain to the parties the reason for rejecting any questions and will maintain a record of the questions submitted and rulings made.

(n) **Remote appearance.** The presiding officer may accommodate concerns for personal safety, well-being, or fears of confrontation of any person appearing at the hearing by providing separate facilities, or by permitting participation by video conferencing, or other means that allows the council and parties to see and hear the party answering questions, as determined appropriate.

(o) **Role of the presiding officer.** The presiding officer has authority to take actions related to the hearing process including, but not limited to:

- (i) Determine the order of presentation of evidence;
- (ii) Administer oaths and affirmations;
- (iii) Issue subpoenas pursuant to RCW 34.05.446;
- (iv) Rule on procedural matters, objections, and motions;
- (v) Rule on offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;
- (vi) Pursuant to RCW 34.05.449(5), close parts of a hearing to public observation or order the exclusion of witnesses upon a showing of good cause;
- (vii) Question witnesses in an impartial manner to develop any facts deemed necessary to fairly and adequately decide the matter;
- (viii) Call additional witnesses and request additional exhibits deemed necessary to complete the record and receive such evidence subject to each party's opportunity for cross-examination and rebuttal;
- (ix) Take official notice of facts pursuant to RCW 34.05.452(5);
- (x) Regulate the course of the hearing and take any appropriate action necessary to maintain order during the hearing;
- (xi) Permit or require oral argument or briefs and determine the time limits for submission thereof; and
- (xii) Take any other action necessary and authorized by any applicable statute or rule.

(p) **Role of the presenter.** A person will present a case explaining the basis for the investigator and director's initial decisions on behalf of the university. The presenter will call witnesses, ask questions, and offer evidence during the hearing. The presenter may be the director of SRR or designee, investigator, or an assistant attorney general appearing on behalf of the university.

(q) **Deliberations and sanctions.** Following the hearing, the council will determine in closed session whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, the respondent violated this code or the student conduct code based on the evidence presented at the hearing. If a student fails to appear, the council shall make a decision based on the information available. The council shall make its decisions based on a majority vote. If the council determines the respondent violated this code or the student conduct code, the presiding officer shall then decide what sanctions and remedies shall be imposed. The presiding officer may review the respondent's previous disciplinary history for purposes of determining the appropriate sanction. In addition to sanctions under this code, if the student is also an employee of the university, the presiding officer's decision may be forwarded to the stu-

dent's supervisor to determine whether any employment actions outside of this code should be taken in accordance with university policy.

The council shall issue a decision including their findings, conclusions, and rationale. The decision shall address credibility issues if credibility or witness demeanor was a substantial factor in the council's decision. Credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness. The findings shall be based exclusively on the evidence provided at the hearing. If the council finds the respondent violated the code, the presiding officer shall add the decision regarding sanctions and remedies to the council's decision. Such decisions should be served on the complainant and respondent within 14 calendar days from the date of the hearing. The written decision shall also:

- (i) Be correctly captioned identifying EWU and the name of the proceeding;
- (ii) Designate all parties and representatives participating in the proceeding;
- (iii) Identify the allegations at issue;
- (iv) A description of the procedural steps taken, including notifications to the parties, interviews with the parties and witnesses, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;
- (v) Contain appropriate numbered findings of fact meeting the requirements in RCW 34.05.461;
- (vi) Contain appropriately numbered conclusions regarding the application of university policies and this code to the facts;
- (vii) A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions imposed, and if any remedies are necessary to provide to the complainant or any other impacted student to restore or preserve equal access to the EWU's educational programs or activities;
- (viii) Contain a statement describing rights to appeal and the procedures for appealing.
- (r) **Finality.** The council's and presiding officer's decision becomes final at the conclusion of this process if an appeal is not timely filed.
- (s) **Notice of decision.** The presiding officer shall serve the complainant and respondent with a copy of the decision and notice of the right to appeal. The Title IX coordinator must also be provided with a copy of the decision as the Title IX coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 172-125-240 Appeals of student disciplinary council decisions.** (1) **Timeline.** Either party may file an appeal from the student disciplinary council's decision. Appeals must be submitted in writing by 5:00 p.m. PST within seven calendar days from the date the student disciplinary council's decision is sent to the parties. Appeals must be submitted via email to srr@ewu.edu. The appeal must include the party's name and why they believe the student disciplinary council's was incorrect based on the bases for appeal outlined below.

- (2) **Basis for appeal.** Appeals may be filed for one or more of the following reasons:
  - (a) Procedural irregularity that would change the outcome of the student disciplinary council's decision;

(b) New evidence that would change the student disciplinary council's decision that was not reasonably available when the investigative report was finalized; or

(c) A member of the student disciplinary council or the presiding officer had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual parties that would change the outcome of the investigation.

(3) **Response.** Once an appeal is filed, the office of student rights and responsibilities will serve the other party with a copy of the appeal. The other party will be given five calendar days to provide a written response to the appeal.

(4) **Stay of sanctions.** Sanctions go into effect immediately after the council's decision is issued. If the respondent wishes to have a sanction stayed during the appeal process, a request for a stay must be filed along with the notice of appeal. The request for the stay will be reviewed by the director or designee. The stay may be granted in part or in its entirety, at the discretion of the director. The decision will be served on the respondent and the complainant. This decision is not subject to appeal.

(5) **Appeal authority.** Appeals will be determined by the vice president for student affairs or designee. The director will provide the appeal authority with the notice of appeal, any responses to the appeal, and the complete record of the student disciplinary council hearing. Before rendering a decision, the appeal authority may request additional information or explanation from the parties. However, except as required to explain the basis of new information, an appeal shall be limited to a review of the evidence presented to the student disciplinary council.

(6) **Decisions.** After reviewing the appeal, the appeal authority may affirm, reverse, modify, or remand the decision(s) of the student disciplinary council. The appeal decision shall include an explanation of the appeal authority's decision and rationale. The appeal decision must be issued within 30 calendar days of the appeal authority receiving all necessary documentation. In cases where the appeal authority remands the decision or sanction, the case will be returned to the student disciplinary council or presiding officer for reconsideration or other action as specified by the appeal authority. With respect to sanctions, the appeal authority may affirm, reverse, remand, or modify the sanctions assigned to the respondent. When determining sanctions, the appeal authority may consider the complete record of the respondent's prior conduct and academic performance in addition to all other information associated with the case.

(7) **Notification.** Once the appeal authority has made a final decision to affirm or reverse and/or to modify the sanctions assigned, the appeal authority shall draft a brief written statement setting forth the outcome of the appeal and the basis for their decision. The written statement is then forwarded to the director. The director shall serve the complainant and respondent with the written statement. The notice will also inform the parties that the appeal authority's decision is final and no further appeals may be made within the university. Judicial review of the university's decision may be available under chapter 34.05 RCW.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 172-125-250 Sanctions and remedies.** If any student or student organization is found to have committed a violation of WAC 172-125-010, one or more of the sanctions described in this section may be imposed against the student or student organization. Imposed sanctions are effective as of the date the director or student disciplinary council issues its decision unless the decision specifically identifies an alternative date. Failure to comply with any imposed sanction may result in additional sanctions. In addition to the sanction imposed by this code, if a student is also an employee of the university, the university may impose additional discipline in accordance with its policies and procedures pertaining to employees.

(1) **Individual student sanctions.**

(a) Admonition: An oral statement to a student that they have violated university rules and regulations.

(b) Warning: A notice to the student or student organization that they have violated the standards for students and that any repeated or continuing violation of the same standard, within a specified period of time, may result in more severe disciplinary action. A warning may be verbal or written.

(c) Censure: A written reprimand for violation of specified regulations. A censure will also state that more severe disciplinary sanctions may be imposed if the student or student organization is found in violation of any university policy or regulation within a stated period of time.

(d) Disciplinary probation: A formal action which places one or more conditions, for a specified period of time, on the student's continued attendance. Disciplinary probation sanctions will be executed in writing and will specify the probationary conditions and the period of the probation. A disciplinary probation notice will also inform the student that any further misconduct will automatically involve consideration of suspension. Probationary conditions may include, but are not limited to:

(i) Restricting the student's university-related privileges;

(ii) Limiting the student's participation in extracurricular activities; and/or

(iii) Enforcing a "no contact" order which would prohibit direct or indirect physical and/or verbal contact with specific individuals or groups.

(e) Restitution: Reimbursement to the university or others for damage, destruction, or other loss of property. Restitution also includes reimbursement for medical expenses incurred due to code violations. Restitution may take the form of appropriate service or other compensation. Failure to fulfill restitution requirements may result in a hold on a student's ability to register and may prevent the student from future registration until restitution conditions are satisfied.

(f) Fines: Monetary fines up to a maximum of \$500 against individual students for violation of university rules or regulations or for failure to comply with university standards of conduct may be imposed. Failure to promptly pay such fines may prevent the student from future registration. Failure to pay may also result in additional sanctions.

(g) Discretionary sanctions: Work assignments, service to the university community or other related discretionary assignments for a specified period of time as directed by the hearing authority.

(h) Loss of financial aid: In accordance with RCW 28B.10.902, a person who participates in the hazing of another forfeits entitlement to state-funded grants, scholarships or awards for a specified period of time determined by the university.

(i) Assessment: Referral for drug/alcohol or psychological assessment may be required. Results of the assessment may lead to the determination that conditions of treatment and further assessment apply to either continued attendance or return after a period of suspension.

(j) Suspension: Exclusion from classes and other privileges or activities for a specified period of time. Suspensions will be executed through a written order of suspension and will state all restrictions imposed by the suspension, as well as the suspension period and what conditions of readmission, if any, are ordered. Suspensions may be noted on the student's transcript during the period of time the suspension is in effect.

(k) Expulsion: Permanent separation of the student from the university with no promise (implied or otherwise) that the student may return at any future time. The student will also be barred from university premises. Expulsions may be noted on the student's transcript.

(l) Loss of institutional, financial aid funds: Formal withholding of all or a part of institutional funds currently being received by the student or promised for future disbursement to the student for a specified period of time. Loss of financial aid is subject to the processes outlined in this chapter except any such loss must be approved by the dean of students and the vice president for student affairs before such sanction is imposed.

(m) Revocation of degree: A degree awarded by the university may be revoked for fraud, misrepresentation, or other violation of law or university standards. Revocation of a degree is subject to processes outlined in this chapter except that revocation of a degree must also be approved by the university president.

(2) **Student organizations and/or group sanctions.** Any of the above sanctions may be imposed in addition to those listed below:

(a) Probation: Formal action placing conditions on the group's continued recognition by or permission to function at the university. The probationary conditions will apply for a specified period of time. Violation of the conditions of probation or additional violations while under probation may result in more severe sanctions;

(b) Social probation: Prohibition of the group from sponsoring any organized social activity, party or function, or from obtaining a permission for the use of alcoholic beverages at social functions for a specified period of time;

(c) Restriction: The temporary withdrawal of university or ASEWU recognition for a group, club, society or other organization. Restriction is subject to the processes outlined in this chapter except any restriction must also be approved by the dean of students and the vice president of student affairs before such sanction is imposed;

(d) Revocation: The permanent withdrawal of university or ASEWU recognition for a group, club, society or other organization. Per RCW 28B.10.902, any organization, association, or student living group that knowingly permits hazing to be conducted by its members or by others subject to its direction or control shall be deprived of recognition by the university;

(e) Additional sanctions: In addition to or separately from the above, any one or a combination of the following may be concurrently imposed on the group:

- (i) Exclusion from intramural competition as a group;
  - (ii) Denial of use of university facilities for meetings, events, etc.;
  - (iii) Restitution; and/or
  - (iv) Fines.
- (3) **Remedies.** For violations of this code, the university may provide remedies to the complainant and other students impacted by the discriminatory conduct designed to restore or preserve equal access to the university's educational programs or activities.

### PART III: DEFINITIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 172-125-300 Definitions.** For purposes of this code, chapter 172-125 WAC, the definitions in this section apply.

"Appeal authority" refers to the university official presiding over an appeal.

"Appellant" refers to any respondent or complainant who appeals a decision.

"Complainant" means the person who was subjected to the alleged misconduct. The complainant may or may not be the reporting party. If the person who was subjected to the alleged misconduct does not wish to pursue a complaint under this code, the university may initiate the student conduct process on its own behalf.

"Complaint" means an oral or written request to the university to investigate a report of discrimination.

"Council" or "the council" refers to the student disciplinary council.

"Council hearing" refers to a full conduct review hearing before the student disciplinary council.

"Dean of students" refers to the dean of students or designee.

"Director of SRR" or "director" refers to the director of student rights and responsibilities or designee.

"File" or "filing" means to actually deliver documents. Documents required to be filed with a specific person at EWU under these rules shall be deemed filed upon actual receipt during office hours at EWU. Papers may be filed by delivering them to the student rights and responsibilities office, sending them via United States mail, properly addressed, postage prepaid, to 129 Showalter Hall, or emailing them to srr@ewu.edu.

"Interpersonal violence" encompasses domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

"Level One Process" refers to the grievance procedures used to investigate and make determinations of responsibility for violations of this code that, if substantiated by a preponderance of evidence, would result in a sanction less than a suspension or expulsion, and do not involve felony-level crimes.

"Level Two Process" refers to the grievance procedures used to investigate and make determinations of responsibility for violations of this code that, if substantiated by a preponderance of evidence, may result in a sanction of suspension or expulsion, or involve felony-level crimes.

"Off-campus" refers to any location or facility that is not owned, leased, rented, or operated by Eastern Washington University.

"Party/parties" refers to the complainant, respondent, and/or the university.

"Policies" or "university policy" refers to the written regulations of the university, including the standards of conduct for students, residence life handbook, housing contract, university policies, and graduate/undergraduate catalogs and handbooks.

"Presiding officer" refers to the university official who is assigned to preside over a student disciplinary council hearing.

"Recognized student organizations" refers to clubs, organizations, societies or similarly organized groups recognized by the university or the Associated Students of Eastern Washington University (ASEWU).

"Reporting party" means the person who notifies the university of alleged misconduct by a student or student organization. The reporting party may also be the complainant, but need not be the complainant.

"Respondent" refers to any student or student organization accused of violating the student conduct code under this chapter.

"Serve" means to send a document through electronic mail addressed to the party's university-issued email address or, if the party does not have a university-issued email address, to the email address on record with the university. Service is complete when the email is sent to the email address. Service may also be accomplished by personal delivery or regular U.S. mail. Notifications via regular U.S. mail are sent to the party's last known address or the address on file with the university registrar, and service is complete on the date the notice is placed in the mail. The student is responsible for maintaining an updated mailing address on file with the registrar. Recognized or registered student organizations are responsible for updating their mailing address with their designated university office.

"Student" includes all of the following:

(a) Any applicant who becomes enrolled, for violations of the code committed as part of the application process or committed following the applicant's submission of the application until the time of official enrollment;

(b) Any person who is enrolled or has been enrolled at the university for up to 12 months from the last date they were enrolled;

(c) Nonmatriculated, international students attending institutes or foreign study programs through the university; and

(d) Any person who was previously enrolled at the university for violations of the code committed while enrolled regardless of when they were enrolled. A person who engaged in conduct in violation of this code while a student remains subject to action under this code even if the person has graduated, withdrawn, or is not currently enrolled for any reason.

"Title IX coordinator" refers to the Title IX coordinator or designee.

"University" means Eastern Washington University.

"University official" includes any person employed or contracted by the university, performing assigned administrative or professional responsibilities.

"University premises" means buildings and/or property (including adjacent streets and sidewalks) which are owned, leased, rented, or operated by the university.

"University president" refers to the university president or designee.

"Vice president for student affairs" refers to the vice president for student affairs or designee.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 172-125-301 Calculation of time periods.** In calculating any of the time periods identified in this code, the day of any act or service of notice is not included in calculating the deadlines. For example, if an order is served on a student on a Monday and the student has 10 calendar days to appeal the order, the date of service (Monday) does not count towards the time period, the next day (Tuesday) does count toward the time period, and the appeal would be due by 5:00 p.m. on the following Thursday.

If the last day of a time period ends on a Saturday or Sunday, the deadline is extended to 5:00 p.m. on Monday. If the last day of a time period ends on a university holiday, the deadline is extended to 5:00 p.m. on the next weekday following the holiday.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 172-125-302 Conflicts of interest and bias.** (1) Individuals who play a role in investigating, presiding over, and making decisions pertaining to individual cases under this code including, but not limited to, the Title IX coordinator, dean of students, investigator, presiding officer, council, and appeal authority, shall not have any conflict of interest in the process or a bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent. A conflict of interest exists if the investigator, presiding officer or decision maker is the respondent, complainant, or a witness; if the respondent, complainant, or witness is a family member or friend; if the individual has a personal interest or bias; or if the individual has previously served in an advisory capacity for any of the parties or witnesses. In the event such a conflict arises in the process, the person shall disclose such interest to the parties. Parties to the complaint who believe a university official involved in the process has a conflict of interest may report such concerns to the Title IX coordinator within three calendar days of becoming aware of the potential conflict. The Title IX coordinator or designee shall determine whether a conflict of interest exists and take appropriate action. If the Title IX coordinator is the person alleged to have a conflict of interest or bias, the party may report such concerns to the dean of students, and the dean of students shall determine whether a conflict of interest exists and take appropriate action.

(2) Challenges to council membership. Members of the student disciplinary council and the presiding officer are subject to the conflict of interest limitations set forth in subsection (1) of this section.

(a) If a member has such a conflict, the person shall recuse themselves from further involvement in the case. In the event such a conflict arises after the council has been selected or during a proceeding, the member shall disclose the conflict to the parties.

(b) A council member's or the presiding officer's eligibility to participate in a case may be challenged by parties to the case or by other council members at any time by submitting a motion to disqualify to the presiding officer. When such a challenge is made, the session council, excluding the person alleged to have a conflict of interest, shall make a decision on the challenge.

(c) If a member is disqualified or disqualifies him/herself from a case, the presiding officer will appoint a replacement.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 172-125-305 Administration and records. (1) Authority and interpretation.** The board of trustees of Eastern Washington University, acting under the authority granted by RCW 28B.35.120, has established this code for addressing concerns of discrimination by students. The responsibility for enforcement of this code rests with the university president and is further delegated to the vice president for student affairs and Title IX coordinator. Any questions regarding the interpretation or application of this code are referred to the Title IX coordinator for final determination. This code is not intended to protect any person or class of persons from injury or harm.

(2) **Records of resolution and grievance procedures.** Records relating to complaints, supportive measures, informal resolutions, investigations, conduct proceedings, sanctions, and remedies under this chapter shall be kept by the Title IX office for seven years from conclusion of a proceeding. Records pertaining to sanctions must also be maintained by the office of student rights and responsibilities for seven years from the conclusion of a proceeding.

(3) **Confidentiality of student disciplinary records.**

(a) Student disciplinary records are confidential and shall be treated consistently with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and applicable law. Disciplinary records shall be maintained in accordance with the university's records retention schedule.

(b) Release of student disciplinary records. The university shall not communicate a student's disciplinary record to any person or agency outside the university without the prior written consent of the student, except as required or permitted by law. Exceptions include, but are not limited to:

(i) The student's parents or legal guardians may review these records as permitted by FERPA (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99).

(ii) Release to another educational institution, upon request, where the student seeks or intends to enroll, as allowed by FERPA (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99).

(iii) In response to a judicial order or a lawfully issued subpoena.

(iv) The university shall release information related to disciplinary records to complainants or other persons as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, and other state and federal laws.

(v) Disciplinary records will be made available to hearing councils and university personnel as needed for legitimate educational purposes.

(vi) A student may authorize release of their own disciplinary record to a third party in compliance with FERPA (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99) by providing a written consent to student rights and responsibilities.

(vii) Any student may review his/her own disciplinary records by contacting student rights and responsibilities.

(viii) A student may obtain a copy of their disciplinary record by making a written request to student rights and responsibilities. The university may charge the student a reasonable amount to cover copying expenses.

(ix) The university may disclose to a student's parents a violation of any federal, state, or local law, or of any university policy or rules regarding use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance so long as the student is under the age of 21 at the time of the disclosure to the parent.

(c) When disciplinary records are released, personally identifiable information may be redacted to protect the privacy of others as permitted by law.

(d) Supportive measures. The university will keep any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent confidential to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality will not impair the ability of the university to provide the supportive measures.

(4) **Holds.**

(a) Types of holds. Holds placed on a student's academic records may prevent admission, registration, graduation, or other academic activities. Holds may also restrict access to transcripts, grades, or other academic records.

(b) Discretionary holds: The director or presiding officer may place a hold on a student's academic records in either of the following situations:

(i) Pending the student's satisfactory completion of any sanctions imposed under this code; or

(ii) If the student fails to respond to any properly delivered notice under this code.

(c) Required holds: The director shall place a hold on a student's academic record if the student is the respondent to a violation of the conduct code and has withdrawn from the university, or if the student withdraws from the university after a complaint is filed against the student. A hold is also required if a student is subject to a pending student conduct complaint at the time of graduation. This hold shall remain in place until the allegation or complaint is resolved.

## WSR 24-16-028

## EMERGENCY RULES

## EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

[Filed July 27, 2024, 12:52 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Other Findings Required by Other Provisions of Law as Precondition to Adoption or Effectiveness of Rule: As identified in chapter 172-108 WAC, Eastern Washington University (EWU) declines to adopt the model rules of procedure issued by the office of administrative hearings. Instead, these rules are designed to emphasize the educational nature of the EWU community.

Purpose: To comply with new Title IX regulations that are effective August 1, 2024, EWU has designed an updated process for receiving and responding to concerns about students engaging in discrimination, discriminatory harassment, sexual violence, or interpersonal violence (chapter 172-125 WAC). EWU's previous procedures were contained in chapter 172-121 WAC, Student conduct code. To make the regulation more accessible for students and to provide greater support to students throughout the process, the procedures for handling complaints involving discrimination, discriminatory harassment, sexual violence, and interpersonal violence have been moved from the student conduct code to this new code. Procedures and standards that were incorporated into the student conduct code that were specific to Title IX and discrimination are being removed.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 172-121-303 and 172-121-304; and amending WAC 172-121-010, 172-121-020, 172-121-021, 172-121-030, 172-121-070, 172-121-080, 172-121-100, 172-121-105, 172-121-110, 172-121-118, 172-121-121, 172-121-122, 172-121-130, 172-121-140, 172-121-300, 172-121-302, 172-121-306, and 172-121-400.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.35.120(12).

Other Authority: 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: Revised definitions and procedures, including procedures for responding to complaints of discrimination against students, are required to comply with updated Title IX regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 106. The Title IX regulations go into effect on August 1, 2024; thus, this emergency rule is being filed with an effective date of August 1, 2024.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 18, Repealed 2; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: June 20, 2024.

Annika Scharosch

Associate Vice President for Civil Rights  
Compliance and Business Services

**OTS-5549.1**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-01-047, filed 12/13/18, effective 1/13/19)

**WAC 172-121-010 Introduction.** Eastern Washington University (EWU) is an academic community dedicated to ~~((providing))~~ instruction ~~((in higher education))~~, advancing knowledge through scholarship and research, and ~~((providing related services to))~~ servicing the ~~((community))~~ region.

As a public institution of higher education, ~~((the university))~~ EWU has a special responsibility to create and maintain an academic environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and expression while protecting the rights, opportunities and welfare of students, faculty, staff and guests. To achieve this, ~~((the university))~~ EWU establishes rules, regulations, procedures, policies, and standards of conduct.

Through the student conduct code as well as other ~~((university))~~ EWU policies and directives, ~~((the university))~~ EWU sets forth specific behavioral and academic expectations for students and student organizations. It is the responsibility of each student to clearly understand and comply with ~~((these))~~ outlined expectations.

The board of trustees of Eastern Washington University, acting under the authority granted by RCW 28B.35.120, has established the following regulations for student conduct and discipline. The responsibility for enforcement of the student conduct code rests with ~~((the university))~~ EWU president and is further delegated to the vice president for student affairs or designee.

These provisions are not intended to protect any person or class of persons from injury or harm.

EWU's standards of conduct for students with respect to discrimination, discriminatory harassment, interpersonal violence, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and retaliation are contained in chapter 172-125 WAC. If a report is received that a student has engaged in such conduct, EWU will follow the process set forth in chapter 172-125 WAC. If a report includes potential violations of this code and chapter 172-125 WAC arising out of the same facts and circumstances, the report will be investigated and adjudicated in accordance with chapter 172-125 WAC. In no case will this code be used to investigate and adjudicate violations of chapter 172-125 WAC.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-01-027, filed 12/9/22, effective 1/9/23)

**WAC 172-121-020 Definitions.** For purposes of the student conduct code, chapter 172-121 WAC, the definitions in this section apply.

"Appeal authority" refers to the conduct review official presiding over an appeal under WAC 172-121-130.

"Appellant" refers to any respondent or complainant who appeals the decisions or sanctions of a hearing authority under WAC 172-121-130.

~~("Brief hearing" refers to a brief conduct review hearing before a conduct review officer for allegations that, if substantiated by a preponderance of evidence, would result in a sanction less than a suspension or expulsion, do not involve a Title IX complaint, and that do not involve felony-level crimes.)~~

"Business days" refers to the days and hours ~~((the university))~~ EWU is open for business. Business days are Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays as set forth in ~~((the university))~~ EWU holiday schedule.

"Complainant" means the person who was subjected to the alleged misconduct. The complainant may or may not be the reporting party. If the person who was subjected to the alleged misconduct does not wish to pursue a student conduct case, ~~((the university))~~ EWU may initiate the student conduct process on its own behalf.

"Conduct review meeting" refers to a meeting before a conduct review officer for allegations that, if substantiated by a preponderance of evidence, would result in a sanction less than a suspension or expulsion and that do not involve felony-level crimes.

"Conduct review officer" or "CRO" refers to the person designated to serve as the decision maker for a ~~((brief hearing))~~ conduct review meeting or the presiding officer for a full hearing.

"Council" or "the council" refers to the student disciplinary council as described in WAC 172-121-070.

"Council hearing" refers to a full conduct review hearing before the student disciplinary council.

"Dean of students" refers to the dean of students or designee.

"Director of SRR" or "director" refers to the director of student rights and responsibilities or designee.

"EWU" means Eastern Washington University.

"EWU official" includes any person employed or contracted by EWU, performing assigned administrative or professional responsibilities.

"EWU premises" means buildings and/or property (including adjacent streets and sidewalks) which are owned, leased, rented, or operated by EWU.

"EWU president" refers to EWU president or designee.

"Filing" means to actually deliver documents. Documents required to be filed with a specific person under these rules shall be deemed filed upon actual receipt during office hours at EWU. Papers may be filed by delivering them to the student rights and responsibilities office, sending them via United States mail, properly addressed, postage prepaid, to 129 Showalter Hall, or emailing them to srr@ewu.edu.

"Full hearing" refers to a full conduct reviewing hearing before the council for allegations that, if substantiated by a preponderance of the evidence, could result in a sanction of a suspension or expulsion ~~((, involve a Title IX complaint,))~~ or that could constitute felony-level crimes.

"Hearing authority" refers to the decision-maker in a conduct review hearing.

~~("Interpersonal violence" encompasses domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.)~~

"Notify" means to provide notice to a person. A person may be notified in person, by telephone, by sending notice to the person's ~~((university))~~ EWU email account, by leaving a message on their personal telephone, or by sending the notice in the United States mail,

properly addressed, postage prepaid, to the person's last known address.

"Off-campus" refers to any location or facility that is not owned, leased, rented, or operated by Eastern Washington University.

"Party/parties" refers to the complainant, respondent, and/or ~~((the university))~~ EWU.

"Policies" or "~~((university))~~ EWU policy" refers to the written regulations of ~~((the university))~~ EWU, including the standards of conduct for students, residence life handbook, housing contract, ~~((university))~~ EWU policies, and graduate/undergraduate catalogs and handbooks.

"Recognized student organizations" refers to clubs, organizations, societies or similarly organized groups recognized by ~~((the university))~~ EWU or the associated students of Eastern Washington University (ASEWU).

"Reporting party" means the person who notifies student rights and responsibilities of alleged misconduct by a student or student organization. The reporting party may also be the complainant, but need not be the complainant.

"Respondent" refers to any student or student organization accused of violating the student conduct code under this chapter.

"Serve" means to ~~((post a document in the United States mail, properly addressed, postage prepaid, to a person's last known address, personal service, or electronic service to the person's university email account. Service by mail is complete upon deposit in the United States mail))~~ send a document through electronic mail addressed to the party's EWU-issued email address or, if the party does not have an EWU-issued email address, to the email address on record with EWU. Service is complete when the email is sent to the email address. Service may also be accomplished by personal delivery or regular U.S. mail. Notifications via regular U.S. mail are sent to the party's last known address or the address on file with the EWU registrar, and service is complete on the date the notice is placed in the mail. The student is responsible for maintaining an updated mailing address on file with the registrar. Recognized or registered student organizations are responsible for updating their mailing address with their designated EWU office.

"Session council" refers to the student disciplinary council members selected for a specific hearing or appeal.

~~((("Sexual misconduct" encompasses sexual harassment or sexual assault, as defined in WAC 172-121-200.))~~

"Student" includes all of the following:

(a) Any applicant who becomes enrolled, for violations of the code committed as part of the application process or committed following the applicant's submission of the application until the time of official enrollment;

(b) Any person who is enrolled or has been enrolled at ~~((the university))~~ EWU for up to 12 months from the last date they were enrolled;

(c) Nonmatriculated, international students attending institutes or foreign study programs through ~~((the university))~~ EWU; and

(d) Any person who was previously enrolled at ~~((the university))~~ EWU for violations of the code committed while enrolled regardless of when they were enrolled. A person who engaged in conduct in violation of the student conduct code while a student remains subject to action under this code even if the person has graduated, withdrawn, or is not currently enrolled for any reason.

~~(( "Title IX complaint" means a formal signed complaint from a current student, applicant, employee, or person participating in or seeking to participate in a university program or activity, or by the Title IX coordinator, alleging sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking for the conduct that occurred on university premises, during a university program or activity within the United States, or at a building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the university. A complaint of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence will only be considered a Title IX complaint under this code if it meets this definition. Sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence may still be addressed under this code if it does not meet the definition of a Title IX complaint.))~~

"Title IX coordinator" refers to the Title IX coordinator or designee.

~~(( "University" means Eastern Washington University.~~

~~"University official" includes any person employed or contracted by the university, performing assigned administrative or professional responsibilities.~~

~~"University premises" means buildings and/or property (including adjacent streets and sidewalks) which are owned, leased, rented or operated by the university, to include all satellite campuses affiliated with the university.~~

~~"University president" refers to the university president or designee.))~~

"Vice president for student affairs" refers to the vice president for student affairs or designee.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 172-121-021 Calculation of time periods.** In calculating any of the time periods identified in this code, the day of any act or service of notice is not included in calculating the deadlines. For example, if a student is served with an order on a Monday and the student has 10 calendar days to appeal the order, the date of service (Monday) does not count towards the time period, the next day (Tuesday) does count toward the time period, and the appeal would be due by 5:00 p.m. on the following Thursday.

If the last day of a time period ends on a Saturday or Sunday, the deadline is extended to 5:00 p.m. on Monday. If the last day of a time period ends on an EWU holiday, the deadline is extended to 5:00 p.m. on the next weekday following the holiday.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-12-037, filed 5/25/21, effective 6/25/21)

**WAC 172-121-030 Rights of students.** Any student or student organization charged with any violation of the student conduct code ~~((and the complainant in the case of an allegation of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, have))~~ has the following rights where applicable:

- (1) ~~((The))~~ Right to a fair and impartial conduct review process;

- (2) ~~((The right to prior))~~ Right to receive written notice prior to ~~((attend))~~ a prehearing conference or hearing;
- (3) ~~((The))~~ Right to remain silent during any conduct review hearing;
- (4) ~~((The))~~ Right to know who filed the complaint against them as described in WAC 172-121-110;
- (5) ~~((The))~~ Right to speak on their own behalf in all proceedings;
- (6) ~~((The))~~ Right to hear all information and view all material presented against ~~((him or her))~~ them;
- (7) The right to call witnesses for a full hearing as described in WAC 172-121-122;
- (8) The right to ask or submit questions to be asked of witnesses for a full hearing, in a method determined by the conduct review officer, as described in WAC 172-121-122;
- (9) The right to consult an advisor as described in WAC 172-121-105(3);
- (10) The right to be presumed not responsible;
- (11) ~~((Complainants have the right to opt out of participating in the student conduct process;~~
- ~~(12))~~ The right to appeal as provided in WAC 172-121-130; and
- ~~((13))~~ (12) The right to be subjected to ~~((university))~~ EWU disciplinary action only one time for the same conduct.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-01-027, filed 12/9/22, effective 1/9/23)

**WAC 172-121-070 Conduct review officials.** (1) **The director of SRR** or designee shall:

- (a) Serve as the primary point of contact for all matters relating to student conduct code violations and proceedings;
- (b) Manage the proceedings as described in this chapter;
- (c) Maintain all records of conduct review proceedings as described in WAC 172-121-080;
- (d) Ensure complaints are promptly investigated and resolved as required by federal and state laws; and
- (e) Review off-campus incidents of alleged misconduct and make determinations as to whether the conduct involved adversely affects ~~((the university))~~ EWU or ~~((university))~~ the EWU community and whether the conduct process should be initiated.

(2) **Conduct review officer (CRO):** The ~~((university))~~ EWU president delegates to the vice president of student affairs the authority to designate one or more CRO(s). The director of SRR, dean of students, or any other qualified individual may be designated as a CRO. The CRO(s) shall preside over ~~((brief hearings))~~ conduct review meetings and full conduct hearings under this chapter. For ~~((brief hearings))~~ conduct review meetings, the CRO shall serve as the decision maker. For full hearings, the CRO shall serve as the presiding officer.

As the presiding officer~~((r))~~ in full hearings, the CRO has authority to:

- (a) Determine the order of presentation of evidence;
- (b) Administer oaths and affirmations;
- (c) Issue subpoenas pursuant to RCW 34.05.446;
- (d) Rule on procedural matters, objections, and motions;

- (e) Rule on motions for summary judgment;
- (f) Rule on offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;
- (g) Pursuant to RCW 34.05.449(5), close parts of a hearing to public observation or order the exclusion of witnesses upon a showing of good cause;
- (h) Question witnesses in an impartial manner to develop any facts deemed necessary to fairly and adequately decide the matter;
- (i) Call additional witnesses and request additional exhibits deemed necessary to complete the record and receive such evidence subject to each party's opportunity for cross-examination and rebuttal;
- (j) Take official notice of facts pursuant to RCW 34.05.452(5);
- (k) Regulate the course of the hearing and take any appropriate action necessary to maintain order during the hearing;
- (l) Permit or require oral argument or briefs and determine the time limits for submission thereof;
- (m) Issue an order of default;
- (n) Hold prehearing conferences; and
- (o) Take any other action necessary and authorized by any applicable statute or rule.

(3) **Student disciplinary council:** The council serves as the decision maker for full hearings with respect to a finding of responsibility. The CRO in full hearings serves as the decision maker with respect to determining appropriate sanction(s) and remedies, upon a finding of responsibility.

(a) Council pool: For each academic year, a pool of council members shall be established. All members of the council pool are appointed by the vice president for student affairs. (~~Appointment of council pool members is as follows:~~)

(i) (~~Faculty and staff members are appointed for three-year terms. Student members are appointed for one-year terms;~~) Councilmembers must meet the requirements of the role to serve on the hearing board. Councilmember appointments may be revoked;

(ii) Council chair (conduct review officer): Designated CRO who chairs council proceedings;

(iii) Vacancies: Council pool shall be filled as needed through appointment by the vice president for student affairs.

(b) Session council: When a student disciplinary council is needed for a full hearing, the director or designee, shall identify available members from the council pool to serve as the session council. Each session council must include three members. The council may consist of students, staff, or faculty members. Full hearings are determined by a majority vote of the council.

(4) **Investigator:** (~~For all Title IX, sexual misconduct, and interpersonal violence complaints, and certain other cases at the director's discretion, the director may assign a complaint to~~) An EWU investigator may be assigned to conduct an investigation. If an EWU investigator is assigned outside of student rights and responsibilities, the investigator will provide a written investigative report to the director of student rights and responsibilities.

(5) **Presenter in cases of a full hearing:** In full hearings, a person will present a case against the respondent on behalf of (the university) EWU. The presenter will call witnesses, ask questions, and offer evidence during the hearing. The presenter may be the director of SRR, designee, or an assistant attorney general appearing on behalf of (~~the university~~) EWU.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-19-046, filed 9/10/20, effective 10/11/20)

**WAC 172-121-080 Administration and records.** (1) Student conduct code.

(a) Interpretation: Any questions regarding the interpretation or application of this student conduct code are referred to the vice president for student affairs for final determination.

(b) Review: This student conduct code shall be reviewed at least every three years under the direction of the vice president for student affairs.

(2) Records of conduct review proceedings.

(a) Records of conduct review proceedings under this chapter shall be prepared by the conduct review official(s) involved and maintained by the director of SRR. As much as possible, records should include:

(i) ~~((A summary of the proceedings during))~~ An audio recording of a prehearing conference;

(ii) An audio recording of conduct review hearings;

(iii) All letters, statements, memoranda, decisions, orders, notices, and other documents related to conduct review proceedings;

(iv) Any images, articles, recordings, or other materials presented as evidence in a conduct review proceeding;

(v) A statement of matters officially noticed or considered by the council or conduct review officer (CRO);

(vi) Evidence submitted, whether or not accepted, any objections and rulings, any cross-examination questions submitted to the council and rulings on such questions;

(vii) Proposed findings, requested orders, and exceptions;

(viii) Recording of the hearing and subsequent transcript, if any;

(ix) Any staff memorandum to the extent required by RCW 34.05.476;

(x) ~~((For Title IX complaints, and remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the university's programs or activities; and~~

~~(xi))~~ Matters placed on the record after any ex parte communication. "Ex parte" means when a member of the student ~~((discipline))~~ disciplinary council or CRO communicates with a party about a nonprocedural matter regarding the hearing when the other party is not present.

(b) The director of SRR shall keep records of conduct review proceedings for seven years.

(c) Records of conduct review proceedings are the property of ~~((the university))~~ EWU and are confidential to the extent provided in applicable law.

(d) Prior to the final disposition of a case, the respondent may review the records relative to their case. The respondent shall request to review the case records by contacting the CRO. The CRO shall make every reasonable effort to support the respondent's request.

(3) Student disciplinary records.

(a) Student disciplinary records are confidential and shall be treated consistently with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and applicable law. Disciplinary records shall be maintained in accordance with ~~((the university's))~~ EWU's records retention schedule.

(b) Release of student disciplinary records. (~~The university~~) EWU shall not communicate a student's disciplinary record to any person or agency outside (~~the university~~) EWU without the prior written consent of the student, except as required or permitted by law. Exceptions include, but are not limited to:

(i) The student's parents or legal guardians may review these records as permitted by FERPA (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99).

(ii) Release to another educational institution, upon request, where the student seeks or intends to enroll, as allowed by FERPA (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99).

(iii) In response to a judicial order or a lawfully issued subpoena.

(iv) (~~The university~~) EWU shall release information related to disciplinary records to complainants or other persons as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, and other state and federal laws.

(v) Disciplinary records will be made available to hearing councils and (~~university~~) EWU personnel as needed for legitimate educational purposes.

(vi) A student may authorize release of their own disciplinary record to a third party in compliance with FERPA (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99) by providing a written consent to student rights and responsibilities.

(vii) Any student may review (~~his/her~~) their own disciplinary records by contacting student rights and responsibilities.

(viii) A student may obtain a copy of their disciplinary record by making a written request to student rights and responsibilities. Student rights and responsibilities may charge the student a reasonable amount to cover copying expenses.

(ix) (~~The university~~) EWU may disclose to a student's parents a violation of any federal, state, or local law, or of any (~~university~~) EWU policy or rules regarding use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance so long as the student is under the age of twenty-one at the time of the disclosure to the parent.

(c) When disciplinary records are released, personally identifiable information may be redacted to protect the privacy of others as permitted by law.

~~((d) Supportive measures. The university will keep any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent in sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence cases confidential to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality will not impair the ability of the university to provide the supportive measures.))~~

(4) Holds:

(a) Types of holds. Holds placed on a student's academic records may prevent admission, registration, graduation, or other academic or EWU activities. (~~Holds may also restrict access to transcripts, grades, or other academic records.~~)

(b) Discretionary holds: The CRO may place a hold on a (~~student's academic records~~) student in either of the following situations:

(i) Pending the student's satisfactory completion of any sanctions imposed by a conduct review hearing; or

(ii) If the student fails to respond to any properly delivered notice from the CRO.

(c) Required holds: The CRO shall place a hold on a student's (~~academic~~) EWU record if the student is the respondent to a viola-

tion of the conduct code and has withdrawn from ~~((the university))~~ EWU, or if the student withdraws from ~~((the university))~~ EWU after a complaint is filed against the student. A hold is also required if a student is subject to a pending student conduct complaint at the time of graduation. This hold shall remain in place until the allegation or complaint is resolved.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 24-01-030, filed 12/8/23, effective 1/8/24)

**WAC 172-121-100 Complaints. (1) Filing of complaints.**

(a) Any person or ~~((the university))~~ EWU may file a complaint against a student or student organization for violation of the student conduct code. Complaints must be submitted in good faith.

(b) A person wishing to file a complaint under the student conduct code must submit the complaint, in writing, to one of the following:

(i) Student rights and responsibilities ([www.inside.ewu.edu/srr](http://www.inside.ewu.edu/srr));  
or

(ii) Title IX coordinator ([www.inside.ewu.edu/titleix](http://www.inside.ewu.edu/titleix)).

(c) Filing a complaint under the student conduct code does not prohibit or limit a person's right to file complaints or charges with other civil and/or criminal authorities for violations of local, county, state, or federal law.

(d) All student conduct code complaints will be forwarded to the director of SRR for further review and action.

(e) In cases where ~~((the university))~~ EWU is pursuing a student conduct case on its own behalf, an EWU employee shall initiate the complaint. ~~((For Title IX complaints, a complaint must either be filed by the person subject to the alleged misconduct or by the Title IX coordinator. If a complaint is filed by the Title IX coordinator, the Title IX coordinator will not be considered a complainant for the purposes of participating in the investigation and hearing process.))~~

(2) **Complaint review.** Upon receipt of a complaint, the director of SRR shall review the complaint to determine whether it ~~((includes allegations of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence,))~~ may lead to suspension or expulsion and/or involves felony level criminal conduct to determine which student conduct process applies and if appropriate law enforcement or other authorities should be notified. If a complaint falls within such categories, it shall be referred to a hearing under WAC 172-121-122. If the director of SRR receives a complaint that involves potential violations of chapter 172-125 WAC, the director will refer the complaint to the Title IX coordinator within 24 hours to handle under the procedures contained in chapter 172-125 WAC. For all other complaints, the director may determine whether or not to dismiss the complaint, refer the matter to adaptable dispute resolution under WAC 172-121-102, or refer the matter for a ~~((brief))~~ conduct review meeting or full hearing.

~~((3) **Sexual misconduct and interpersonal violence proceedings.** Except where specifically stated, this section applies to all allegations the university receives of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence regardless of the possible level of sanction or whether there is a formal Title IX complaint.~~

~~(a) Report to Title IX coordinator. The director of SRR shall report all complaints which may constitute any form of sexual misconduct~~

or interpersonal violence to the university Title IX coordinator within 24 hours.

~~(b) Title IX complaints. The Title IX coordinator will determine whether or not the allegation of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence constitutes a Title IX complaint under this code. Solely in cases of Title IX complaints, the university will not move forward with initiating a Title IX investigation or student conduct hearing unless a formal complaint from the person alleged to have been subjected to sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence or a complaint from the Title IX coordinator requesting initiation of the student conduct process has been received.~~

~~The Title IX coordinator is responsible for determining whether or not the allegations constitute a formal Title IX complaint. If allegations include sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence but do not meet the definition of a Title IX complaint, the Title IX coordinator will inform the complainant and the respondent that the complaint is not considered a Title IX complaint and the reasons it does not fit within the required elements of a formal Title IX complaint. If the complainant or respondent disagrees with the Title IX coordinator's decision, the party may file an appeal with the dean of students within three calendar days of the Title IX coordinator's decision. The dean of students can affirm, reverse, or remand the Title IX coordinator's decision and such decision must be communicated in writing simultaneously to the parties.~~

~~SRR may proceed, however, with pursuing a student conduct case against the respondent for misconduct outside of Title IX including, but not limited to, sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence that does not fit the definition of a Title IX complaint.~~

~~(c) Prompt resolution. The university shall investigate any complaint alleging sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence when it is legally required to do so. The university's goal is to have complaints of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence resolved within 90 days. If the university needs additional time, the investigator or director of SRR should provide written notice to the complainant and respondent of the delay and the reasons for the delay. Delays and extensions beyond the 90 days must be based on good cause.~~

~~(d) Investigations.~~

~~(i) Sexual misconduct and interpersonal violence. The university will investigate complaints of sexual misconduct and interpersonal violence, including Title IX complaints, and may, at its discretion, ask for an investigation of other alleged misconduct. During the investigation, the investigator is responsible for gathering evidence relating to the complaint. The investigator will contact the complainant, respondent, and other witnesses to ask questions and gather relevant evidence. Parties may be assisted by an advisor during the investigative process. During the investigation, parties will be provided with an equal opportunity to identify witnesses and other evidence that supports their position. Prior to any investigatory interview regarding a Title IX complaint, the investigator will provide written notice of the meeting with the date, time, location, participants, and purpose with sufficient time for the person to prepare to participate in the interview.~~

~~Prior to the completion of the investigative report for a Title IX complaint, the investigator will send to each party the evidence obtained during the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised, including the evidence upon which the university does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding respon-~~

sibility and inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Each party will then have at least 10 calendar days to submit a written response for a Title IX complaint. The investigator will consider the written response prior to the completion of the investigative report. At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator will prepare a final written report that fairly summarizes the relevant evidence. The investigative report, along with any evidence collected during the investigation, shall then be transmitted to the director of SRR at least 10 days prior to any hearing or other determination of responsibility. In cases of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, a copy of the report must also be provided to the parties for their review and written response.

(ii) Other types of conduct. The director may request an investigation for other types of alleged misconduct. During the investigation, the investigator is responsible for gathering evidence relating to the complaint. An investigation may be completed by a single investigator or team of investigators. The investigator will contact the complainant, if applicable, respondent, and other witnesses to ask questions and gather relevant evidence. During the investigation, parties will be provided with an equal opportunity to identify witnesses and other evidence that supports their position. At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator will prepare a final written report that fairly summarizes the relevant evidence gathered during the investigation. The investigative report, along with any evidence collected during the investigation, shall then be transmitted to the director of SRR.

(e)) (a) Investigations. The director may initiate an investigation for other forms of alleged misconduct. During the investigation, the investigator is responsible for collecting evidence related to the complaint. The investigation can be conducted by either a single investigator or a team of investigators. The investigator(s) will reach out to the complainant (if applicable), respondent, and other witnesses to ask questions and gather relevant evidence.

Throughout the investigation, all parties will have an equal opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence that supports their positions. At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator will compile a final written report that fairly summarizes the relevant evidence gathered. This investigative report, along with any collected evidence, will be forwarded to the director of SRR if the investigation was conducted externally.

As part of the investigatory process, EWU may collaborate with outside organizations or entities, such as Sorority and Fraternity National Headquarters, when necessary to conduct the investigation into the alleged misconduct of student organizations.

(b) Confidentiality. To facilitate the investigative process and protect the privacy of those involved, all information will be maintained in a confidential manner to the fullest extent permissible by law. During an investigation, complaint information will be disseminated on a need-to-know basis. If the complainant wishes to remain anonymous, ((the university)) EWU will take all reasonable steps to investigate the allegation without disclosing the name of the complainant to the extent allowed by state and federal law. If the complainant wishes to remain anonymous, ((the university)) EWU shall inform them that its ability to investigate and respond to the allegation will be limited. ((The university)) EWU cannot ensure confidentiality, as its legal obligations under federal or state law may require investigation of the allegation and possible disclosure of the complainant's name.

Reports of crimes to the campus community shall not include the names of the complainants. Files subject to public disclosure will be released to the extent required by law.

~~((f))~~ (c) Right to file a criminal report. Once the university is notified of an allegation ~~((of sexual))~~ misconduct ~~((or interpersonal violence))~~ that could constitute a crime, it will notify the potential complainant of their right to file a criminal complaint with campus or local law enforcement. If the complainant in such circumstances wishes to report the conduct to local law enforcement, ~~((the university))~~ EWU will assist them in doing so. ~~((The university))~~ EWU will also notify the complainant that they are not required to file a report with local law enforcement. ~~((The university))~~ EWU will report allegations of ~~((sexual))~~ misconduct ~~((or interpersonal violence))~~ to law enforcement or other authorities when it is required to do so under federal, state, and local law.

~~((4))~~ (3) **Supportive measures and interim restrictions.** During the complaint review, the director or designee of SRR ~~((or Title IX coordinator))~~ will review whether any supportive measures or interim restrictions are needed. Supportive measures and interim restrictions are addressed in WAC 172-121-140.

~~((5))~~ (4) **SRR will follow up with the parties as described below.** ~~((a))~~ The director of SRR will contact the respondent ~~((, and the complainant in cases of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence))~~ and complainant, where applicable, and provide them with the following information:

~~((i))~~ (a) The respondent's and complainant's rights under the student conduct code;

~~((ii))~~ (b) A summary of the allegations the complainant has against the respondent;

~~((iii))~~ (c) The potential conduct code violations related to the allegations; and

~~((iv))~~ (d) How to report any subsequent problems or retaliation, including intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination.

~~((b) In all cases alleging sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence))~~ Where applicable and based on the alleged misconduct, the director of SRR or designee will, in addition to the information specified under ~~((a) of)~~ this subsection, provide ~~((both))~~ parties with written information that will include, at a minimum:

(i) The student's rights and options, including options to avoid contact with the other party; a list of available university and community resources for counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other academic and housing services at the university and in the community; and options for, available assistance in, and how to request changes to academic, living, transportation, and working situations or protective measures;

(ii) The importance of preserving evidence of the alleged incident and procedures to follow to preserve evidence of the alleged incident;

(iii) Who will receive a report of the allegation;

(iv) Their right to file or not file a criminal complaint as detailed above and the ability to be assisted by campus authorities in notifying law enforcement authorities if the complainant wishes to do so;

(v) A list of resources for obtaining protective, no contact, restraining, or similar orders, if applicable;

(vi) The procedures the university will follow when determining if discipline is appropriate;

(vii) Steps the university will take to ensure confidentiality of complainants and other necessary parties and the limits this may place on the university's ability to investigate and respond, as set forth above; and

(viii) Information regarding the university's policy against retaliation, steps the university will take to prevent and respond to any retaliation, and how the student should report retaliation or new incidents.

~~((+6))~~ **(5) Following the complaint review, the director of SRR will either dismiss the matter, refer it to adaptable dispute resolution, or arrange a prehearing conference.**

(a) Dismiss the matter. If the director of SRR determines the allegations, even if true, would not rise to the level of a conduct violation, they may dismiss the matter. In such cases, the director of SRR or designee will prepare a written record of the dismissal. The director of SRR or designee will also notify the complainant of their decision, if such notification is permissible under FERPA. The dismissal letter, along with the original complaint and any other related documents, will be maintained as described in WAC 172-121-080. ~~((In cases of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence or for a Title IX complaint, the complainant may request a review of the dismissal by the dean of students by filing a request for review with the director of SRR within seven business days of receiving notice of the dismissal.))~~

(b) Adaptable dispute resolution. The director may refer the complaint to the adaptable dispute resolution process contained in WAC 172-121-102.

(c) Prehearing conference. If the director of SRR does not dismiss the matter they will arrange a prehearing conference as described in WAC 172-121-110 unless a respondent is opting to admit responsibility under WAC 172-121-118.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-102, filed 12/11/20, effective 1/11/21)

**WAC 172-121-105 Conduct review proceedings.** (1) General provisions:

(a) Conduct review proceedings in which the allegations do not involve ~~((a Title IX complaint,))~~ felony level crimes, or the potential sanction is less than suspension or expulsion, are brief ~~((hearings))~~ adjudicative proceedings in accordance with WAC 172-108-050(3) and the Administrative Procedure Act. Conduct review proceedings in which the allegations involve ~~((a Title IX complaint,))~~ felony level crimes, or the potential sanction is suspension or expulsion, are considered full hearings under the Administrative Procedure Act.

(b) Nonjudicial proceedings: Formal rules of process, procedure, and/or technical rules, such as are applied in criminal or civil courts, do not apply in student conduct code proceedings. ~~((All Title IX complaints shall follow the regulations prescribed under 34 C.F.R. Part 106.))~~

(2) Notification for student organizations: When a charge is directed towards a student organization, the CRO will communicate all

matters relative to conduct review proceedings with the president of the organization or their designee.

(3) Advisors: The complainant and the respondent may be assisted by one advisor of their choice, subject to the following provisions:

(a) Any fees or expenses associated with the services of an advisor are the responsibility of the complainant or the respondent that employed the advisor;

(b) The advisor may be an attorney or any other person of the student's choosing;

(c) The advisor must provide the CRO with a FERPA release signed by the student they are assisting;

(d) If a complainant or the respondent is represented by an attorney, the attorney shall provide the CRO and other parties with the attorney's name, address, telephone number, and email address. The attorney must file a notice of appearance when hired to represent a person and a notice of withdrawal upon withdrawal of representation. A notice of appearance must be filed at least two business days prior to any conduct review proceeding;

~~(e) ((If a complainant or respondent wishes to have an advisor for a Title IX complaint and is not able to identify one, the student may contact SRR for assistance in finding an advisor;~~

~~(f))~~) In addition to an advisor, a complainant or respondent may bring a certified therapy animal with a handler for the hearing. The handler is not allowed to participate in the hearing process.

(4) Review of evidence:

(a) In ~~((brief hearings))~~ conduct review meetings, the respondent ~~((, and, in cases of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, the complainant))~~ may request to view material related to their case prior to a scheduled hearing by contacting the CRO. To facilitate this process, the party should contact the CRO as early as possible prior to the scheduled hearing. The CRO shall make a reasonable effort to support the request to the extent allowable by state and federal law.

(b) In full hearings, the respondent ~~((, and, in cases of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, the complainant))~~ may request to view material related to the case prior to the scheduled hearing by contacting the director of SRR. To facilitate this process, the party should contact the director as early as possible prior to the scheduled hearing. The director of SRR shall make a reasonable effort to support the request to the extent allowable by state and federal law.

(5) Continuances: Continuances, extensions of time, and adjournments may be ordered by the CRO. A party may file a timely request for a continuance if the party shows good cause for the continuance. A request for a continuance may be oral or written. Before granting a motion for a continuance, the CRO shall allow any other party to object to the request. The CRO will make a decision on the request and will communicate ~~((his/her))~~ their decision in writing to the parties along with the reasons for granting or denying the request.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-11-109, filed 5/19/23, effective 6/19/23)

**WAC 172-121-110 Notice of allegations and initial scheduling.**

(1) Notice of investigation. If the director of SRR refers a complaint to an investigation, the director shall provide the respondent with a notice of investigation that meets the following requirements:

(a) Is made in writing;

(b) Includes a written list of the allegations against the respondent with sufficient details of the allegations based on current information including, if known, date and time of the incident, description of the conduct, and the specific sections of this code allegedly violated;

(c) Indicates that the complaint has been assigned to a (~~university~~) EWU investigator and provide the contact information for the investigator;

(d) Provides notice that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and a determination of responsibility will be made at the end of the hearing;

(e) Provides a reminder that the person may have an advisor of their choice throughout the student conduct process;

(f) A statement that students are prohibited from knowingly furnishing false information during the student conduct process; and

(g) Where applicable, information about supportive measures and resources available to the respondent as well as information about (~~the university's~~) EWU's prohibition on retaliation.

(2) Notice of allegations: If the director of SRR decides to send the case to hearing, following a review of the investigative report if any, the director of SRR shall appoint a CRO to the case and notify the respondent of the CRO and the date of a prehearing conference.

(~~In cases alleging sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, the CRO and session council assigned must have completed training on issues relating to sexual misconduct and interpersonal violence, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, and Title IX requirements.~~) Notification of the allegations to the respondent must:

(a) Be made in writing;

(b) Include a written list of the allegations against the respondent with sufficient details of the allegations based on current information, including, if known, date and time of the incident, description of the conduct, and the specific sections of this code allegedly violated;

(c) Provide notice that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and a determination of responsibility will be made at the end of the hearing;

(d) Provide a reminder that the person may have an advisor of their choice and, for Title IX complaints, that (~~the university~~) EWU will provide them with an advisor upon requests for the purposes of conducting cross-examination;

(e) Provide information about how to review the evidence gathered prior to the hearing;

(f) Provide a statement that students are prohibited from knowingly furnishing false information during the student conduct process;

(g) Inform them of the option to admit responsibility under WAC 172-121-118; and

(h) Include a date, time, and location of the prehearing conference.

(3) Follow up with complainant. (~~In all cases alleging sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, the SRR office shall notify the complainant(s) of the date, time, and location of the prehearing conference and of their right to attend the conference. The director may, at their discretion, conduct a separate prehearing conference with each party.~~) The SRR office shall also follow up with the complainant(s) and respondent(s) to inform them of the process of reporting any retaliation or new incidents. If the complainant or respondent en-

gages in retaliatory behavior, (~~(the university)~~) EWU shall take immediate steps to protect the complainant or respondent from further harassment or retaliation. (~~(The complainant will also be notified that they have a right to an advisor during the hearing process, and, for Title IX complaints, that the university will provide an advisor upon request for the purposes of conducting cross-examination.)~~)

(4) If additional information is learned during the investigation that may rise to additional allegations, (~~(the university)~~) EWU must provide the respondent with an updated notice of allegations.

(5) The procedures for the prehearing conference for (~~brief hearings is~~) conduct review meetings are contained in WAC 172-121-121. The procedures for the prehearing conference for full hearings is contained in WAC 172-121-122.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-01-027, filed 12/9/22, effective 1/9/23)

**WAC 172-121-118 Admission of responsibility.** (~~(The university)~~) EWU encourages respondents to acknowledge harm and accept responsibility for repairing harm, to the extent possible, experienced as a result of a student's conduct. An investigator, CRO, or presiding officer may offer to the respondent at any time the opportunity to admit responsibility for the alleged misconduct. If the respondent decides to admit responsibility, the respondent will sign a document drafted by SRR taking responsibility. The CRO and/or presiding officer, depending on the type of conduct, will schedule a recorded meeting for the respondent to take responsibility on the record and for the CRO and/or presiding officer to determine the appropriate sanctions under WAC 172-121-400. (~~(If the alleged misconduct includes sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, both parties must consent to this alternative process in writing and the complainant will be notified of the meeting and will have an opportunity to provide a statement about the conduct and its impacts prior to any sanctioning determination.)~~)

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-01-027, filed 12/9/22, effective 1/9/23)

**WAC 172-121-121 ((Brief hearing)) Conduct review meeting procedures.** (1) Applicability: The conduct review officer (CRO) may hold a (~~brief hearing~~) conduct review meeting with the respondent if the proposed sanction is less than a suspension and the allegations do not involve (~~(a Title IX complaint, or)~~) felony level criminal behavior.

(2) General provisions.

(a) Hearing authority: The CRO exercises control over hearing proceedings. All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the CRO.

(b) Closing hearings: All conduct review hearings will be closed. Admission of any person to a conduct review hearing shall be at the discretion of the CRO.

(c) Consolidation of hearings: In the event that one or more students are charged with the same misconduct arising from the same occurrence, the hearing authority may conduct separate hearings for each

student or consolidate the hearings as practical, as long as consolidation does not impinge on the rights of any student.

(3) Appearance.

(a) Failure to appear: In cases where proper notice has been given but the respondent fails to attend a conduct review hearing, the hearing authority shall decide the case based on the information available, without the respondent's input.

(b) Appearance: ~~The respondent (, and complainant in cases of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence,)~~ will be provided options for reasonable alternative arrangements if they do not wish to be present in the same room as the other student during the hearing. People may appear at the conduct review hearing in person, through telephone conference, or through any other practical means of communication, subject to the limits set forth below in (e) of this subsection. If a person does not appear at the hearing, the hearing authority will decide the case based on the information available.

(c) Advisors: ~~The ((complainant and the))~~ respondent may be assisted by one advisor during conduct review hearings as described in WAC 172-121-105. In ~~((brief hearings))~~ conduct review meetings, the advisor is limited to advising the student and cannot speak on behalf of the student.

(d) Disruption of proceedings: Any person, including the respondent or advisor, who disrupts a hearing, may be excluded from the proceedings.

(e) Electronic appearance. In the interest of fairness and expedience, the CRO may permit any person to appear by telephone, audio ~~((tape))~~ recording, written statement, or other means, as appropriate, if the rights of the parties will not be substantially prejudiced by an electronic appearance as determined by the CRO.

(4) Standard of proof. The hearing authority shall determine whether the respondent violated the student conduct code, as charged, based on a preponderance of the evidence. A preponderance means, based on the evidence admitted, whether it is more probable than not that the respondent violated the student conduct code.

(5) Prehearing conference. The SRR office will schedule a prehearing conference with the respondent. Only the respondent and the respondent's advisor may appear at the prehearing conference ~~((, unless the case involves alleged sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence. In cases alleging sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, the respondent and the complainant, along with their advisors, if they choose to have an advisor, may appear at the same or separate prehearing conferences))~~. The purpose of the prehearing conference is to advise the parties regarding the student conduct process. During the prehearing conference, the CRO will:

(a) Review the written list of allegations with the respondent;

(b) Inform the respondent who is bringing the complaint against them;

(c) Provide the respondent with a copy of the student conduct code and any other relevant ~~((university))~~ EWU policies;

(d) Explain the respondent's rights under the student code;

(e) Explain the conduct review procedures;

(f) Where applicable, explain the respondent's and complainant's rights and responsibilities in the conduct review process;

(g) Review the option for admitting responsibility under WAC 172-121-118; and

(h) Explain possible penalties under the student conduct code.

At the end of the prehearing conference, the CRO will either conduct or schedule a ~~((brief hearing))~~ conduct review meeting with the respondent as set forth in this subsection or arrange for a meeting to take an admission of responsibility under WAC 172-121-118. If proper notice was given of the prehearing conference and the respondent fails to attend the conference, the CRO may either proceed with the ~~((brief hearing))~~ conduct review meeting and decide the case based on the information available, or place a hold on the respondent's academic records as described in WAC 172-121-080 until the respondent cooperates with the student conduct process.

(6) Scheduling. A ~~((brief hearing))~~ conduct review meeting may take place immediately following the prehearing conference or it may be scheduled for a later date or time ~~((, except that, in cases of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, a brief hearing cannot take place without first notifying the complainant/respondent of the hearing))~~. If the ~~((brief hearing))~~ conduct review meeting will be held at a later date or time, the CRO shall schedule the hearing and ~~((notify))~~ serve the respondent ~~((and, in the case of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, the complainant))~~ with a notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing. The CRO may coordinate with the parties to facilitate scheduling, but is not required to do so. The CRO has sole discretion as to whether to call witnesses.

(7) If the respondent fails to appear at the ~~((brief hearing))~~ conduct review meeting, the CRO may conduct the hearing without the respondent present. The CRO may also place a hold on the respondent's academic records under WAC 172-121-080 until the respondent cooperates with the student conduct process.

(8) Deliberation. After the hearing, the CRO shall decide whether the respondent violated the student conduct code based on a preponderance of the evidence and issue a decision within seven business days.

(a) If the CRO determines that there is not sufficient information to establish a violation by a preponderance of evidence, the CRO shall dismiss the complaint.

(b) If the CRO determines that the respondent violated the student conduct code, the CRO shall impose any number of sanctions as described in WAC 172-121-210, except suspension or expulsion.

(9) Sanctions. In determining what sanctions shall be imposed, the CRO may consider the evidence presented at the hearing as well as any information contained in the student's disciplinary and academic records. If a student fails to appear for a hearing, then the CRO authority shall review the evidence provided and may consider information available from the student's disciplinary and academic records in determining what sanction should be imposed. In addition to sanctions under this code, if the student is also an employee of ~~((the university))~~ EWU, the CRO's decision may be forwarded to the student's supervisor to determine whether any employment actions outside of this code should be taken in accordance with ~~((university))~~ EWU policy.

(10) Notification. The CRO shall serve the respondent with a decision including its findings, conclusions, and rationale. The decision shall address credibility issues if credibility or witness demeanor was a substantial factor in the CRO's decision. Credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness. ~~((+))~~ The findings shall be based exclusively on the evidence provided at the hearing. The decision must also include:

~~((+))~~ (a) Identification of the section of the code alleged to have been violated;

~~((i))~~ (b) A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews, methods to gather evidence, and hearings;

~~((iii))~~ (c) Findings of fact supporting the determination;

~~((iv))~~ (d) Conclusions regarding the application of the code to the facts along with the rationale for each determination;

~~((v))~~ (e) Sanctions ~~((and remedies))~~;

~~((vi))~~ (f) Respondent's right to appeal.

~~((b) In cases of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence))~~

Where applicable and to the extent permitted by law, the complainant shall be provided with written notice of ~~((~~

~~(i) The university's determination as to whether such sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence occurred;~~

~~((ii))~~ substantiated violations:

(i) The complainant's right to appeal, if any;

~~((iii))~~ (ii) Any change to the results that occurs prior to the time that such results become final; and when such results become final (20 U.S.C. 1092(f)).

~~((e))~~ (g) Information regarding the discipline of the respondent will not be released unless:

(i) The information contained in the record directly relates to the complainant, such as an order requiring the respondent to not contact the complainant; or

(ii) The misconduct involves a crime of violence or other crime as defined in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 13925(a).

(11) Finality. The CRO's decision becomes final at either the conclusion or the appeal process under this code, if an appeal is filed, or, if an appeal is not filed, the date on which an appeal would no longer be timely.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-11-109, filed 5/19/23, effective 6/19/23)

**WAC 172-121-122 Full hearing procedures.** (1) Scheduling and notification. Full hearings are used for allegations which, if substantiated by a preponderance of the evidence, could be a felony-level crime ~~((, involve a Title IX complaint,))~~ or could result in a sanction of suspension or expulsion. Following provision of the notice of allegations to the respondent, as set forth in WAC 172-121-110, the SRR office shall arrange for a prehearing conference unless the respondent has admitted responsibility under WAC 172-121-118.

(2) General provisions.

(a) Hearing authority: The CRO exercises control over hearing proceedings. All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the CRO. The CRO chairs the disciplinary council.

(b) Closed hearings: All conduct review hearings will be closed. Admission of any person to a conduct review hearing shall be at the discretion of the CRO.

(c) Consolidation of hearings: In the event that one or more students are charged with the same misconduct arising from the same occurrence, the council may conduct separate hearings for each student or consolidate the hearings as practical, as long as consolidation does not impinge on the rights of any student.

(3) Appearance.

(a) Failure to appear: In cases where proper notice has been given but the respondent fails to attend a conduct review hearing, the council shall decide the case based on the information available, without the respondent's input. The council may not make an inference about the determination regarding responsibility based solely on a party's or witness's failure to appear at the hearing. However, nonappearance by a party may impact the evidence available for the council to make a decision.

(b) Appearance: The parties will be provided options for reasonable alternative arrangements if they do not wish to be present in the same room as the other student during the hearing. The parties may appear at the conduct review hearing in person via a method that allows the council to hear the parties and physically observe them while testifying, subject to the limits set forth below in (e) of this subsection. If a party does not appear at the hearing, the council will decide the case based on the information available. The council cannot draw an inference regarding responsibility based on the failure to appear or refusal to answer cross-examination or other questions.

(c) Advisors: The complainant and the respondent may be assisted by one advisor during conduct review hearings as described in WAC 172-121-105. (~~For Title IX complaints, the university will provide an advisor to a party upon request for the purposes of conducting cross-examination.~~)

(d) Disruption of proceedings: Any person, including the respondent or advisor, who disrupts a hearing, may be excluded from the proceedings.

(e) Remote appearance. In the interest of fairness and expedience, the CRO may permit any person to appear by a method that allows the person to be seen and heard by the council.

(4) Standard of evidence. The council shall determine whether the respondent violated the student conduct code, as charged, based on a preponderance of the evidence. A preponderance means, based on the evidence admitted, whether it is more probable than not that the respondent violated the student conduct code.

(5) Prehearing conference. The SRR office or designee will arrange for a prehearing conference with the parties to advise them about the student conduct process. During the prehearing conference, the SRR office or designee will:

(a) Review the written list of allegations;

(b) Inform the respondent who is bringing the complaint against them;

(c) Provide the respondent and, where applicable, complainant with a copy of the student conduct code and any other relevant (~~university~~) EWU policies;

(d) Explain the respondent's and, where applicable, complainant's rights and responsibilities under the student code;

(e) Explain the conduct review procedures;

(f) Explain possible penalties under the student conduct code;

(g) Review the option for admitting responsibility under WAC 172-121-118;

(h) Schedule a date for the full hearing; and

(i) Address any preliminary matters or motions.

(6) Notice of hearing. Following the prehearing conference, the SRR director or designee shall schedule the hearing and (~~notify~~) serve the respondent and, where applicable, complainant with notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the hearing. At the discretion of the hearing officer, and where the rights of the

parties will not be prejudiced thereby, all or part of any hearing may be conducted by telephone or other electronic means. Each party in the hearing must have an opportunity to participate effectively in, to hear, and if technically and economically feasible, to see the entire proceeding while it is taking place. The notices will include information about how to request accommodations or interpreters for any parties or witnesses. Any request for the presence of an emotional support animal or any other accommodation must be directed to disability support services and approved as a reasonable accommodation in advance of the hearing. A person may bring a certified therapy animal with a handler to a hearing. The notice of hearing must be served on the respondent and complainant at least seven business days prior to the hearing. The director may coordinate with the parties to facilitate scheduling, but is not required to do so.

(7) Evidence.

(a) Evidence: Pertinent records, exhibits and written statements may be accepted as information for consideration by the council in accordance with RCW 34.05.452. Council may review proposed exhibits prior to the hearing. Any investigation conducted by ~~((the university))~~ EWU will be admitted into evidence as long as the investigator testifies at the hearing. Evidence, including hearsay evidence, is admissible if in the judgment of the CRO it is the kind of evidence on which reasonably prudent persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of their affairs. The CRO shall exclude evidence that is excludable on constitutional or statutory grounds or on the basis of evidentiary privilege recognized by Washington courts. The CRO may exclude irrelevant material. If not inconsistent with this section, the CRO shall refer to the Washington rules of evidence as guidelines for evidentiary rulings. Prior or subsequent conduct of the respondent may be considered in determining opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, identity, a pattern of conduct, credibility, or absence of mistake or lack of knowledge. ~~((For Title IX complaints, prior to allowing a question to be answered during cross-examination, the CRO must determine that the question is relevant, and, if excluded, the CRO must explain on the record the reason for the exclusion.))~~

(b) The respondent ~~((and complainant have))~~ has the right to view all material presented during the course of the hearing. ~~((If a respondent's disciplinary history is considered solely for sanctioning purposes, the complainant does not have a right to review the history.))~~

(c) All testimony of parties and witnesses shall be made under oath or affirmation. Any interpreter shall be proscribed the oath set forth in WAC 10-08-160.

(d) Documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or excerpts, or by incorporation by reference.

(e) Official notice may be taken of (i) any easily verifiable facts such as dates or weather conditions, (ii) technical or scientific facts within EWU's specialized knowledge, such as enrollment status or class schedules, and (iii) codes or standards that have been adopted by an agency of the United States, of this state or of another state, or by a nationally recognized organization or association. Parties shall be notified either before or during hearing, or by reference in preliminary reports or otherwise, of the material so noticed and the sources thereof, including any staff memoranda and data, and they shall be afforded an opportunity to contest the facts and material so noticed. A party proposing that official notice be taken may be required to produce a copy of the material to be noticed.

(f) All rulings upon objections to the admissibility of evidence shall be made in accordance with the provisions of RCW 34.05.452 (~~except for the additional restrictions on the admission of evidence required by Title IX~~).

(8) Discovery. Discovery is not permitted under the code, except for requests for documentary information from (~~the university~~) EWU. Either party may request (~~the university~~) EWU to produce relevant documents in (~~the university's~~) EWU's possession as long as such request is submitted at least five business days prior to the hearing, absent extenuating circumstances. If the CRO determines the request is not relevant to the present allegation, the CRO may deny the request. (~~The university~~) EWU will provide the requested information prior to the hearing to the extent permitted by state and federal law.

(9) Subpoenas.

(a) Subpoenas may be issued by the presiding officer or an attorney consistent with RCW 34.05.446. However, for the protection of both parties, a party cannot subpoena the other party. A party may request an exemption from this rule by filing a written request with the presiding officer at least 10 days prior to the hearing. The presiding officer will provide a copy of the request to the other party and give them three days to respond. The presiding officer will then decide whether or not sufficient cause exists to grant an exemption to this rule and will inform the parties of the decision. Any subpoena issued must conform to EWU's subpoena form. Every subpoena shall identify the party causing issuance of the subpoena and shall state EWU's name and the title of the proceeding and shall direct the person to whom it is directed to attend and give testimony or produce designated books, documents, or things under their control.

A subpoena to a person to provide testimony at a hearing shall specify the time and place set for hearing.

(b) A subpoena may be served by any suitable person over 18 years of age, by exhibiting and reading it to the witness, or by giving them a copy thereof, or by leaving such copy at the place of their abode. When service is made by any other person than an officer authorized to serve process, proof of service shall be made by affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury.

(c) The CRO, upon motion by a party or at their own discretion, may quash or modify the subpoena if it is unreasonable or oppressive. Subpoenas may not be used to threaten or intimidate parties or witnesses.

(10) Summary judgment. A motion for summary judgment may be granted and an order issued if the written record shows that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. (~~A motion for summary judgment is not permitted for Title IX complaints.~~)

(11) Witnesses.

(a) The complainant, respondent, and (~~the university's~~) EWU's presenter may call witnesses at full hearings.

(b) The person who wishes to call a witness is responsible for ensuring that the witness is available and present at the time of the hearing. An attorney may subpoena a witness to appear at the hearing. Nonattorneys may request the CRO to subpoena witnesses in accordance with subsection (4) of this section. The CRO has the discretion to deny a request to issue a subpoena or to quash a subpoena issued by an attorney if the subpoena is unreasonable, oppressive, or does not conform to EWU's subpoena form.

(c) The CRO may exclude witnesses from the hearing room when they are not testifying. The CRO is not required to take the testimony of all witnesses called by the parties if such testimony may be irrelevant. (~~For Title IX complaints, any decision to exclude a witness shall be explained on the record.~~)

(d) All parties have the right to hear all testimony provided by witnesses during the hearing.

(e) The parties should inform the CRO of any possible need for an interpreter or any accommodation requests at least five business days prior to the hearing. The CRO will comply with WAC 10-08-150.

(12) Questioning:

(a) (~~The complainant's advisor~~) Through the CRO, the respondent's advisor, and (~~the university's~~) EWU's presenter may ask questions of any witness, or party, including cross-examination questions. (~~For cases that do not involve Title IX complaints, if the student does~~) If the parties do not have an advisor, (~~the complainant and respondent~~) they may submit questions in writing to the CRO and the CRO may ask the questions. (~~For Title IX complaints, if a party does not have an advisor, the university will provide the party with an advisor aligned with that party for the purposes of conducting cross-examination as long as the party requests such an advisor at least five business days in advance of the hearing.~~) The CRO may also ask questions, but is not required to do so. The CRO may preclude any questions which they consider irrelevant (~~, and for Title IX cases such decision must be explained on the record. The CRO must exclude and the council shall not consider any questions or evidence pertaining to the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent. The CRO will explain to the parties the reason for rejecting any questions and will maintain a record of the questions submitted and rulings made~~).

(b) The council may ask their own questions of any witness or party called before them.

(13) Remote appearance. The CRO may accommodate concerns for personal safety, well-being, or fears of confrontation of any person appearing at the hearing by providing separate facilities, or by permitting participation by video conferencing, or other means that allows the council and parties to see and hear the party answering questions, as determined appropriate, subject to subsection (3)(b) of this section.

(14) Deliberations and sanctions. Following the hearing, the council will determine in closed session whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, the respondent violated the student conduct code based on the evidence presented at the hearing. If a student fails to appear, the council shall make a decision based on the information available. The council shall make its decisions based on a majority vote. If the council determines the respondent violated the student conduct code, the CRO shall then decide what sanctions and remedies shall be imposed. The CRO may review the respondent's previous disciplinary history for purposes of determining the appropriate sanction. In addition to sanctions under this code, if the student is also an employee of (~~the university~~) EWU, the CRO's decision may be forwarded to the student's supervisor to determine whether any employment

actions outside of this code should be taken in accordance with ~~((uni-  
versity))~~ EWU policy.

The council shall issue a decision including their findings, conclusions, and rationale. The decision shall address credibility issues if credibility or witness demeanor was a substantial factor in the council's decision. Credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness. The findings shall be based exclusively on the evidence provided at the hearing. If the council finds the respondent violated the code, the CRO shall add the decision regarding sanctions and remedies to the council's decision. Such decisions should be issued within 10 business days from the date of the hearing. The written decision shall also:

(a) Be correctly captioned identifying EWU and the name of the proceeding;

(b) Designate all parties and representatives participating in the proceeding;

(c) Identify the allegations at issue;

(d) A description of the procedural steps taken, including notifications to the parties, interviews with the parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;

(e) Contain appropriate numbered findings of fact meeting the requirements in RCW 34.05.461;

(f) Contain appropriately numbered conclusions regarding the application of ~~((university))~~ EWU policies and this code to the facts;

(g) A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility ~~((r))~~ and any disciplinary sanctions imposed ~~((, and if any remedies are necessary to provide to the complainant in a Title IX complaint to restore or preserve equal access to the university's educational programs or activities))~~;

(h) Contain a statement describing rights to appeal and the procedures for appealing.

(15) Finality. The council's and CRO's decision becomes final at either the conclusion or the appeal process under this code, if an appeal is filed, or if an appeal is not filed, the date on which an appeal would no longer be timely.

(16) Notification to the respondent. The CRO shall serve the respondent with a copy of the decision and notice of the right to appeal.

(17) Notification to the complainant. ~~((In cases of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence))~~ Where applicable and to the extent permitted by law, simultaneous with notification of the decision to the respondent, the complainant shall be provided with written notice of:

(a) The university's determination as to whether ~~((sexual))~~ misconduct ~~((or interpersonal violence))~~ occurred;

(b) The complainant's right to appeal, if any;

(c) Any change to the results that occurs prior to the time that such results become final and when such results become final (20 U.S.C. 1092(f));

(d) Information regarding the discipline of the respondent will not be released unless:

(i) The information contained in the record directly relates to the complainant, such as ~~((an order requiring the student harasser to not contact))~~ a no contact order with the complainant; or

(ii) ~~((The misconduct involves a crime of violence or a sexual assault, including rape, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking as defined in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 13925(a).~~

~~(e)) Any remedies provided to the complainant. ((For Title IX complaints, the complainant shall receive a copy of the decision provided to the respondent under subsection (14) of this section.~~

~~(18) **Notification to Title IX coordinator.** For Title IX complaints, the Title IX coordinator must be provided with notice of the decision as the Title IX coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.)~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-01-027, filed 12/9/22, effective 1/9/23)

**WAC 172-121-130 Appeals.** (1) Basis: Appeals following a ~~((brief hearing))~~ conduct review meeting or full hearing may be filed by the respondent under this section. ~~((In cases of sexual misconduct, interpersonal violence, or a Title IX complaint, the complainant may also file an appeal following dismissal of a complaint or a full hearing.))~~ Appeals of interim restrictions are governed by WAC 172-121-140. Appeals may be filed for one or more of the following reasons:

(a) To determine whether the hearing was conducted according to established procedures that affected the outcome of the matter.

(b) The hearing authority misinterpreted the student conduct code.

(c) To determine whether the decision reached by the hearing authority, or the director of SRR's decision to not proceed with a hearing, was based on the information presented and that information was sufficient to reasonably establish that a violation of the conduct code did or did not occur based on a preponderance of the evidence.

(d) To determine whether the sanction(s) imposed were reasonable and appropriate for the associated conduct code violation(s).

(e) To consider newly discovered, material information that was not reasonably available at the time the determination finding responsibility or dismissal was made that could affect the outcome of the matter. It is the party's obligation to present all evidence at the time of the original hearing. ~~((The university))~~ EWU is not obligated to grant an appeal and conduct a new hearing when parties do not take reasonable efforts to prepare their cases for the original hearing.

(f) The ~~((Title IX coordinator,))~~ investigator~~((,))~~ or hearing authorities had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

(2) Filing: Appeals may be filed following a ~~((brief hearing))~~ conduct review meeting, full hearing, or dismissal of a complaint, subject to the following provisions:

(a) The appeal must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. PST to the director of student rights and responsibilities or designee within 10 ~~((business))~~ calendar days from service of the council's decision following a full hearing or dismissal of a complaint, or within 21 calendar days from service of a decision from a ~~((brief hearing))~~ conduct review meeting conducted by the CRO;

(b) The appeal shall be in writing and shall include:

(i) The ~~((appellant's))~~ student's name;

(ii) The nature of the decision and sanctions reached by the hearing official;

(iii) The basis, as described in subsection (1) of this section, for the appeal; and

(iv) What remedy the ((appellant)) student is seeking.

~~((c) In cases of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, the other party must be given a copy of the appeal and provided with an opportunity to provide his/her own written response to the appeal within three business days.))~~

(3) Stay of sanctions: Sanctions go into effect immediately after the hearing decision is issued. If the respondent wishes to have a sanction stayed during the appeal process, a request for a stay must be filed with SRR within five calendar days of the decision. The request for the stay will be reviewed by the CRO or presiding officer who presided over the hearing. The stay may be granted in part or in its entirety, at the discretion of the CRO/presiding officer. The decision will be communicated to the respondent ~~((and, for sexual misconduct and interpersonal cases, the complainant))~~. This decision is not subject to appeal.

(4) Appeal authorities:

(a) For dismissal of a complaint, appeals are determined by the dean of students or designee.

(b) For ~~((brief hearings))~~ conduct review meetings, appeals are determined by the dean of students or designee.

(c) For full hearings, appeals are determined by the vice president for student affairs or designee.

(5) Forwarding of appeals: The director of SRR shall forward the appeal to the appropriate appeal authority. The submitted appeal will include, at a minimum, the appellant's written appeal and the written report of the case. The director of SRR may also forward any other written records related to the case.

(6) Review of appeals:

(a) Before rendering a decision, the appeal authority may request additional information or explanation from any of the parties to the proceedings.

(b) Except as required to explain the basis of new information, an appeal shall be limited to a review of the verbatim record of the conduct review hearing and supporting documents.

(c) In making its decision, the appeal authority will only consider the written record before it in relation to the basis for appeal, the appellant's notice of appeal, where applicable, the other party's response, and other information and/or explanation it has requested from the parties to the proceedings.

(7) Decisions: After reviewing the appeal, the appeal authority may affirm, reverse, modify, or remand the decision(s) of the hearing authority. The appeal decision shall include an explanation of the appeal authority's decision and rationale. The appeal decision must be issued within 30 calendar days of the appeal authority receiving all necessary documentation.

(8) Remanded cases: In cases where the appeal authority remands the decision or sanction(s) of the hearing authority, the case will be returned to the hearing authority for reconsideration or other action as specified by the appeal authority. Following such reconsideration, the hearing authority will return the case to the appeal authority for further review/action. The appeal authority will then complete the appeal process or remand the case again. No appeal may, however, be remanded more than two times. After a case has been remanded twice, the

appeal authority must affirm or reverse the decision and affirm, reverse, or modify the sanctions.

(9) Sanctions: The appeal authority may affirm, reverse, remand, or modify the sanctions assigned to the respondent. When determining sanctions, the appeal authority may consider the complete record of the respondent's prior conduct and academic performance in addition to all other information associated with the case.

(10) Notification: Once the appeal authority has made a final decision to affirm or reverse and/or to modify the sanctions assigned, the appeal authority shall forward the decision to the director of SRR. The director of SRR or designee shall serve the respondent, and, ~~((in cases of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, notify))~~ where applicable, the complainant, with a brief written statement setting forth the outcome of the appeal. The notification shall also inform the recipient that judicial review of the decision may be available under chapter 34.05 RCW.

(11) Further proceedings. The appeal authority's decision is final and no further appeals may be made under the student conduct code. Judicial review of ~~((the university's))~~ EWU's decision may be available under chapter 34.05 RCW.

(12) Appeals standards:

(a) Appeal authorities must weigh all pertinent information presented to them in determining whether sufficient evidence exists to support reversal or modification of decisions or sanctions.

(b) For appeals based on a deviation from established procedures, such deviations will not be a basis for sustaining an appeal unless the alleged deviation materially changed the outcome of the case or the sanctions imposed.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 24-01-030, filed 12/8/23, effective 1/8/24)

**WAC 172-121-140 Supportive measures and interim restrictions.**

(1) Supportive measures. During the complaint review, the director of SRR or designee, ~~((Title IX coordinator, or designee))~~ will evaluate the circumstances and determine if any supportive measures to assist or protect the parties during the conduct code process are needed. ~~((For sexual misconduct and interpersonal violence cases,))~~ Supportive measures ((are)) may be available before or after the filing of a complaint or where no formal complaint is filed. Supportive measures are provided to students free of charge and may include, but are not limited to, safety planning with the university, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, academic or workplace modifications, providing counseling for the complainant and/or respondent, or campus housing modifications. The purpose of a supportive measure is to provide an equitable process for both students that minimizes the possibility of a hostile environment on campus. ~~((For Title IX complaints,))~~ Supportive measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the university's educational programs or activities without unreasonably burdening either party, including protecting the safety of all parties and the university's educational environment, or deterring ((sexual)) harassment. ((Supportive measures in cases of sexual misconduct and interpersonal violence are coordinated by the Title IX coordinator or designee.))

(2) Interim restrictions. ~~((For Title IX complaints, in situations where there is cause to believe that a student or a student organization poses an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual, including themselves, the Title IX coordinator in conjunction with the director of SRR may take immediate action(s) against the student or student organization after conducting an individualized safety and risk analysis without prior notice or hearing.~~

~~Simultaneous with such action(s), the director of SRR will refer the allegations to the conduct review officer, who will process such allegations in accordance with the provisions of this student conduct code.~~

~~For all non-Title IX cases,))~~ The SRR director or designee may take immediate action(s) against ~~((the))~~ a student or student organization after conducting an individualized safety and risk analysis without prior notice or hearing. Simultaneously, the director shall refer the allegations to the conduct review officer. ~~((For non-Title IX cases,))~~ Interim restrictions ~~((is))~~ are subject to the following:

(a) Interim restriction actions may only be imposed in the following situations:

(i) When a student or student organization poses an immediate threat to:

(A) The physical health or safety of any student or any other individual;

(B) The student's own physical safety and well-being; or

(C) Any property of the ~~((university))~~ EWU community; or

(ii) When it is believed that the student's or student organization's continued attendance or presence may cause disorder, substantially interfere with or impede the lawful activities of others, or imperil the physical or mental health and safety of members of the ~~((university))~~ EWU community.

(b) During the interim restriction period, a student may be restricted by any or all of the following means:

(i) Denial of access including, but not limited to: Assignment to alternate ~~((university))~~ EWU housing or removal from ~~((university))~~ EWU housing, limitation of access to ~~((university))~~ EWU facilities, or restriction of communication with specific individuals or groups;

(ii) Interim suspension, including temporary total removal from ~~((the university))~~ EWU or restriction of access to campus ~~((For Title IX complaints, a student may only be placed on interim suspension if, after conducting an individualized safety and risk analysis, the director determines the person poses an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence));~~

(iii) Mandatory medical/psychological assessment of the student's capability to remain ~~((in the university))~~ enrolled at EWU.

(3) The director of SRR or designee will determine what restriction(s) will be placed on a student.

(4) The director of SRR or designee will prepare a brief memorandum for record containing the reasons for the interim restriction. The director will serve the memorandum on the restricted student and notify all other persons or offices bound by it. At a minimum, the memorandum will state:

(a) The alleged act(s) or behavior(s) of the student or student organization which prompted the interim restriction;

(b) How those alleged act(s) or behavior(s) could constitute a violation of the student conduct code;

(c) How the circumstances of the case necessitated the interim restriction action(s); and

(d) An explanation of the process for emergency appeal reviews.

~~(5) ((Notice to complainant. In cases alleging sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, the complainant will be provided with notice of any interim restrictions that relate directly to the complainant. If the respondent appeals such interim restrictions, the complainant will be given notice of the respondent's appeal and an opportunity to submit a statement within five business days of the notice as to why the interim restriction should or should not be modified.~~

~~(6-))~~ Emergency appeal review.

(a) If a student has been suspended on an interim basis, the student will automatically receive an emergency appeal review with the vice president for student affairs, or designee. If the interim restriction is something less than a suspension, the student or student organization subject to the interim restriction must file a written appeal with the vice president for student affairs or designee within five business days after service of the interim restriction. In all cases, the student must submit any information the student wishes the vice president to consider submitted within 10 business days after service of the interim restriction. The appealing party should outline the desired modification(s) to the interim restriction as well as the specific challenge(s) to the interim restriction decision. Challenges to interim restriction decisions are limited to the criteria identified in WAC 172-121-140(1) upon which the interim restriction was imposed (threat to health or safety of the ((~~university~~)) EWU community, potential for creating campus disorder, impeding the lawful activity of others, etc.). Appealing parties are limited to submitting their own written statements. Any other evidence should be submitted to the investigator or provided to the CRO under the regular hearing process.

(b) The vice president for student affairs, or designee, will conduct an emergency appeal review after receiving the respondent's review and complainant's response, if any. Emergency appeal reviews will address only the interim restriction decision of the director and the basis on which the restriction modification or termination is requested by the appealing party. The emergency appeal review does not replace the regular hearing process. In the emergency appeal review, the vice president will only review materials available to and information considered by the director and/or dean of students at the time the interim restriction was imposed, written statements by the ((~~two parties~~)) appellant, and information that becomes available as a part of ((~~the university's~~)) EWU's investigation that the vice president deems relevant.

~~(c) ((In cases alleging sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence, if a complainant believes the interim restriction does not adequately protect their health and safety, the complainant may appeal the interim restriction using the process outlined in this subsection. If the complainant files an appeal, all parties shall be given notice of the appeal and shall be provided the opportunity to submit a written statement to the vice president within five business days of receiving notice of the complainant's appeal.~~

~~(d-))~~ During the emergency appeal review, the vice president for student affairs or designee will review available materials and statements. The vice president for student affairs will issue a written decision upholding, modifying, or terminating the interim restriction action. The written decision shall include a rationale for the basis

of the decision and be issued within 15 business days of the date of service of an interim restriction.

~~((e))~~ (d) The interim restriction does not replace the regular hearing process, which will proceed as quickly as feasible consistent with this chapter.

~~((f))~~ (e) Duration. An interim restriction will remain in effect until terminated, in writing, by the student disciplinary council, CRO, or the vice president for student affairs.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-01-027, filed 12/9/22, effective 1/9/23)

**WAC 172-121-300 Violations.** ~~((The university))~~ EWU prohibits students from engaging in the conduct described in this section, WAC 172-121-301 through 172-121-324, chapters 172-125 and 172-90 WAC, and relevant ~~((university))~~ EWU policies. Clubs, organizations, societies, or similarly organized groups in or recognized by ~~((the university))~~ EWU and/or the associated students of Eastern Washington University are also subject to all of these standards. Violations of these rules and policy may subject a student or student group to disciplinary action by ~~((the university))~~ EWU. Groups may also be subject to disciplinary action for knowingly failing to exercise preventive measures relative to violations of this code by their members.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 24-01-030, filed 12/8/23, effective 1/8/24)

**WAC 172-121-302 Abuse, threats, bullying, and harassment.** (1) Abuse. Assault and other forms of physical abuse. Assault is intentionally touching or striking another person in a harmful or offensive way.

(2) Threats. A threat is any conduct and/or speech that, when viewed objectively, threatens bodily harm to another person or that endangers the health or safety of another person. If the threat primarily involves speech, the speaker also must have consciously disregarded a substantial, unjustifiable risk that the communications could be viewed as threatening violence.

(3) Bullying. Bullying is behavior that is:

(a) Intentional;

(b) Targeted at an individual or group; and

(c) Creates an intimidating and/or threatening environment that is so severe or pervasive, and objectively offensive, that it substantially interferes with another's ability to work, study, participate in, or benefit from ~~((the university's))~~ EWU's programs and activities.

~~((4))~~ Discriminatory harassment. Physical, verbal, electronic, or other conduct based on an individual's race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, citizenship or immigration status, disability, or veteran status when one of the conditions outlined in subsection (3) (a) or (b) of this section are present:

~~((a))~~ Submission to, or rejection of such conduct is made implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of a person's instruction, aca-

~~ademic standing, employment, or participation in any university program, activity, or benefit, or is used as a basis for evaluation in making academic or personnel decisions; or~~

~~(b) Such conduct creates a hostile environment. A hostile environment is created when the conduct is sufficiently severe or pervasive, and objectively offensive, that it unreasonably interferes with an individual's academic or work performance, ability to participate in or benefit from the university's programs, services, opportunities, or activities. Unreasonable interference is viewed from both a subjective and objective standard.)~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-01-027, filed 12/9/22, effective 1/9/23)

**WAC 172-121-306 Unauthorized use of electronic or other devices.**

Making an audio or video recording of any person while on ~~((university))~~ EWU premises without the person's prior knowledge or without their effective consent, when such a recording is of a private conversation or of images taken of a person(s) at a time and place where the person would reasonably expect privacy and where such recordings are likely to cause injury or distress. The act of storing, sharing, publishing, or in any way disseminating such recordings or images through any medium is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, surreptitiously taking pictures of another person in a gym, locker room, or restroom, but does not include taking pictures of persons in areas which are considered by the reasonable person to be open to public view.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-01-027, filed 12/9/22, effective 1/9/23)

**WAC 172-121-400 Sanctions ~~((and remedies))~~.**

If any student or student organization is found to have committed any of the offenses described in WAC 172-121-300 through 172-121-324, one or more of the sanctions described in this section may be imposed against the student or student organization. Imposed sanctions are effective as of the date the CRO or council issues its decision unless the decision specifically identifies an alternative date. Failure to comply with any imposed sanction may result in additional sanctions. In addition to the sanction imposed by this code, if a student is also an employee of ~~((the university, the university))~~ EWU, EWU may impose additional discipline in accordance with its policies and procedures pertaining to employees.

(1) **Individual student sanctions:**

(a) Admonition: An oral statement to a student that they have violated ~~((university))~~ EWU rules and regulations.

(b) Warning: A notice to the student or student organization that they have violated the standards for student conduct and that any repeated or continuing violation of the same standard, within a specified period of time, may result in more severe disciplinary action. A warning may be verbal or written.

(c) Censure: A written reprimand for violation of specified regulations. A censure will also state that more severe disciplinary sanc-

tions may be imposed if the student or student organization is found in violation of any regulation within a stated period of time.

(d) Disciplinary probation: A formal action which places one or more conditions, for a specified period of time, on the student's continued attendance. Disciplinary probation sanctions will be executed in writing and will specify the probationary conditions and the period of the probation. A disciplinary probation notice will also inform the student that any further misconduct will automatically involve consideration of suspension. Probationary conditions may include, but are not limited to:

(i) Restricting the student's (~~(university)~~) EWU-related privileges;

(ii) Limiting the student's participation in extra-curricular activities; and/or

(iii) Enforcing a "no contact" order which would prohibit direct or indirect physical and/or verbal contact with specific individuals or groups.

(e) Restitution: Reimbursement to (~~(the university)~~) EWU or others for damage, destruction, or other loss of property suffered as a result of theft or negligence. Restitution also includes reimbursement for medical expenses incurred due to conduct code violations. Restitution may take the form of appropriate service or other compensation. Failure to fulfill restitution requirements will result in cancellation of the student's registration and will prevent the student from future registration until restitution conditions are satisfied.

(f) Fines: The (~~(university)~~) EWU conduct review officer and the student disciplinary council may assess monetary fines up to a maximum of \$400 against individual students for violation of (~~(university)~~) EWU rules or regulations or for failure to comply with (~~(university)~~) EWU standards of conduct. Failure to promptly pay such fines will prevent the student from future registration. Failure to pay may also result in additional sanctions.

(g) Discretionary sanctions: Work assignments, service to (~~(the university)~~) EWU community or other related discretionary assignments for a specified period of time as directed by the hearing authority.

(h) Loss of financial aid: In accordance with RCW 28B.10.902, a person who participates in the hazing of another forfeits entitlement to state-funded grants, scholarships or awards for a specified period of time determined by (~~(the university)~~) EWU.

(i) Assessment: Referral for drug/alcohol or psychological assessment may be required. Results of the assessment may lead to the determination that conditions of treatment and further assessment apply to either continued attendance or return after a period of suspension.

(j) Suspension: Exclusion from classes and other privileges or activities for a specified period of time. Suspensions will be executed through a written order of suspension and will state all restrictions imposed by the suspension, as well as the suspension period and what conditions of readmission, if any, are ordered. Suspensions may be noted on the student's transcript during the period of time the suspension is in effect.

(k) Expulsion: Permanent separation of the student from (~~(the university)~~) EWU with no promise (implied or otherwise) that the student may return at any future time. The student will also be barred from (~~(university)~~) EWU premises. Expulsions may be noted on the student's transcript.

(l) Loss of institutional, financial aid funds: Formal withholding of all or a part of institutional funds currently being received by the student or promised for future disbursement to the student for a specified period of time. Loss of financial aid is subject to the processes outlined in this chapter except any such loss must be approved by the dean of students and the vice president for student affairs before such sanction is imposed.

(m) Revocation of degree: A degree awarded by ~~((the university))~~ EWU may be revoked for fraud, misrepresentation, or other violation of law or ~~((university))~~ EWU standards. Revocation of a degree is subject to processes outlined in this chapter except that revocation of a degree must also be approved by the ~~((university))~~ EWU president.

(n) Education: Requirement to successfully complete an educational project designed to create an awareness of the respondent's misconduct.

(o) EWU housing restrictions: Separation of the respondent from a residence hall or halls for a definite period of time, after which the respondent may be eligible to return, or permanent restriction. Conditions for readmission may be specified.

(2) **Student organizations and/or group sanctions:** Any of the above sanctions may be imposed in addition to those listed below:

(a) Probation: Formal action placing conditions on the group's continued recognition by or permission to function at ~~((the university))~~ EWU. The probationary conditions will apply for a specified period of time. Violation of the conditions of probation or additional violations while under probation may result in more severe sanctions;

(b) Social probation: Prohibition of the group from sponsoring any organized social activity, party or function, or from obtaining a permission for the use of alcoholic beverages at social functions for a specified period of time;

(c) Restriction: The temporary withdrawal of ~~((university))~~ EWU or ASEWU recognition for a group, club, society or other organization. Restriction is subject to the processes outlined in this chapter except any restriction must also be approved by the dean of students and the vice president of student affairs before such sanction is imposed;

(d) Revocation: The permanent withdrawal of ~~((university))~~ EWU or ASEWU recognition for a group, club, society or other organization. Per RCW 28B.10.902, any organization, association, or student living group that knowingly permits hazing to be conducted by its members or by others subject to its direction or control shall be deprived of recognition by ~~((the university))~~ EWU;

(e) Additional sanctions: In addition to or separately from the above, any one or a combination of the following may be concurrently imposed on the group:

(i) Exclusion from intramural competition as a group;

(ii) Denial of use of ~~((university))~~ EWU facilities for meetings, events, etc.;

(iii) Restitution; and/or

(iv) Fines.

~~((3) Remedies. For Title IX complaints, if the respondent is found responsible for violating the code, the university may provide remedies to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the university's educational programs or activities.))~~

REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| WAC 172-121-303 | Domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. |
| WAC 172-121-304 | Sexual misconduct.                                |

## WSR 24-16-029

## EMERGENCY RULES

## EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

[Filed July 27, 2024, 12:53 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Other Findings Required by Other Provisions of Law as Precondition to Adoption or Effectiveness of Rule: As identified in chapter 172-108 WAC, Eastern Washington University (EWU) declines to adopt the model rules of procedure issued by the office of administrative hearings. Instead, these rules are designed to emphasize the educational nature of the university community and to provide a prompt and equitable process for resolving concerns consistent with the requirements of Title VI and Title IX.

Purpose: To comply with new Title IX regulations that are effective August 1, 2024, EWU has designed an updated process for receiving and responding to concerns about students engaging in discrimination, discriminatory harassment, sexual violence, or interpersonal violence (chapter 172-125 WAC). EWU's previous procedures were contained in chapter 172-121 WAC, Student conduct code. To make the regulation more accessible for students and to provide greater support to students throughout the process, the procedures for handling complaints involving discrimination, discriminatory harassment, sexual violence, and interpersonal violence have been moved from the student conduct code to this new code. Additionally, due to the changes in Title IX, EWU will no longer be providing a formal adjudicative proceeding for Title IX complaints against employees.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 172-108-040 and 172-108-050.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.35.120(12).

Other Authority: 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: Revised definitions and procedures, including procedures for responding to complaints of discrimination against students, are required to comply with updated Title IX regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 106. The Title IX regulations go into effect on August 1, 2024; thus, this emergency rule is being filed with an effective date of August 1, 2024.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: June 20, 2024.

Annika Scharosch  
Associate Vice President for Civil Rights  
Compliance and Business Services

OTS-5548.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-104, filed 12/11/20, effective 1/11/21)

**WAC 172-108-040 Formal adjudicative proceedings.** (1) Eastern Washington University utilizes a formal adjudicative proceeding for certain student conduct proceedings as identified in chapters 172-121 and 172-125 WAC, and certain academic integrity code proceedings as identified in chapter 172-90 WAC. The procedural rules for these formal adjudicative proceedings are contained in the student conduct code, chapter 172-121 WAC, discrimination and Title IX violations by students code, chapter 172-125 WAC, and the academic integrity code, chapter 172-90 WAC. In all other cases, Eastern Washington University only utilizes formal adjudicative proceedings when required by RCW 34.05.413 through 34.05.476 (~~or for the adjudication of formal Title IX complaints against employees as set forth in university policy~~).

(2) An application for a formal adjudicative proceeding shall be in writing. Application forms are available from: University Policy Administration; Eastern Washington University; Tawanka 211, Cheney, WA 99004-2496. Written application for a formal adjudicative proceeding in response to the institution's action must be submitted to the above address within (~~twenty-one~~) 21 calendar days of the action, unless otherwise provided by statute or rule.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-12-034, filed 5/25/21, effective 6/25/21)

**WAC 172-108-050 Brief adjudicative proceedings.** In accordance with RCW 34.05.410 (1)(a), the procedures identified in RCW 34.05.482 through 34.05.494 apply to all brief adjudicative proceedings at Eastern Washington University. All applications for a brief adjudicative proceeding shall be in writing. Application forms are available from: University Policy Administration; Tawanka 211; Eastern Washington University; Cheney, WA 99004-2496. Written application for a brief adjudicative proceeding in response to the institution's action must be submitted to the university within (~~twenty-one~~) 21 calendar days of the action, unless a different time frame is specified in the regulations identified below that apply to the type of decision being challenged. When required by law or constitutional right, brief adjudicative proceedings shall be used in all matters of appeal related to:

(1) Residency determinations made pursuant to RCW 28B.15.013 and chapter 250-18 WAC;

(2) Challenges to contents of education records, review of the denial to inspect such records, or challenges to the disclosure of such records. In addition to the rules identified below, these challenges are governed by chapter 172-191 WAC;

(3) Student conduct proceedings, if the potential sanction for the alleged misconduct does not include suspension, expulsion, (~~for formal Title IX complaints,~~) or an allegation of felony-level (~~sexual~~) misconduct. In addition to the rules identified below, these proceedings are governed by chapters 172-121 and 172-125 WAC;

(4) Outstanding debts owed by students or employees, pursuant to chapters 172-124 and 172-144 WAC;

- (5) Traffic and parking violations and revocations of any parking permit pursuant to chapter 172-100 WAC;
- (6) Student academic integrity proceedings, if the potential sanction for the alleged misconduct does not include suspension or expulsion. In addition to the rules identified in this section, these proceedings are governed by chapter 172-90 WAC;
- (7) Library fines and charges;
- (8) Reduction, cancellation, or nonrenewal of institutional financial aid when based in any degree on athletics ability per National Collegiate Athletic Association rules as detailed in WAC 172-108-100;
- (9) Administrative decisions regarding statutorily mandated tuition and/or fee waivers;
- (10) Research integrity violations in accordance with EWU Policy 302-05 when required by federal law;
- (11) Citations issued by university police regarding the use of golf carts and utility vehicles, in accordance with EWU Policy 603-06;
- (12) Fines imposed for impermissible use of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products in accordance with WAC 172-122-310;
- (13) Financial aid appeals as provided for by federal law and in accordance with EWU policies for satisfactory academic progress for undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate students;
- (14) Denial of work study or termination from a work study position when required by federal law;
- (15) Notice against trespass issued per WAC 172-122-200;
- (16) Denial of request to waive undergraduate housing requirement under chapter 172-130 WAC;
- (17) Fines assessed under a university housing agreement; and
- (18) Penalties imposed for violations of pet control regulations in accordance with chapter 172-115 WAC.

**WSR 24-16-033**  
**RESCISSION OF EMERGENCY RULES**  
**SUPERINTENDENT OF**  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

[Filed July 29, 2024, 8:35 a.m.]

On June 28, 2024, the office of superintendent of public instruction (OSPI) filed a CR-103P rule-making order (WSR 24-14-074) concerning permanent rule making for chapters 392-121, 392-122, and 392-425 WAC. As indicated in the CR-103P rule-making order (WSR 24-14-074), the permanent rule updates will become effective on July 29, 2024.

A previous emergency rule renewal (WSR 24-08-020) was filed on March 25, 2024, with an expiration date of July 23, 2024. Accordingly, on July 22, 2024, OSPI filed a CR-103E emergency rule-making order (WSR 24-15-101) to renew emergency rule making for chapters 392-121, 392-122, and 392-425 WAC, in order to ensure that the emergency rules continue to be in place until the permanent rules take effect.

Because the most recent emergency rule renewal filing will still be in effect on the same day that the permanent rules become effective, OSPI must rescind the CR-103E emergency rule-making order (WSR 24-15-101) in order to avoid any overlap between the emergency rules and permanent rules.

Therefore, this document serves as official notification that OSPI is rescinding the CR-103E emergency rule-making order (WSR 24-15-101), effective July 29, 2024.

Chris P. S. Reykdal  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

## WSR 24-16-034

## EMERGENCY RULES

## COLUMBIA BASIN COLLEGE

[Filed July 29, 2024, 9:41 a.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring Columbia Basin College's (college) student conduct code (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedures recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 132S-100-050, 132S-100-203, 132S-100-225, 132S-100-232, 132S-100-237, 132S-100-252, 132S-100-254, 132S-100-295, 132S-100-442 and 132S-100-444; and amending WAC 132S-100-030, 132S-100-100, 132S-100-107, 132S-100-117, 132S-100-202, 132S-100-205, 132S-100-210, 132S-100-213, 132S-100-220, 132S-100-227, 132S-100-235, 132S-100-245, 132S-100-250, 132S-100-255, 132S-100-260, 132S-100-273, 132S-100-275, 132S-100-280, 132S-100-290, 132S-100-400, 132S-100-407, 132S-100-413, 132S-100-417, 132S-100-440, and 132S-100-445.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

In addition to complying with the new final rule, the college is updating its code to address the sections listed above. These new definitions of prohibited behavior and updated procedures are necessary to address conduct that may pose a threat to the general welfare of the college community and/or college operations and to protect the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Date Adopted: July 29, 2024.

Corey Osborn, Vice President  
Human Resources and Legal Affairs

OTS-5661.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-23-031, filed 11/10/20, effective 12/11/20)

**WAC 132S-100-030 Definitions.** Advisor - A person of the complainant's or respondent's choosing who can accompany the complainant or respondent to any conduct related meeting or proceeding. This person cannot be a college employee or witness involved in the case.

Assembly - Any overt activity engaged in by one or more persons, the object of which is to gain publicity, advocate a view, petition for a cause or disseminate information to any person, persons or group of persons.

Board of trustees - The board of trustees of Community College District No. 19, state of Washington.

Bullying - Physical or verbal abuse, repeated over time, and involving a power imbalance between the aggressor and victim.

Business day - A weekday, excluding weekends and college holidays.

College - Columbia Basin College, established within Community College District No. 19, state of Washington.

College facilities - Any and all real property controlled or operated by the college, including all buildings and appurtenances affixed thereon or attached thereto.

College premises - All land, buildings, facilities, and other property in the possession of or owned, used, or controlled by the college, including adjacent streets and sidewalks.

~~Complainant - ((A person who reports that a violation of CBC policy including this student code of conduct has occurred towards themselves, another person, a group of people, or college property. Complainant shall mean the same as claimant or other such term(s) meeting this definition as used in other college policies and procedures.))~~  
The following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee; or

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

Complaint - A description of facts that allege a violation of student code of conduct or other college policy.

Conduct review officer - Also referred to as the "CRO." A college administrator designated by the president who is responsible for reviewing or referring appeals of student disciplinary actions as specified in this code.

Consent - Knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon activity, including sexual activity. A person cannot consent to sexual activity if they are not of legal age, unable to understand what is happening or is disoriented, helpless, asleep, or unconscious for any reason, including due to alcohol or other drugs. Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual activity.

Cyberstalking, cyberbullying, and online harassment - The prohibited behavior of stalking, bullying, and/or harassment through the use of electronic communications including, but not limited to, electronic mail, instant messaging, electronic bulletin boards, and social media sites, which harms, threatens, or is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of another person.

Dating violence - Violence by a person who has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the victim. Whether there was such rela-

tionship will be gauged by its length, type, and frequency of interaction.

Disciplinary action - ((The sanctioning of any student pursuant to WAC 132S-100-440 for the violation of any designated rule or regulation of the college.)) The process by which the student conduct officer imposes discipline against a student for a violation of the student code of conduct. A written or verbal warning is not disciplinary action.

Disciplinary appeal - 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 10 instructional days or a dismissal from the college are heard by the student conduct committee. Appeals of all other disciplinary action shall be reviewed by the conduct review officer through brief adjudicative proceedings.

Discrimination - Unfavorable treatment of a person based on that person's membership or perceived membership in a protected class.

Domestic violence - Asserted violent misdemeanor and felony offenses or conduct committed by a current or former spouse, current or former cohabitant, a person similarly situated under domestic or family violence law, or anyone else protected under domestic or family violence law.

Filing - 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.

Force - Use of physical violence and/or threats, intimidation or coercion to overcome resistance or gain access or produce consent. Sexual activity that is forced is by definition nonconsensual. However, nonconsensual sexual activity is not by definition forced.

Harassment - Language or conduct by any means that is unwelcome, severe, persistent, or pervasive, and is of such a nature that it could reasonably be expected to create an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment, or has the purpose or effect of unreasonably causing a reasonable person substantial emotional distress or undermines their ability to work, study, or participate in their regular life activities or participate in the activities of the college.

Hazing - Acts likely to cause physical or psychological harm or social ostracism to any person within the college community, when related to admission, initiation, joining, or any other group-affiliation activity.

Hostile environment - Any situation in which there is harassing conduct that could be based on protected class status and is sufficiently severe or pervasive, and is so objectively offensive that it has the effect of substantially limiting the person's ability to participate in or benefit from the college's educational and/or social programs.

Hostile environment sexual harassment - Occurs when sex- or gender-based conduct is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive and so objectively offensive that it has the effect of substantially limiting

the ability of the person to participate in or benefit from the college's educational and/or social programs.

**Instructional day** - Any regularly scheduled instructional day designated in the academic year calendar, including summer quarter, as a day when classes are held or during final examination week. Saturdays and Sundays, and any full-day campus closures due to holidays or other circumstances are not regularly scheduled instructional days.

**Nonconsensual sexual contact** - Any intentional sexual touching, however slight, with any 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.

**Nonconsensual sexual intercourse** - Any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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.

**Policy** - The written regulations of the college as found in, but not limited to, the student code of conduct and any other official regulation written or in electronic form.

**Preponderance of the evidence** - The standard of proof used with all student disciplinary matters at CBC that are within the jurisdiction of student code of conduct, which means that the amount of evidence must be at ~~((fifty-one))~~ 51 percent or "more likely than not" before a student is found responsible for a violation.

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.

~~President - ((The chief executive officer appointed by the board of trustees or, in such president's absence, the acting president or other appointed designee. The president is authorized to delegate any of their responsibilities))~~ 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.

Program or programs and activities - All operations of the college.

**Protected class** - Persons who are protected under state or federal civil rights laws, including laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, perceived or actual physical or mental disability, pregnancy, or genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, creed, religion, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or use of a trained guide dog or service animal.

**Quid pro quo sexual harassment** - Occurs when an individual in a position of real or perceived authority, conditions the receipt of a benefit upon granting of sexual favors.

Relevant - Related to the allegations of sex discrimination under investigation. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred, and

evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred.

Remedies - 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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

Respondent - ((The student who is alleged to have violated CBC policy including this code of conduct or against whom disciplinary action is being taken or initiated. Respondent shall mean the same as responding party or other such term(s) meeting this definition as used in other college policies and procedures.)) A student who is alleged to have violated the student code of conduct.

Rules of the student conduct code - The rules contained herein as now exist or which may be hereafter amended.

Service or notification - The process by which a document is officially delivered to a party. ((Service or notification is deemed complete and computation of time for deadlines begins upon personal delivery of the document or upon the date the document is electronically mailed and/or deposited into the mail. Documents required to be filed with the college such as requests for appeals, are deemed filed upon actual receipt by the office as designated herein during office hours.)) Unless otherwise provided, service upon a party shall be accomplished by:

(a) Hand delivery of the document to the party; or

(b) By 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 that the document is emailed and deposited in the mail, whichever is first.

Sexual exploitation - Occurs when one person takes nonconsensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for their own advantage or benefit, or to benefit or advantage anyone other than the one being exploited, and that behavior does not otherwise constitute one of other sexual misconduct offenses. Examples of sexual exploitation include, but are not limited to: Invasion of sexual privacy, engaging in voyeurism, nonconsensual video or audio taping of sexual activity; sexually based stalking and/or bullying.

Stalking - Intentional and repeated harassment or following of another person, which places that person in reasonable fear that the perpetrator intends to injure, intimidate, or harass that person. Stalking also includes instances where the perpetrator knows or reasonably should know that the person is frightened, intimidated, or harassed, even if the perpetrator lacks such intent.

Student - ((Any person from the time of application, admitted to CBC, or registered for courses either full time or part time, or participating in any other educational offerings at CBC, excluding students enrolled in the High School Academy.)) 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 a "student" for purposes of this chapter.

Student appeals board - Also referred to as the "SAB" or "appeals board." The SAB is a three member panel which uses the brief adjudicative process to review appeals of disciplinary actions that do not include sanctions of expulsion, suspension for more than ~~((ten))~~ 10 days, withholding or revocation of a degree, or loss of recognition of a student organization.

Student conduct board - Also referred to as the "SCB" is a four person panel which presides over cases that could result in a sanction of expulsion, suspension for more than ~~((ten))~~ 10 days, revocation of a degree, and/or loss of recognition of a student organization using the full adjudicative process pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

Student conduct officer - Also referred to as "conduct officer" and/or "SCO" is the person designated by the college president to be responsible for the administration of the student code of conduct or, in such person's absence, the acting SCO or other appointed designee. The SCO is authorized to delegate any and all of their responsibilities as may be reasonably necessary.

Student conduct meeting - The conduct meeting with the student conduct officer using the brief adjudicative process to determine responsibility for violations of the student code of conduct, which do not include sanctions of expulsion, suspension for more than ~~((ten))~~ 10 days, revocation of a degree, and/or loss of recognition of a student organization pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

Student employee - 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 violation to the student code of conduct including, but not limited to, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

Student group - 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.

Student organization - Any number of persons who have complied with the formal requirements for college recognition, such as clubs and associations, and are recognized by the college as such.

Supportive measures - Means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 deadline 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

Title IX coordinator - The administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132S-100-050 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 student affairs, subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.50.090 (3)(b).

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

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

(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 the student code of conduct is entitled, upon request, to procedural due process as set forth in this chapter.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-03-046, filed 1/9/20, effective 2/9/20)

**WAC 132S-100-100 ((Student code)) Authority.** The CBC board of trustees, acting pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140, ~~((do by written order,))~~ delegates to the president of the college, the authority to ~~((adopt such rules and perform all other acts relating to))~~ administer student ~~((discipline, including suspension or expulsion of students who are in violation of those rules))~~ disciplinary action. The president is au-

thorized to delegate or reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary. Administration of the disciplinary procedures is the responsibility of the vice president for student services or their designee. Except in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the student conduct officer, or delegate, shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-03-046, filed 1/9/20, effective 2/9/20)

**WAC 132S-100-107 Statement of jurisdiction ((of the student code of conduct)).** ((The CBC student code of conduct will apply to conduct by students and student organizations that occurs on college premises, within the residence halls, at college-sponsored events and activities, foreign or domestic travel associated with any of these events or activities, and to off-campus conduct which is in violation or alleged violation of local, state, or federal law, or this student code of conduct. Allegations or violations which occur off campus can be subject to college disciplinary action if the conduct has an effect on the CBC campus. The student code of conduct applies to conduct from the time of application for admission until the award of a degree and/or certificate, even if the conduct may have occurred before classes begin, after classes end, during the academic year, or during periods between terms of actual enrollment. These standards shall apply to a student's conduct even if the student is suspended or withdraws from the college while a disciplinary matter is pending. If a student withdraws after allegedly violating the student code of conduct, but prior to the college reaching a disciplinary decision in the matter, the college can move forward with the disciplinary process, place the process on hold until the student returns, or choose to place the investigation results in the student's file for consideration should they reapply for admittance, reenroll or register for any educational offerings at the college.))

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

(a) On college premises;

(b) At or in connection with college programs or activities; or

(c) Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, 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 locations in which students are engaged in college programs or activities including, but not limited to, college-sponsored housing, foreign or domestic travel, activities funded by the students, student government, student clubs or organizations, athletic events, training internships, cooperative and distance education, online education, practicums, supervised work experiences, or any other college-sponsored social or club activities.

(3) Students are responsible for their conduct from the time they gain admission to the college through the last day of enrollment or award of any degree or certificate, 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 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 college has sole discretion, on a case-by-case basis, to determine whether the student code of conduct will be applied to conduct by students or student groups that occurs off campus.

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

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-23-031, filed 11/10/20, effective 12/11/20)

**WAC 132S-100-117 Composition of the student conduct board.**

~~((The college will have a SCB composed of one chairperson and three decision-making members who shall be vice presidents and deans or directors as designated by the college and trained to conduct the full adjudicative process. The SCB will serve as a standing committee until a final decision is made regarding the student conduct matter for which it was convened. Any SCB member who has a personal relationship with either party or any personal or other interest which would prevent a fair and impartial review and decision will be recused from the proceedings. The chairperson will preside at the disciplinary hearing and will provide administrative oversight throughout the hearing process but will not participate in the deliberations of the decision-making members. The three decision-making members constitute a quorum of the SCB and may act accordingly. The college may retain an advisor to the SCB, including an assistant attorney general.))~~

(1) The student conduct board shall consist of four members who shall be vice presidents, deans, or directors as designated by the college:

(a) One chairperson; and

(b) Three decision-making members.

(2) The student conduct board will serve as a standing committee until a final decision is made regarding the student conduct matter for which it was convened.

(3) Any student conduct board member who has a personal relationship with either party or any personal or other interest which would prevent a fair and impartial review and decision will be recused from the proceedings.

(4) The student conduct board members will be trained to conduct the full adjudicative process on an annual basis.

(5) The chairperson will preside at the disciplinary hearing and will provide administrative oversight through the hearing process, but will not participate in the deliberations of the decision-making members.

(6) The three decision-making members constitute a quorum of the student conduct board and may act accordingly.

(7) 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 board and/or chairperson.

(8) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, members of the student conduct board must review training on serving impartially, avoiding prejudgment of facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias. The chairperson must also receive training on the student conduct process for sex discrimination cases, as well as the meaning and application of the term "relevant" in relation to questions and evidence, and the types of evidence that are impermissible, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-23-031, filed 11/10/20, effective 12/11/20)

**WAC 132S-100-202 Prohibited student conduct** (~~Rules and regulations~~). The attendance of a student at CBC is a voluntary entrance into the academic community. By such entrance, the student assumes obligations of performance and behavior reasonably imposed by the college relevant to its lawful missions, processes, and functions. It is the college's expectation that students will:

- (1) Conduct themselves in a responsible manner;
- (2) Comply with rules and regulations of the college and its departments;
- (3) Respect the rights, privileges, and property of other members of the academic community;
- (4) Maintain a high standard of integrity and honesty; and
- (5) Not interfere with legitimate college business appropriate to the pursuit of educational goals.

~~(Any student or student organization that, either as a principal or participator or by aiding or abetting, commits or attempts to commit to violate any of the proscribed conduct, rules and regulations, or college policy will be subject to disciplinary action.)~~ The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student or a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team, or living group, who commits, attempts to commit, aid, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit, an act(s) of misconduct, which include, but are not limited to the policies outlined in this chapter.

Amnesty. To support each student's contribution to a safe and effective campus community, the college will not discipline reporting parties or witnesses for code of conduct violations that occur in connection with reported alleged violation unless the college determines the violation was egregious. Egregious violations include conduct that risked someone's health or safety, or involved plagiarism, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Students may be reluctant to report proscribed conduct when alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicants were involved. To encourage reporting, this amnesty provision applies to alcohol- and drug-related student violations.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132S-100-204 Abuse later in life.** (1) 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

- (2) Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking of an adult aged 50 or older by any individual; and
- (3) Does not include self-neglect.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 16-12-039, filed 5/25/16, effective 6/25/16)

**WAC 132S-100-205 Abusive ((conduct)) of others.** Assault, physical ((and/or)) abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, ((harassment, online harassment, coercion, bullying, cyberbullying, retaliation, stalking, cyberstalking, and/or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person or which has the purpose or effect of creating a hostile or intimidating environment)) 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 16-12-039, filed 5/25/16, effective 6/25/16)

**WAC 132S-100-213 ((Discrimination-)) Discriminatory harassment.** ((Engaging in any unfavorable treatment of a person based on that person's membership or perceived membership in a protected class. Harassment is a form of discrimination.))

(1) 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:

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

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

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

(2) 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.

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

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 16-12-039, filed 5/25/16, effective 6/25/16)

**WAC 132S-100-220 Disruption or obstruction.** ((Includes, but is not limited to, the following:))

~~(1) Participating in an on- or off-campus demonstration, riot, or any activity that disrupts the normal operations of the college and/or infringes on the rights of other members of the college community.~~

~~(2) Intentionally and/or recklessly inciting others to engage in any prohibited conduct as defined herein, when incitement may lead to such conduct.~~

~~(3) Obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on college premises or at college-sponsored or supervised functions.) Disruption or obstruction of instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other college activity, including the obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular movement on college premises or at a college activity, or any activity that is authorized to occur on college premises, whether or not actually conducted or sponsored by the college.~~

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132S-100-224 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-03-046, filed 1/9/20, effective 2/9/20)

**WAC 132S-100-227 ~~((Drugs, controlled substances, and marijuana.)) Cannabis, drug, and tobacco violations.~~** ~~((1) Legend drugs, narcotic drugs, controlled substances: Being observably under the influence of any legend drug, narcotic drug, or controlled substance as defined in chapters 69.41 and 69.50 RCW, or otherwise using, possessing, delivering, manufacturing, or seeking any such drug or substance, except in accordance with a lawful prescription for that student by a licensed health care professional or as otherwise expressly permitted by federal, state, or local law, is prohibited. Use, possession and distribution of drug paraphernalia for the drugs and substances identified in this section is prohibited.~~

~~(2) Marijuana: While state law permits the recreational use of marijuana, federal law prohibits such use on college premises or in connection with college activities. Being observably under the influence of marijuana or the psychoactive compounds found in marijuana, or otherwise using, possessing, selling or delivering any product containing marijuana or the psychoactive compounds found in marijuana and intended for human consumption, regardless of form, is prohibited.)~~

(1) 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 laws prohibits such use on college premises or in connection with college activities.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132S-100-232 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.

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-20-013, filed 9/22/22, effective 10/23/22)

**WAC 132S-100-235 Hazing.** (1) Any act, described in Washington statute, RCW 28B.10.900 committed as part of a person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with a student organization, athletic team, or living group, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization, athletic team, or living group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student or other person attending the college, including 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, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar

contests or competitions. Consent is not a valid defense against hazing.

(2) A person who witnesses hazing or has reasonable cause to believe hazing has occurred or will occur and makes a report in good faith may not be sanctioned or punished for violation of hazing unless the person is directly engaged in the planning, directing, or act of hazing reported.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132S-100-237 Independent 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-03-046, filed 1/9/20, effective 2/9/20)

**WAC 132S-100-245 Alcohol.** ~~((1) Consuming, possessing, furnishing, or selling of alcoholic beverages and/or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited on college premises or at college-sponsored or supervised events except as a participant of legal age in a student program, banquet, or educational program which has the special written authorization of the college president or their designee to permit the service of alcoholic beverages.~~

~~(2) Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used by, possessed by, or distributed to any person under the state alcohol legal drinking age.))~~

(1) Use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of alcoholic beverages or paraphernalia except as a participant of legal age in a student program, banquet, or educational program which has the special written authorization of the college president or their designee to permit the service of alcoholic beverages.

(2) Public intoxication on college premises or at college-sponsored events.

(3) Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used by, possessed by, or distributed to any person under the state alcohol legal drinking age.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-03-046, filed 1/9/20, effective 2/9/20)

**WAC 132S-100-250 Misuse of ((equipment and technology)) electronic resources.** Misuse of ~~((the college's computer, telecommunications, or electronic technology, facilities, network, software, or equipment which))~~ computer time or other electronic information resources of the college. Such misuse includes, but is not limited to:

~~(1) Unauthorized ((entry into a file to use, read, or change the contents, or for any other purpose.~~

~~(2) Unauthorized transfer of a file.~~

- ~~(3) Use of another individual's credentials or password or allowing someone else to use your own credentials and password.~~
- ~~(4) Violation of law including copyright laws.~~
- ~~(5) Interference with the normal operations of the college or the work of another student, faculty member, or college official.~~
- ~~(6) Sending obscene or abusive messages.~~
- ~~(7) Obtaining personal profit, advertisement, or illegal purposes.~~
- ~~(8) Use for purposes other than those necessary to fulfill an assignment or task as part of the student's program of instruction.~~
- ~~(9) Engaging in any actions and behaviors prohibited by college policy.) use of such resources or opening a file, message, or other item;~~
- (2) Unauthorized duplication, transfer, or distribution of a computer program, file, message or other item;
- (3) Unauthorized use or distribution of someone else's password or other identification;
- (4) Use of such time or resources to interfere with someone else's work;
- (5) Use of such time or resources to send, display, or print an obscene or abusive message, text, or image;
- (6) Use of such time or resources to interfere with normal operation of the college's computing system or other electronic information resources;
- (7) Use of such time or resources in violation of applicable copyright or other law;
- (8) Adding to or otherwise altering the infrastructure of the college's electronic information resources without authorization; or
- (9) Failure to comply with the college's electronic use policy.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132S-100-252 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.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132S-100-254 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-03-046, filed 1/9/20, effective 2/9/20)

**WAC 132S-100-255 Safety ((misconduct)) violations.** ((Intentionally initiating or causing to be initiated any false report, warning, or threat of fire, explosion, or other emergency on college premises or at any college-sponsored activity, or falsely setting off or otherwise tampering with any emergency safety equipment, alarm, or other device established for the safety of individuals and/or college facilities, or driving a vehicle recklessly or over the speed limit on campus property.)) 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-03-046, filed 1/9/20, effective 2/9/20)

**WAC 132S-100-260 ((Sexual misconduct.)) Sex discrimination.** ((Engaging in nonconsensual sexual intercourse or nonconsensual sexual contact, requests for sexual favors or other conduct of a sexual nature where such behavior offends a reasonable, orderly, prudent person under the circumstances. This includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Sexual activity or contact for which clear and voluntary consent has not been given in advance.
- (2) Sexual activity with someone who is incapable of giving valid consent including, but not limited to, someone who is under duress, is underage, sleeping or otherwise incapacitated due to alcohol, drugs, or any other reason.
- (3) Sexual harassment, which includes unwelcome, gender-based verbal, written, electronic, and/or physical conduct. Sexual harassment also includes offensive remarks about a person's gender, gender identity, and/or sexual orientation. Sexual harassment encompasses:
  - (a) Hostile environment sexual harassment; and
  - (b) Quid pro quo sexual harassment.
- (4) Sexual violence which includes, but is not limited to, sexual assault, domestic violence, intimate violence, and sexual or gender-based stalking.
- (5) Nonphysical conduct such as sexual or gender-based cyberstalking, sexual or gender-based online harassment, sexual or gender-based cyberbullying, nonconsensual recording of a sexual activity, and nonconsensual distribution of a recording of a sexual activity, and other forms of sexual exploitation.
- (6) Any and all conduct which violates college policy pertaining to sexual misconduct, sexual harassment or discrimination based on sex, gender identity or sexual orientation.))

The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimus harm to an individual by treating them differently from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity sub-

jects a person to more than de minimis (insignificant) harm on the basis of sex.

(1) Sex-based harassment - "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(a) Quid pro quo harassment - A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(b) Hostile environment - Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(i) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(ii) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(iii) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(iv) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(v) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(c) Sexual violence - "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(i) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling) is 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 is 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 (rape of a child) is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(v) Domestic violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(vi) Dating violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(A) The length of the relationship;

(B) The type of relationship; and

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

(vii) Stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(2) Consent - For purposes of this code, "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(a) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(3) Title IX retaliation means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-03-046, filed 1/9/20, effective 2/9/20)

**WAC 132S-100-273 ~~Unauthorized ((keys, entry, or use)) access.~~**

Unauthorized (~~((keys, entry or use))~~) access includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Unauthorized possession, duplication, or other use of keys (including conventional keys, key cards, or passcodes) to any college premises;

- (2) Unauthorized entry upon or use of college premises or property; or
- (3) Providing keys to an unauthorized person or providing access to an unauthorized person.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-03-046, filed 1/9/20, effective 2/9/20)

**WAC 132S-100-275 Weapons.** (~~Unauthorized possession of weapons (e.g., firearms, daggers, swords, knives, other cutting or stabbing instruments, or clubs) or substances (e.g., explosives) apparently capable of producing bodily harm and/or damage to real or personal property is prohibited on or in college-owned or operated facilities and premises and/or during college-sponsored events.~~

~~(1) Carrying of firearms on or in college-owned or operated facilities and/or during college-sponsored events is prohibited except and unless the permit is registered with the campus security department for a specified period of time.~~

~~(2) The aforementioned regulations within this section shall not apply to equipment or materials owned, used or maintained by the college; nor will they apply to law enforcement officers or campus security officers acting in the legitimate performance of their lawful duties.)~~

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:

(1) Commissioned law enforcement personnel or legally authorized military personnel while in performance of their official duties.

(2) Students with legally issued weapons permits may store their weapons 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.

(3) 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.

(4) Possession and/or use of disabling chemical sprays for purposes of self-defense is not prohibited.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-03-046, filed 1/9/20, effective 2/9/20)

**WAC 132S-100-280 Academic dishonesty.** (~~Academic dishonesty minimizes the learning process and threatens the learning environment for all students. As members of the CBC learning community, students are not to engage in any form of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information, research, or other findings for the purpose of fulfilling any assignment or task as part of the~~

student's program of instruction. Any student who commits or aids and abets the accomplishment of an act of academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action.)

Any act of academic dishonesty, including:

(1) Cheating - Any attempt to give or obtain unauthorized assistance relating to the completion of an academic assignment.

(2) Plagiarism - Taking and using as one's own, without proper attribution, the ideas, writing, 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.

(3) Fabrication - 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.

(4) 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.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132S-100-293 Cyber misconduct.** 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, stalk, 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 distribution of a recording of sexual activity.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-23-031, filed 11/10/20, effective 12/11/20)

**WAC 132S-100-400 Student conduct process.** (1) As an agency of the state of Washington, the college's SCO, SCB, SAB, or president may be advised or represented by an assistant attorney general in any student code of conduct proceeding.

~~((1) Initiation of the student conduct process. A request to initiate the student conduct process for alleged violation(s) of the student code of conduct must be made to the SCO as soon as possible following the violation. Conduct proceedings may be initiated when the SCO receives any direct or indirect report of conduct that may violate this code, which includes, but is not limited to, a police report, an incident report, a witness statement, other documentation, or a verbal or written report from a complainant, witness, or other third party. The college may initiate the student conduct process regardless of whether or not the incident in question is the subject of criminal or civil proceedings. Any member of the college's administration, faculty, staff, or any student or nonstudent may make a request for disci-~~

plinary action through the student conduct process and it must be a good faith claim. Formal rules of evidence, such as are applied in criminal or civil court, are not used in conduct proceedings. Relevant evidence, including hearsay, is admissible if it is the type of evidence that reasonable persons would rely upon in the conduct of their affairs. Unduly repetitious or irrelevant evidence may be excluded. If the complaint indicates that the matter involves sexual misconduct, the SCO will forward the complaint to the Title IX office for review in accordance with the college's Title IX grievance policy and procedure or nondiscrimination and harassment policy and grievance procedure, as applicable. Any determinations of relevant evidence or facts made under the Title IX grievance policy and procedure or the nondiscrimination and harassment policy and grievance procedure shall be relied upon in the student conduct process. The SCO or designee will conduct an initial investigation of a complaint to determine whether it alleges conduct that may be prohibited by the student code of conduct. If it is determined through the initial investigation that the report has merit, the SCO will conduct an investigation to determine responsibility. Except in cases of sexual assault or sexual violence, the parties may elect to mediate the dispute, which shall be facilitated by the SCO. If the SCO's investigation indicates that the alleged violation is so severe that a finding of responsibility is likely to merit expulsion, suspension of more than ten days, revocation of a degree, or loss of recognition of a student organization, the SCO will forward the findings of the investigation to the SCB for review, decision and disciplinary action using the full adjudicative process. If the SCO has a conflict of interest or is the subject of a complaint by the student, the vice president for student services shall, upon request and at their discretion, designate another person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities relative to the request for the student conduct process.

~~(2) Notification requirements.~~

~~(a) If it is determined through the initial investigation that an alleged violation of the student code of conduct might have occurred and which is not eligible for referral to the Title IX officer or the SCB, the SCO will provide the following written notification:~~

~~(i) That a report has been submitted alleging conduct which violates the student code of conduct and that a conduct investigation has been initiated to determine responsibility;~~

~~(ii) The specific sections of the student code of conduct which are alleged to have been violated;~~

~~(iii) That the student may either accept responsibility for the alleged violations or request a conduct meeting with the SCO to present evidence to refute the report;~~

~~(iv) That the student may provide evidence such as names and contact information of witnesses to aid the conduct investigation;~~

~~(v) The possible sanction outcomes and that the actual sanctions will depend on the determination of responsibility pending the results of the investigation; and~~

~~(vi) That if the student fails to participate in any stage of the conduct proceedings or to request a conduct meeting within fifteen days from the date of the notice, the college may move forward with the conduct proceeding without their participation.~~

~~(b) If the student requests a conduct meeting within fifteen days of the notice, the student will be provided a written notice to appear for a conduct meeting. The notice to appear will be personally delivered, sent electronically to the student's CBC email address, or sent~~

by mail to the most recent address in the student's record on file with the college, not later than fifteen instructional days after the request for a conduct meeting. The notice will not be ineffective if presented later due to the student's absence. Such notice will:

(i) Set forth the specific provisions of the student code of conduct and the specific acts which are alleged to be violations, as well as the date(s) of the violations, and a description of evidence, if any, of the violation.

(ii) Notify the student of the SCO's investigation and possible sanctions, if any.

(iii) Specify the time, date, and location where the student is required to meet with the SCO. The meeting will be scheduled no earlier than three instructional days, but within thirty instructional days of the date on the notice to appear sent to the student. The SCO may modify the time, date, and location of the meeting, either at the student's or college's request, for reasonable cause.

(iv) Inform the student that failure to attend the conduct meeting will not stop the disciplinary process and may result in a transcript/registration hold being placed onto the student's account, and disciplinary actions.

(v) Inform the student that they may be accompanied at the meeting by an advisor at their expense. The advisor cannot be a college employee or witness. If the student or their advisor is found to have tampered with witnesses or evidence, or destroyed evidence, the student will be held accountable in the conduct process for their acts and those of their advisor.

(vi) Inform the student that they may present evidence to support their assertions during the meeting.

(3) Student conduct meeting - Brief adjudicative process.

(a) During the student conduct meeting, the student will be informed of the following:

(i) The specific acts and the provision(s) of college policy that the student is alleged to have violated;

(ii) The disciplinary process;

(iii) The range of sanctions which might result from the disciplinary process and that the actual sanctions will depend on the findings of responsibility;

(iv) The student's right to appeal.

(b) The student will have the opportunity to review and respond to the allegation(s) and evidence and provide the SCO with relevant information, evidence and/or witnesses to the alleged violation(s), and/or explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged violation(s).

(c) The advisor may assist the student during the conduct meeting, however the student is responsible for presenting their own information and evidence. The advisor may only communicate with the student they are advising. Any disruptions or failure to follow the conduct process and/or directions of the SCO may result in the advisor being excused from the meeting.

(4) Decision by the SCO.

(a) After interviewing the student or students involved and/or other individuals as appropriate, and considering the evidence, the SCO may take any of the following actions:

(i) Determine that the student is not responsible for a violation of the student code of conduct and thereby terminate the student conduct process;

~~(ii) Determine that the student is responsible for a violation of the student code of conduct and impose disciplinary sanctions as provided herein;~~

~~(iii) Determine that further inquiry is necessary and schedule another meeting for reasonable cause; or~~

~~(iv) Refer the case to the SCB for the full adjudicative hearing process if the alleged violation is discovered to be of a severe nature and may result in sanctions that include expulsion, suspension for more than ten days, revocation of a degree, or loss of recognition of a student organization.~~

~~(b) Notification of the decision by the SCO will be issued pursuant to WAC 132S-100-130 within thirty instructional days of the final student conduct meeting. Due to federal privacy law, the college may not disclose to the complainant any sanctions imposed on the responding student unless the complainant was the alleged victim of a violent crime as defined under the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99), or the responding student consents to such disclosure. A copy of the decision notification will be filed with the office of the SCO.~~

~~(c) Disciplinary action taken by the SCO is final unless the student exercises the right of appeal as provided herein.)~~

(2) Initiation of disciplinary action.

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

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

(i) Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment - The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. Allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, by a student shall be addressed through the student code of conduct. Allegations involving employees or third parties associated with the college will be handled in accordance with college policies.

(ii) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) If a student conduct officer determines that a complaint appears to state a violation of the student code of conduct, 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.

(i) Informal dispute resolution shall not be used to resolve sex-based harassment complaints without written permission from both the complainant and the respondent.

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

(e) 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.

(f) Both the respondent and the complainant in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination 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.

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

(h) The student conduct officer shall initiate disciplinary action by serving the respondent with written notice directing him or her to attend a disciplinary meeting. The notice shall briefly describe the factual allegations, the provision(s) of the student code of conduct 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.

(i) At the meeting, the student conduct officer will present the allegation to the respondent and the respondent shall be afforded an opportunity to explain what took place. If the respondent fails to attend the meeting after proper service of notice, the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.

(j) Within 10 calendar 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 code of conduct 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. 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.

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

(i) Exonerate the respondent and terminate the proceedings;

(ii) Impose a disciplinary sanction(s), with or without conditions, as describe in WAC 132S-100-XXX; or

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

(l) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by the preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student code of conduct; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five busi-

ness days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(i) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before the student conduct board.

(ii) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct board.

(iii) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(iv) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(v) In cases involving sex discrimination, the student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(A) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(B) Respondent is not participating in the College's educational programs or activities;

(C) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint;

(D) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(E) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(vi) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing before the matter can be dismissed.

(vii) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation.

(viii) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(ix) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that the complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-23-031, filed 11/10/20, effective 12/11/20)

**WAC 132S-100-407 Appeal ((process)) from disciplinary action.**

~~((1)(a) Disciplinary decisions may be appealed by filing a written request with the office of the VPSS within twenty-one days of the no-~~

~~tice of the decision. Disciplinary decisions of the SCO may be appealed for review by the SAB using the brief adjudicative process. Disciplinary decisions of the SCB may be appealed for review by the college president using the brief adjudicative process. Disciplinary decisions by the SCO that include sexual misconduct may be applied for review by the SCB using the brief adjudicative process. Failure to file a written appeal within twenty-one days will result in the decision becoming final with no further right of appeal.~~

~~(b) The request for appeal must include a brief statement explaining the grounds for the appeal or why the party is seeking review. Disagreement with the finding and/or with the sanctions does not, by itself, represent grounds for appeals.~~

~~(2) Decisions may be appealed for one or more of the following:~~

~~(a) To determine whether there was a procedural error that substantially affected the outcome of the finding or sanctioning. Deviation from designated procedures is not a basis for sustaining an appeal unless significant prejudice results.~~

~~(b) To determine whether the sanction(s) imposed were appropriate and not excessively lenient or excessively severe for the violation of the student code of conduct for which the student was found responsible.~~

~~(c) To consider new information, sufficient to alter a decision, or other relevant facts not brought during fact finding, because such information and/or facts were not known, and the student bringing the appeal had no duty to discover or could not have reasonably discovered facts giving rise to the issues during investigation or fact-finding.~~

~~(3) Refusal to participate during the investigation or student conduct process does not constitute a right to appeal.~~

~~The VPSS or designee will forward appeals based on one or more of the required grounds for appeal to the SAB, SCB, or president as provided herein.~~

~~A party, who timely appeals a disciplinary action, has a right to a prompt, fair, and impartial appeal review as provided in these procedures.~~

~~Interim measures will remain in effect pending an appeal unless they have been removed pursuant to WAC 132S-100-445.~~

~~(4) Appeals of disciplinary action(s) will be taken in the following order:~~

~~(a) Complainants are afforded the same right to appeal as respondents in student conduct matters in which the complainant was the alleged target of violence or sexual misconduct. If both parties appeal the decision, the appeals will be reviewed in the order in which they are filed or reviewed together, if they state the same, similar, or related grounds or substance for appeal.~~

~~(b) The SAB or college president's decision to affirm, reverse or modify the decision and/or sanction will be issued pursuant to WAC 132S-100-130.~~

~~(c) The SAB's, and the college president's decisions are final.))~~

(1) Except as specified for cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, as set forth in WAC 132S-100-400, the respondent may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the student conduct officer within 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 board, 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 code of conduct shall be stayed pending appeal, unless respondent has been summarily suspended.

(7) A student appeals board (SAB) shall conduct a brief adjudicative proceedings for appeals of:

(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.

(8) The conduct review officer shall hear appeals from:

(a) Disciplinary suspensions in excess of 10 instructional days;

(b) Dismissals;

(c) Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment cases; and

(d) Disciplinary cases referred to the conduct review officer by the student conduct officer or student conduct board.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-23-031, filed 11/10/20, effective 12/11/20)

**WAC 132S-100-413 Full adjudicative process.** The ((SCB)) student conduct board will use the following full adjudicative process to determine responsibility for serious violations which include sanctions of suspension for more than ((ten)) 10 days, expulsion, withholding or revocation of a degree, or loss of recognition of a student organization.

~~((1))~~ The parties will be sent written notification of the SCB adjudication proceedings within ninety days from the date of the filing of the appeal. The notification will contain the following:

~~(a) The time, date, and location of the hearing, which shall not be less than seven days from the date of the notice of the hearing;~~

~~(b) The specific acts alleged and the provision(s) of college policy which those acts violated;~~

~~(c) The SCB procedures;~~

~~(d) The name and contact information for the SCB and their advisor, if any, representing the college. The notice will include the official title, work mailing address, and telephone number of each of these individuals;~~

~~(e) Unless otherwise ordered by the SCB chairperson, the name and mailing addresses of all parties to whom notice is being given and, if known, the names and addresses of their advisors;~~

~~(f) A statement that if a party fails to attend or participate in a hearing or other stage of this adjudicative proceeding, they may be held in default in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW and/or the college may continue the student conduct process, including the hearing, despite the party's absence.~~

~~(2) The respondent and complainant have the right to be assisted by one advisor of their choice and at their own expense. The advisor must not be a witness or someone employed by the college. If the respondent chooses to have an attorney serve as their advisor, the student must provide notice to the SCB no less than five instructional days prior to the hearing. The SCB hearing may not be delayed due to the scheduling conflicts of an advisor and such requests will be subject to the discretion of the SCB chairperson. If the student or their advisor is found to have tampered with witnesses or evidence, or destroyed evidence, the student will be held accountable in the conduct process for their acts and those of their representative/advisor.~~

~~The respondent and/or complainant are responsible for presenting their own information, and therefore, during the hearing, advisors are not permitted to address the SCB, witnesses, the SCO, or any party or advisor invited by the parties to the hearing. An advisor may communicate with their advisee and recesses may be allowed for this purpose at the discretion of the SCB chairperson. The advisor may not disrupt or interfere with any aspect of the proceeding.~~

~~The SCB chairperson shall have the right to impose reasonable conditions upon the participation of the advisor.~~

~~(3) The SCB and the parties will be provided reasonable access to the documentation and evidence which will be reviewed by the SCB, as well as the case file that will be retained by the SCO in accordance with applicable privacy laws.~~

~~(4) Any SCB member who has a personal relationship with either party or any personal or other interest which would prevent a fair and impartial review and decision will be recused from the proceedings.~~

~~A party may make a written request to the SCB chairperson for the recusal of an SCB member no less than five instructional days prior to the hearing. The request must be for good cause, which must be shown by the party making the request. The SCB chairperson will consider the request and notify the student of their decision regarding the recusal prior to the hearing. If the SCB chairperson grants the recusal, a replacement for the recused SCB member will be made without unreasonable delay.~~

~~(5) The parties involved in the hearing will be required to submit their witness list and any evidence to be discussed at the hearing to the SCB chairperson no less than five instructional days prior to the hearing. The parties must submit a witness list which contains a written statement from each witness that includes a brief description of the relevant information the witness will provide during the hearing. Witnesses not listed will not participate in the hearing.~~

~~(6) Discovery in the form of depositions, interrogatories, and medical examinations of parties are not permitted in student conduct adjudications. Other forms of discovery which ensure the prompt and thorough completion of the adjudication process may be permitted at the discretion of the SCB chairperson.~~

~~(7) Hearings will be closed to the public except if consented to by all parties and at the discretion of the SCB chairperson. Witnesses may be allowed in the hearing room only during the time in which they provide their statements to the SCB. The complainant and respondent, depending on their preference and subject to orders of a court of law, such as protection orders, may be present for and observe the entire hearing.~~

~~At the discretion of the SCB chairperson, and where the rights of the parties will not be prejudiced, all or part of the hearing may be conducted by telephone, video conference, or other electronic means.~~

~~Each party shall have the opportunity to hear and if technically and economically feasible, to see the entire hearing while it is taking place. At all times, however, all parties, their advisors, the witnesses, and the public will be excluded during the deliberations of the SCB.~~

~~(8) The SCB chairperson will exercise control over the hearing to avoid needless consumption of time and to prevent the harassment or intimidation of witnesses. Any person, including the respondent and complainant, who disrupts a hearing or who fails to follow the directions of the SCB chairperson may be excluded from the proceedings and may be subject to disciplinary action.~~

~~(9) Questions posed by any party to be answered by each other or by witnesses must be appropriate and respectful. The SCB chairperson may require any participant of the hearing to provide all questions in writing to the SCB chairperson. The SCB chairperson, if appropriate and at their sole discretion, will read the question to the individual to whom it is directed. Any question which the SCB chairperson has chosen not to read will be documented on record and kept within the case file. The SCB chairperson will decide matters related to the order of the proceedings.~~

~~(10) In order that a complete record of the proceeding can be made to include all evidence presented, hearings will be recorded or transcribed, except for the deliberations of the SCB. The record will be the property of the college.~~

~~(11) After weighing and considering the evidence, the SCB will decide by unanimous vote whether the respondent is responsible or not responsible for a violation of the student code of conduct. If there is a finding of responsibility for a violation, the SCB shall determine sanctions as provided herein.~~

~~(12) The SCB's decision is made on the basis of a "preponderance of the evidence" standard of proof, that is, whether it is more likely than not that the respondent violated the student code of conduct.~~

~~(13) The notice of decision of the SCB will be issued pursuant to WAC 132S-100-130. A copy of the SCB's decision will also be filed with the office of the SCO.~~

~~(14) Disciplinary action taken by the SCB is final unless the student exercises the right of appeal to the college president as provided herein.)~~

(1) Prehearing.

(a) Proceedings of the student conduct board shall be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

(b) The student conduct board chairperson shall serve all parties with written notice of the hearing not less than seven calendar days in advance of the hearing date. The chairperson 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:

(i) A copy of the student code of conduct;

(ii) The basis for jurisdiction;

(iii) The alleged violation(s);

(iv) A summary of facts underlying the allegations;

(v) The range of possible sanctions that may be imposed; and

(vi) A statement that retaliation is prohibited.

(c) The chairperson 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.

(d) Upon request filed at least five calendar days before the hearing by any party or at the direction of the chairperson, 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 student conduct board. 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.

(e) The chairperson may provide to the student conduct board members in advance of the hearing copies of:

(i) The student conduct officer's notification of imposition of discipline (or referral to the committee); and

(ii) The notice of appeal (or any response to referral) by the respondent. If doing so, however, the chairperson should remind the members that these "pleadings" are not evidence of any facts they may allege.

(f) The parties may agree before the hearing to designate specific exhibits as admissible without objection and, if they do so, whether the student conduct board chairperson may provide copies of these admissible exhibits to the student conduct board members before the hearing.

(g) Communications between student conduct board 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 the 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.

(h) In cases heard by the student conduct board, each party may be accompanied at the hearing by an advisor of their choice, which may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(i) The student conduct board 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.

(j) Attorneys for students must file a notice of appearance with the student conduct board chairperson at least four business days before the hearing. Failure to do so may, at the discretion of the student conduct board chairperson, 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.

(k) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(i) Notice - The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in subsection (2) of this section, and a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(ii) Advisors - The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(iii) Extension of time - The chairperson may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evi-

dence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in (1) (ii) of this subsection.

(iv) Evidence - In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and the complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(v) Confidentiality - The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or student conduct board chairperson pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(1) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(i) Notice - In addition to all information required in subsection (2) of this section, the notice must also inform the parties that:

(A) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(B) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(C) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(D) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(E) The student code of conduct prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(ii) Extension of time - The chairperson may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chairperson in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chairperson. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chairperson will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting and denying any request. The chairperson's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chairperson may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(iii) Advisors - The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(iv) Evidence - In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(v) Confidentiality - The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are

not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chairperson issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(vi) Separate locations - The chairperson may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the student conduct board and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(vii) Withdrawal of complaint - If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

(2) Presentation of evidence.

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

(i) Proceed with the hearing and issuance of its decision; or

(ii) Serve a decision of default in accordance with RCW

34.05.440.

(b) 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 chairperson shall determine any extent to which the hearing will be open. If any person disrupts the proceedings, the chairperson may exclude that person from the hearing room.

(c) The chairperson 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 chairperson shall ensure 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 recordings shall also be permitted, in accordance with WAC 10-08-190.

(d) The chairperson shall preside at the hearing and decide procedural questions that arise during the hearing, except as overridden by majority vote of the student conduct board.

(e) The student conduct officer (unless represented by an assistant attorney general) shall present the college's case.

(f) All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. Except as otherwise provided in this section, evidence shall be admitted or excluded in accordance with RCW 34.05.452.

(g) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the complainant and respondent may not directly question one another or other witnesses. In such circumstances, the chairperson will determine whether questions will be submitted to the chairperson, 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 or advisor. The chairperson may revise this process if, in the chairperson's determination, the questioning by any party, attorney, or advisor, becomes contentious or harassing.

(i) Prior to any questions being posed to a party or witness, the chairperson 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 chairperson will retain for the record copies of any written questions provided by any party.

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

(iii) The chairperson shall exclude and the student conduct board shall not consider legally privileged information unless the individu-

al 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.

(iv) The chairperson shall exclude and the student conduct board 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

(v) The student conduct board 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 student conduct board must not draw an inference about whether sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

(h) Except in cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the chairperson 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 chairperson to be asked of the witnesses, or to allow questions to be asked by an attorney or advisor for the respondent.

(3) Initial decision.

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

(b) Within 20 calendar days following the conclusion of the hearing or the student conduct board's receipt of closing arguments, the student conduct board shall issue a decision in accordance with RCW 34.05.461 and WAC 10-08-210. The 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 code of conduct were violated. Any findings based substantially on the credibility of evidence or the demeanor of witnesses shall be so identified and explained.

(c) The student conduct board's decision shall also include a determination of appropriate sanctions, if any. If the matter was referred to the committee by the student conduct officer, the student conduct board shall identify and impose disciplinary sanction(s) or conditions (if any), as authorized in the student code of conduct. If the matter is an appeal by a party, the student conduct board 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.

(d) The chairperson shall cause copies of its decision to be served on the parties and their attorney, if any. The notice will inform all parties of their appeal rights. The chairperson shall also promptly transmit a copy of the decision and the record of the student conduct board's proceedings to the president.

(e) In cases involving sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

(4) Review of initial decision.

(a) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the student conduct board's decision to the president by filing a written appeal with the president's office within 21 calendar days of service of the student conduct board's decision. Failure to file a timely appeal constitutes a waiver of the right and the decision shall be deemed final.

(b) 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:

(i) Procedural irregularity that would change the outcome;

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

(iii) The investigator, decision maker, or Title IX coordinator had a conflict of interest or bias for or against a respondent or complainant individually or respondents or complainants generally.

(c) Upon receiving a timely appeal, the president or a designee will promptly serve a copy of the appeal on all nonappealing 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.

(d) 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 board and will normally be limited to a review of those issues and arguments raised in the appeal.

(e) 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.

(f) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the president's decision must be served simultaneously on the complainant, respondent, and Title IX coordinator.

(g) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-23-031, filed 11/10/20, effective 12/11/20)

**WAC 132S-100-417 Brief adjudicative process.** ~~((1) The brief adjudicative process is conducted in accordance with RCW 34.05.482 through 34.05.494.~~

~~(2) The SCO will use the brief adjudicative process to make decisions of findings of responsibility as provided in this code of conduct.~~

~~(3) The SCB will use the brief adjudicative process to review appeals of disciplinary decisions which include allegations of sexual misconduct but do not include sanctions of expulsion, suspension for more than ten days, revocation of a degree, or loss of recognition of a student organization.~~

~~(4) The president will use the brief adjudicative process to review appeals of all disciplinary decisions made by the SCB.~~

~~(5) The SAB will use the brief adjudicative process to review timely appeals of disciplinary decisions which do not include sexual misconduct, sanctions of expulsion, suspension for more than ten days, revocation of a degree, or loss of recognition of a student organization.~~

~~(6) Within twenty days of filing the appeal, the SAB or president, as applicable, shall review the record of the preceding conduct decision and all relevant information provided by the parties, and based on a preponderance of the evidence by unanimous vote as applicable, shall make a determination to affirm, reverse, or modify the findings and/or sanctions. The SCB, SAB and president shall have the discretion to seek clarification from witnesses as needed.~~

~~(7) Notification of the decision will be issued pursuant to WAC 132S-100-130.)~~

(1) Initial hearing.

(a) Brief adjudicative proceedings shall be conducted by a conduct review officer. The conduct review officer 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.

(b) The parties to a brief adjudicative proceeding are the respondent and the student conduct officer. Before taking action, the conduct review officer shall conduct an informal hearing and provide each party:

(i) An opportunity to be informed of the agency's view of the matter; and

(ii) An opportunity to explain the party's view of the matter.

(c) The conduct review officer shall serve as initial decision upon the respondent and the student conduct officer within 10 calendar 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.

(d) 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 expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct board for a disciplinary hearing.

(2) Review of an initial decision.

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

(b) The president 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.

(c) During the review, the president shall give all parties 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 board for a formal adjudicative hearing.

(d) 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.

(e) 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 expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct board for a disciplinary hearing.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-03-046, filed 1/9/20, effective 2/9/20)

**WAC 132S-100-440 Corrective action, disciplinary sanctions, terms and conditions.** ((Students found responsible for violations of the student code of conduct may be subject to the following sanctions:  
 (1) ~~Warning. A verbal statement or notice in writing to the respondent that they are violating or have violated college rules or regulations and that continued violations may be the cause for further disciplinary action.~~  
 (2) ~~Reprimand. Notice in writing that the respondent has violated one or more of the policies outlined in the student code of conduct and that continuation of the same or similar behavior may result in more severe disciplinary action.~~  
 (3) ~~Loss of privileges. Denial of specified privileges for a designated period of time.~~  
 (4) ~~Loss of recognition. A student organization's recognition may be withheld permanently or for a specific period of time. Loss of recognition is defined as withholding college services or administrative approval from a student organization. Services and approval to be withdrawn may include, but are not limited to, intramural sports, information technology services, college facility use and rental, and involvement in organizational activities.~~  
 (5) ~~Restitution. A student may be required to make restitution for damage, loss, or injury. This may take the form of appropriate service and/or monetary or material replacement. Failure to make restitution within thirty instructional days or any period set by the SCO, SCB, SAB, or president will result in an administrative hold being placed on the student's registration, which will prevent future enrollment until the restitution is complete.~~  
 (6) ~~Discretionary sanctions. Work assignments, essays, service to the college, or other related discretionary assignments.~~  
 (7) ~~Disciplinary probation. Formal action placing conditions upon the student's continued attendance for violations of college rules or regulations or other failure to meet the college's expectations within~~

the student code of conduct. Written notice of disciplinary probation will specify the period of probation and any condition(s) upon which their continued enrollment is contingent. Such conditions may include, but not be limited to, adherence to terms of a behavior contract or limiting the student's participation in extra-curricular activities or access to specific areas of the college's facilities. Disciplinary probation may be for a specified term or for a period which may extend to graduation or award of a degree or certificate or other termination of the student's enrollment in the college.

~~(8) Restricted access to (trespass from) certain college facilities, property or activities.~~

~~(9) Suspension. Separation of the student from the college for a definite period of time, after which the student is eligible to return. Conditions for readmission may apply. Students who are suspended may be denied access to all or any part of the campus or other facilities for the duration of the period of suspension.~~

~~(10) Expulsion. Permanent separation of the student from the college. Students who are expelled may be permanently denied access to all or any part of the campus or other facilities.~~

~~(11) Revocation of admission and/or degree or certificate. Admission to the college or a degree or certificate awarded from the college may be revoked for fraud, misrepresentation, or other violation of college standards in obtaining admission or the degree or certificate, or for other serious violations committed by a student prior award of a degree or certificate.~~

~~(12) Withholding degree or certificate. The college may withhold awarding a degree or certificate until the completion of the process set forth in the student code of conduct, including the completion of all sanctions imposed, if any.~~

~~(13) 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. Authorization for release of information will be required to allow the college access to the 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 student code of conduct.~~

~~(14) Delayed suspension. A probationary amount of time set by the SCO, SCB, SAB, or president in which the student must remain in good standing. If the student is found responsible for violating the student code of conduct while still under the delayed suspension guidelines, then the student will be suspended, as set forth in subsection (7) of this section.~~

~~(15) No contact order. An order that prohibits direct or indirect physical, verbal, written, and/or any other form of communication or contact with an individual or group. Direct and indirect contact includes, but is not limited to, phone calls, letters, going within sight of places of work or residence, email, social media, etc.~~

~~If the respondent is found responsible for any violation, the student's past disciplinary record may be considered in determining an appropriate sanction.)~~

(1) One or more of the following corrective actions or disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon a student or upon college-sponsored

student organizations, athletic teams, or living groups found responsible for violating the student code of conduct.

(a) Warning - A verbal or written statement to a student that there is a violation and that continued violation may be cause for 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 the student 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 student status for a stated period of time. There will be no refund of tuition or fees for the quarter in which the suspension is imposed.

(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 dismissal is imposed.

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

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

(b) Loss of privileges - Denial of specified privileges for a designated period of time.

(c) Not in good standing - A student deemed "not in good standing" with the college 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 directive - 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) Professional evaluation - Referral for drug, alcohol, psychological, or medical evaluation by an appropriate 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 recommenda-

tions 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.

(f) Restitution - Reimbursement for damage to or misappropriation of property, or for injury to person, 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.

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

(h) Residence hall suspension or termination - Removal from a residence hall for a specified period or permanently. Conditions may be imposed before a student is permitted to return to a residence hall.

(3) More than one of the disciplinary terms and conditions listed above may be imposed for any single violation.

(4) If a student withdraws from the college or fails to reenroll before completing a disciplinary sanction or condition, the disciplinary sanction 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 sanction and conditions may be considered in petitions for readmission to the college.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132S-100-442 Hazing sanctions.** (1) 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 non-profit, the individual directors of the corporation may be held individually liable for damages.

(2) 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.

(3) Any student group 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.

(4) Any student group found responsible for violating the student code of 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.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132S-100-444 Summary suspension.** (1) Summary suspension is a temporary exclusion 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 student 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 code of conduct or the law(s) 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 respondent that their privileges 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 offices who may be bound or protected by it.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-03-046, filed 1/9/20, effective 2/9/20)

**WAC 132S-100-445 Interim measures.** (1) Interim measures may be taken pending an investigation or adjudication if there is cause to believe that a student or student organization poses an imminent risk of harm to anyone in the college community, or to property, or if the misconduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive as to substantially disrupt or materially interfere with the college's operations and/or activities or with an individual's education/work activities. Interim measures may include counseling, extensions of time or other course-related adjustments, modifications of class schedules, campus escort services, restrictions on contact between the parties, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of campus, restrictions on access to college owned or operated property and/or events (notice of trespass), including classes, activities and privileges, or any similar measures while the conduct process is pending.

(2) The student must adhere to the conditions of the interim restriction. If an interim restriction includes campus wide restricted access, the SCO may provide written permission for the student to enter campus for specific purposes such as meeting with the SCO or designee, faculty, staff or witnesses to prepare for an appeal, or to participate in the student conduct process.

(3) Notice of interim measure. The student will be provided written notice of the interim measure(s), stating:

(a) The time, date, place, and nature of the circumstances which created the need for interim measures.

(b) A description of any relevant evidence.

(c) The interim measure.

(d) The possible sanctions that could result from violation of the interim measure including arrest for criminal trespass if the student has been trespassed from campus.

(e) The student's right to either accept the interim measure or submit a written appeal of the interim measure within three instructional days to the office of VPSS ((office)). An appeal is waived if not submitted within the prescribed time. If the student timely appeals, the interim measure shall remain in place during the appeal process. The VPSS will provide written notification to the student of the decision to either maintain or discontinue the interim measure within five instructional days of receipt of the appeal.

(f) If the student has been trespassed from the campus, a notice against trespass shall be included that warns the student that their privilege to enter into or remain on college premises has been withdrawn, that they shall be considered trespassing and subject to arrest for criminal trespass if they enter the college campus other than to

meet with the SCO as arranged by an appointment, or to attend a disciplinary hearing. The interim measure shall not replace the regular discipline process, which shall proceed as quickly as feasible in light of the interim restriction.

**WSR 24-16-035  
EMERGENCY RULES****RENTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

[Filed July 29, 2024, 10:49 a.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring Renton Technical College's (RTC) student conduct code (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedures recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 495E-110-210; and amending WAC 495E-110-010, 495E-110-030, 495E-110-040, 495E-110-045, 495E-110-050, 495E-110-060, 495E-110-070, 495E-110-080, 495E-110-090, 495E-110-100, 495E-110-110, 495E-110-120, 495E-110-130, 495E-110-140, 495E-110-150, and 495E-110-160.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

In addition to complying with the new final rule, RTC is updating its code to improve student conduct procedures and compliance with the Washington Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW. These new definitions of prohibited behavior and updated procedures are necessary to address conduct that may pose a threat to the general welfare of the college community and/or college operations and to protect the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 12, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 4, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 23, 2024.

Lesley Hogan  
Vice President of Human Resources

OTS-5652.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-038, filed 4/28/21, effective 5/29/21)

**WAC 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 ((affairs)) services or their designee. Except in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the student conduct officer, or delegate, shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-22-005, filed 10/18/23, effective 10/19/23)

**WAC 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 as 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 includes 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.

~~((2))~~ (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.

~~((3))~~ (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.

~~((4) Assault, intimidation, harassment.~~ Unwanted touching, physical abuse, verbal abuse, threat(s), intimidation, harassment, bullying, or other conduct which harms, threatens, or is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of another person or another person's property. For purposes of this section, "bullying" is defined as repeated or aggressive unwanted behavior, not otherwise protected by law that intentionally humiliates, harms, or intimidates the victim.

~~(5))~~ (6) Cyber misconduct. Cyberstalking, cyberbullying or on-line 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.

~~((6))~~ (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.

~~((7))~~ (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.

~~((8))~~ (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.

~~((9))~~ (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.

~~((10) Alcohol, drug, and tobacco violations.~~

~~(a))~~ (11) Alcohol. The use, possession, manufacture, delivery, ~~((e))~~ sale, or ~~((being observably under the influence of any alcoholic beverage,))~~ 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.

~~((b) Marijuana.~~ The use, possession, delivery, or sale of marijuana or the psychoactive compounds found in marijuana intended for human consumption, regardless of form, or being observably under the

~~influence of marijuana or the psychoactive compounds found in marijuana. While state law permits the recreational use of marijuana, federal law prohibits such use on college premises or in connection with college activities.~~

~~(e)) (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.~~

~~((d)) (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.~~

~~((11) **Lewd conduct.** Conduct which is lewd or obscene that is not otherwise protected under the law.~~

~~(12) **Discriminatory conduct.** Discriminatory conduct which harms or adversely affects any member of the college community because of their race; color; national origin; sensory, mental or physical disability; use of a service animal; gender, including pregnancy; marital status; age; religion; creed; sexual orientation; gender identity; veteran's status; or any other legally protected classification.~~

~~(13) **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.~~

~~(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 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 26.50.010.~~

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

~~(A) Fear for their 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 he or she is unable to understand what is happening or is 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.~~

~~Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.~~

~~(14) **Harassment.** Unwelcome and offensive conduct, including verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct, that is directed at a person because of such person's protected status and that is sufficiently serious as to deny or limit, and that does deny or limit, the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational program, that changes the terms or conditions of employment for a college employee, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members. Protected status includes a person's race; color; national origin; sensory, mental or physical disability; use of a service animal; gender, including pregnancy; marital status; age; religion; creed; sexual orientation; gender identity; veteran's status; or any other legally protected classification. See "Sexual misconduct" for the definition of "sexual harassment." Harassing conduct may include, but is not limited to, physical conduct, verbal, written, social media and electronic communications.~~

~~(15) **Retaliation.** Harming, threatening, intimidating, coercing, or taking adverse action of any kind against a person because such person reported an alleged violation of this code or college policy, provided information about an alleged violation, or participated as a witness or in any other capacity in a college investigation or disciplinary proceeding.~~

~~(16)) (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) **Sex discrimination.** The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than "de minimis" harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than "de minimis" (insignificant) harm on the basis of sex.

(a) **Sex-based harassment.** "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) **Quid pro quo harassment.** A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) **Sexual violence.** "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(A) **Nonconsensual sexual intercourse** is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling)** is 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** is 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.

(D) **Statutory rape (rape of a child)** is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) **Domestic violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) **Dating violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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.

(G) **Stalking** means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) **Consent.** For purposes of this code, "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) **Title IX retaliation** means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part, including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

(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.

~~((17))~~ (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.

~~((18))~~ (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.

~~((19))~~ (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.

~~((20))~~ (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.

~~((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.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-038, filed 4/28/21, effective 5/29/21)

**WAC 495E-110-040 Corrective action, disciplinary sanctions, and terms and conditions.** (1) 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) **((Disciplinary)) 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.

(2) 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 cre-

dentials 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-22-005, filed 10/18/23, effective 10/19/23)

**WAC 495E-110-045 Hazing prohibited, sanctions.** (1) Hazing by a student or a student group is prohibited pursuant to WAC 495E-110-030((+9)) (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 (~~(anti-hazing)~~) 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-22-005, filed 10/18/23, effective 10/19/23)

**WAC 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 from notification of admission to the college 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-22-005, filed 10/18/23, effective 10/19/23)

**WAC 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 sexual misconduct.)~~) "Complainant" means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee; or

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(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 disciplinary action.

(6) "Disciplinary appeal" is the process by which an aggrieved (~~(student)~~) party can appeal the discipline imposed or recommended by the student conduct officer. Disciplinary appeals from a suspension in excess of 10 instructional days or (~~(an expulsion)~~) a dismissal are heard by the student conduct (~~(appeals board)~~) 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) (~~("Respondent" is the student against whom disciplinary action is initiated.~~

~~(9))~~) "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 sex discrimination under investigation. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination 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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination 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.

~~((10) "Sexual misconduct" has the meaning ascribed to this term in WAC 495E-110-030(13).~~

~~((11))~~ (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.

~~((12))~~ (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.

~~((13))~~ (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, sex-based 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.

~~((14))~~ (18) "Supportive measures" means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 envi-

ronment; 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(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 sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-038, filed 4/28/21, effective 5/29/21)

**WAC 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) **Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment.** The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. Allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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) Informal dispute resolution shall not be used to resolve sex-based harassment complaints without written permission from both the complainant and the respondent.

(b) 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 sex discrimination 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.

~~((2))~~ (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. ((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.

~~(3) The student conduct officer, prior to taking disciplinary action in a case involving allegations of sexual misconduct, will make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to discuss the results of the investigation and possible disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions, if any, that may be imposed upon the respondent if the allegations of sexual misconduct are found to have merit.~~

~~(4))~~ (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 ~~((ten))~~ 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 ~~((his or her))~~ 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. 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.

~~((5))~~ (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.

~~((6) 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 complainant's protection, including disciplinary suspension or dismissal of the respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights. If protective sanctions and/or conditions are imposed, the student conduct officer shall make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to ensure prompt notice of the protective disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions.))~~ (12) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) In cases involving sex discrimination, the student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) The respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing before the matter can be dismissed.

(g) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation

shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation.

(h) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(i) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-038, filed 4/28/21, effective 5/29/21)

**WAC 495E-110-080 Appeal from disciplinary action.** (1) Except as specified for cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, as set forth in WAC 495E-110-070(12), the respondent may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the conduct review officer within ~~((ten))~~ 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 ~~((review))~~ 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 ~~((ten))~~ 10 instructional days;

(b) Dismissals; ~~((and))~~

(c) Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment cases; and

(d) 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 conduct review officer shall conduct a brief adjudicative proceeding for appeals of:

(a) Suspensions of ~~((ten))~~ 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, ~~((disciplinary))~~ warnings and dismissals of disciplinary actions are final action and are not subject to appeal.

~~((10) In cases involving allegations of 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 sexual misconduct complaint; or~~

~~(b) Any disciplinary sanction(s) and conditions imposed against a respondent for a sexual misconduct violation, including a disciplinary 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.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-038, filed 4/28/21, effective 5/29/21)

**WAC 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 ~~((,))~~ and the student conduct officer ~~((, and in cases involving sexual misconduct, the complainant))~~. 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 ~~((ten))~~ 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 ~~((ten))~~ 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 com-~~

plainant'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 ~~((more than ten))~~ 10 instructional days or ~~((expulsion))~~ dismissal, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-038, filed 4/28/21, effective 5/29/21)

**WAC 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 ~~((ten))~~ 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 ~~((twenty))~~ 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 ~~((twenty))~~ 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 ~~((ten))~~ 10 instructional days or ~~((expulsion))~~ 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.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-038, filed 4/28/21, effective 5/29/21)

- WAC 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. ~~((The chair shall receive annual training on protecting victims and promoting accountability in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct.))~~
- (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 sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination 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, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.
- (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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-038, filed 4/28/21, effective 5/29/21)

- WAC 495E-110-120 ~~((Appeal—))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 (~~(, upon request,)~~) shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent (~~(in obtaining relevant and admissible evidence that is within the college's control)~~) 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 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 ~~((a nonattorney))~~ an assistant of their choice, which may be an attorney retained at the party's expense. ~~((The respondent, in all appeals before the committee, or a complainant in an appeal involving allegations of sexual misconduct before the committee, may elect to be represented by an attorney at their own cost, but will be deemed to have waived that right unless, at least four business days before the hearing, written notice of the attorney's identity and participation is filed with the committee chair with a copy to the student conduct officer. The committee will ordinarily be advised by an assistant attorney general. If the respondent is represented by an attorney, the student conduct officer may also be represented by a second, appropriately screened assistant attorney general.))~~

(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.

(12) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) **Notice.** The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in subsection (2) of this section, and a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) **Advisors.** The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (13)(b) of this section.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(13) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) **Notice.** In addition to all information required in subsection (2) of this section, the notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure

of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) **Advisors.** The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) **Separate locations.** The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) **Withdrawal of complaint.** If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-038, filed 4/28/21, effective 5/29/21)

**WAC 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 he/she 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 ~~((sexual misconduct, no party shall directly question or cross examine one another. Attorneys for the parties are also prohibited from questioning the opposing party absent express permission from the committee chair. Subject to this exception, all cross-examination questions shall be directed to the committee chair, who in their discretion shall pose the questions on the party's behalf))~~ sex-based harassment, 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 or advisor. 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:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client communications and attorney work product privilege;

(iii) Clergy privileges;

(iv) Medical or mental health providers and counselor privileges;

(v) Sexual assault and domestic violence advocate privileges; and

(vi) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

(8) Except in cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-038, filed 4/28/21, effective 5/29/21)

**WAC 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 (~~twenty~~) 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 the (~~respondent~~) 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 (~~legal counsel of record~~) 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 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~~) sex-based harassment, the initial

decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-038, filed 4/28/21, effective 5/29/21)

**WAC 495E-110-150 Appeal from student conduct committee initial decision.** (1) ~~((A party who is aggrieved by the findings or conclusions issued by the student conduct committee))~~ Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's initial decision to the president by filing a notice of appeal with the president's office ~~((or designee))~~ within ~~((ten))~~ 21 calendar days of service of the committee's ~~((initial))~~ decision. Failure to file a timely appeal constitutes a waiver of the right and the ~~((initial))~~ decision shall be deemed final.

(2) ~~((The notice of appeal must identify the specific findings of fact and/or conclusions of law in the initial decision that are challenged and must contain argument why the appeal should be granted. 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 notice of appeal.~~

~~(3) The president shall provide a written decision to the party and the student conduct officer within twenty days after receipt of the notice of appeal. The president's decision shall be final and shall include a notice of any rights to request reconsideration and/or judicial review.~~

~~(4) In cases involving allegations of 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 of the final decision. This notice shall inform 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.~~

~~(5))~~ 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, decision maker, 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 nonappealing 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 pres-

ident'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 sex-based harassment, the president's decision must be served simultaneously on the complainant, respondent, and Title IX coordinator.

(7) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-10-038, filed 4/28/21, effective 5/29/21)

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

~~(b))~~ 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.

~~((e))~~ (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.

~~((d))~~ (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.

~~((e))~~ (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.

~~((f))~~ (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))~~ sex discrimination, 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.

#### REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

WAC 495E-110-210      Brief adjudicative proceedings  
authorized.

**WSR 24-16-036**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**CASCADIA COLLEGE**

[Filed July 29, 2024, 1:59 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring Cascadia College's (college) student conduct code (chapter 132Z-115 WAC) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedures recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 132Z-119-010, 132Z-119-020, 132Z-119-030, 132Z-119-040, 132Z-119-050, 132Z-119-060, 132Z-119-070 and 132Z-119-080; and amending WAC 132Z-115-006, 132Z-115-015, 132Z-115-025, and 132Z-115-028.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

In addition to complying with the new final rule, the college is updating its student conduct code to comply with the antihazing provision of SHB [2SHB] 1751 and RCW 28B.10.900 and [28B.10.]902. These new definitions of prohibited behavior and updated procedures are necessary to address conduct that may pose a threat to the general welfare of the college community and/or college operations and to protect the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

These emergency rules were adopted by the college's board of trustees on July 24, 2024.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 8, Amended 1, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 4, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 8, Amended 4, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 24, 2024.

Susan Thomas  
Rules Coordinator

## OTS-5667.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-14-013, filed 6/19/15, effective 7/20/15)

**WAC 132Z-115-006 Authority—Jurisdiction.** (1) This student conduct code is adopted by the governing board of Cascadia College as authorized under RCW 28B.50.140. Authority is hereby delegated to the college president and administrative officers to administer and enforce the provisions of this code.

~~(2) ((The student conduct code shall apply to student conduct that occurs on college premises and to conduct that occurs at or in connection with college sponsored events, programs, or activities. This code may also apply to other student conduct occurring off campus or in noncollege electronic environments when the college deems such conduct to threaten safety or security or otherwise adversely impact the college community. Students shall be responsible for their conduct from the time of acceptance for admission or registration through the actual awarding of a degree or other certificate of completion. The college shall have authority to revoke a degree or other certificate of completion based on prohibited student conduct that is found to have occurred before the award of such degree or certificate. Student organizations affiliated with the college may also be sanctioned under this code for the conduct of their student members.~~

~~(3) The college shall not be required to stay disciplinary action under this student code pending any criminal or civil proceeding arising from the same conduct that would constitute a violation of this code. Nor shall the disposition of any such criminal or civil proceeding control the outcome of any student disciplinary proceeding.~~

~~(4)) The student conduct code shall apply to conduct by students and student groups that occurs:~~

~~(a) On college premises; or~~

~~(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.~~

~~(3) 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, on-line education, practicums, supervised work experiences, or any other college-sanctioned social or club activities and college-sanctioned housing.~~

~~(4) Students are responsible for their conduct from notification of admission to the college through 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.~~

~~(5) These standards shall apply to a student's conduct even if the student withdraws from college while a disciplinary matter is pending.~~

~~(6) 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.~~

(7) In addition to initiating disciplinary 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.

(8) Nothing in this student code shall be construed as authorizing the college to prohibit or to discipline speech or other conduct that is protected by law or constitutional right.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-14-013, filed 6/19/15, effective 7/20/15)

**WAC 132Z-115-015 Definitions.** The following definitions shall apply for purposes of this student conduct code:

(1) **College premises.** "College premises" shall include all campuses and electronic presences of the college, wherever located, and includes all land, buildings, facilities, vehicles, equipment, computer systems, websites, and other property owned, used, or controlled by the college.

(2) **Complainant.** A "complainant" for purposes of this student code means any person who is the alleged victim of prohibited student conduct, whether or not such person has made an actual complaint.

(3) **Conduct officer.** The "conduct officer" or "student conduct officer" is the college official designated by the college to be responsible for initiating disciplinary action for alleged violations of this code.

(4) **Conduct review officer.** The "conduct review officer" is the college official designated by the college to hear appeals of disciplinary action conducted as brief adjudicative proceedings and to enter final decisions in proceedings heard by the student conduct committee.

(5) **Day.** The term "day," unless otherwise qualified, means "calendar day." The qualified term "instructional day" means any day within an academic term that the college is open for business, excluding weekends and holidays.

(6) **Disciplinary action.** The term "disciplinary action" means the decision of the designated college official regarding alleged violations of the student code and includes any disciplinary sanction imposed for such violations. Disciplinary action does not include a summary suspension.

(7) **Filing and service.**

(a) **Filing.** The term "filing" means the delivery to the designated college official of any document that is required to be filed under this code. A document is filed by hand-delivering it or by mailing it to the college official (or the official's assistant) at the official's office address. Filing is complete upon actual receipt during office hours at the office of the designated official.

(b) **Service.** The term "service" means the delivery to a party of any document that is required to be served under this code. A document is served by hand-delivering it to the party or by mailing it to the party's address of record. Service is complete when the document is hand-delivered or actually deposited in the mail.

(c) **Electronic filing and service.** Unless otherwise provided, filing or service may be accomplished by electronic mail.

(8) **Party.** A "party" to a disciplinary proceeding under this code includes the student conduct officer and the student respondent, as well as any complainant in a proceeding involving allegations of sexual misconduct.

(9) **Preponderance of evidence.** The term "preponderance of the evidence" is a standard of proof requiring that facts alleged as constituting a violation of this code must be proved on a more likely than not basis.

(10) **Respondent.** A "respondent" is a student against whom disciplinary action is initiated.

(11) **Service.** See "Filing and service."

(12) **Student.** The term "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. The term includes prospective students who have been accepted for admission or registration, currently enrolled students who withdraw before the end of a term, and students, including former students, who engage in prohibited conduct between terms of actual enrollment or before the awarding of a degree or other certificate of completion.

(13) **Student group.** A 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.

(14) **Vice president.** The term "vice president" means the chief student affairs officer of the college and includes any acting or interim vice president and any other college official designated by the president to perform the functions and duties of the vice president under this student code.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-14-013, filed 6/19/15, effective 7/20/15)

**WAC 132Z-115-025 Prohibited student conduct.** Prohibited student conduct includes engaging in, attempting to engage in, or encouraging or assisting another person to engage in, any of the conduct set forth in this section. As applicable, the term "conduct" includes acts performed by electronic means. The term "includes" or "including" as used in this section means "without limitation."

(1) **Academic dishonesty.** The term "academic dishonesty" includes cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication.

(a) **Cheating.** Cheating includes any attempt to give or obtain unauthorized assistance relating to the completion of an academic assignment, including collaboration without authority.

(b) **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism includes taking and using as one's own, without proper attribution, the ideas, writings, or work of another person 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.** 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 academic assignment.

(2) **Alcohol, drug, and tobacco violations.**

(a) **Alcohol.** An "alcohol violation" includes using, possessing, delivering, selling, or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, except as permitted by law and applicable college policies.

(b) **((Marijuana)) Cannabis.** A "((marijuana)) cannabis violation" includes using, possessing, delivering, selling, or being under the influence of ((marijuana)) cannabis or the psychoactive compounds found in ((marijuana)) cannabis and intended for human consumption, regardless of form. While state law permits the recreational use of ((marijuana)) cannabis, federal law prohibits any possession or use of ((marijuana)) cannabis on college premises or in connection with college activities.

(c) **Drug.** A "drug violation" includes using, possessing, delivering, selling, or being 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. The abuse, misuse, or unlawful sale or distribution of prescription or over-the-counter medications may also constitute a drug violation.

(d) **Tobacco.** A "tobacco violation" means smoking or using tobacco products, electronic smoking devices (including e-cigarettes or vape pens), or other smoking devices in any area of college premises where smoking or tobacco use is prohibited in accordance with public law and college policy.

(3) **College policy violations.** The term "policy violation" means the violation of any applicable law or college policy governing the conduct of students as members of the college community, including college policies governing nondiscrimination, alcohol and drugs, computer use, copyright, and parking and traffic.

(4) **Disruptive or obstructive conduct.** The term "disruptive" or "obstructive conduct" means conduct, not protected by law, that interferes with, impedes, or otherwise unreasonably hinders the normal teaching, learning, research, administrative, or other functions, procedures, services, programs, or activities of the college. The term includes disorderly conduct, breach of the peace, violation of local or college noise policies, lewd or obscene conduct, obstruction of pedestrian or vehicular traffic, tampering with student election processes, or interfering with the orderly conduct of college investigations or disciplinary proceedings, including interfering with or retaliating against any complainant, witness, or other participant.

(5) **Ethics violations.** An "ethics violation" includes the breach of any applicable code of ethics or standard of professional practice governing the conduct of a profession for which the student is studying to be licensed or certified. The term also includes the violation of any state law or college policy relating to the ethical use of college resources.

(6) **Failure to comply.** The term "failure to comply" means refusing to obey the lawful directive of a college official or authorized college body, including a failure to identify oneself upon request, refusing to comply with a disciplinary sanction, or violating any no-contact or other protective order.

(7) **False or deceptive conduct.** The term "false" or "deceptive conduct" means dishonest conduct (other than academic dishonesty) that includes forgery, altering or falsifying of college records, furnishing false or misleading information to the college, falsely claiming an academic credential, or falsely accusing any person of misconduct.

(8) **Harassment.** The term "harassment" means unwelcome and offensive conduct, including verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct, that is directed at a person because of such person's protected status and that is sufficiently serious as to deny or limit the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational program, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for any campus community member(s). Protected status includes a person's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, gender, disability, or other status protected by law. See "sexual misconduct" for the definition of "sexual harassment."

(9) **Hazing.** (~~"Hazing" includes any initiation into a student organization or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization that causes or is likely to cause the destruction or removal of public or private property or that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger or physical harm, or serious mental or emotional harm, to any student or other person.~~)

(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.

(b) Any act that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student.

(c) 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.

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

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

(10) **Personal offenses.** The term "personal offense" is an offense against the safety or security of any person and includes physical assault, reckless endangerment, physical or verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, bullying, stalking, invasion of privacy, or other similar conduct that harms any person, or that is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of any person, or that has the purpose or effect of unlawfully interfering with any person's rights. The term includes personal offenses committed by electronic means.

(11) **Property violations.** The term "property violation" includes the theft, misappropriation, unauthorized use or possession, 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.

(12) **Retaliation.** The term "retaliation" means harming, threatening, intimidating, coercing or taking adverse action of any kind against a person because such person reported an alleged violation of

this code or other college policy, provided information about an alleged violation, or participated as a witness or in any other capacity in a college investigation or disciplinary proceeding.

(13) **Safety violations.** The term "safety violation" includes any nonaccidental 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.

(14) **Sexual misconduct.** The term "sexual misconduct" includes sexual harassment, sexual intimidation, and sexual violence.

(a) **Sexual harassment.** The term "sexual harassment" means unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently serious as to deny or limit, based on sex, the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational program, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for any campus community member(s).

(b) **Sexual intimidation.** The term "sexual intimidation" incorporates the definition of "sexual harassment" and means threatening or emotionally distressing conduct based on sex, including stalking (or cyberstalking), voyeurism, indecent exposure, or the nonconsensual recording of sexual activity or distribution of such recording. Stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for such person's safety or the safety of others, or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(c) **Sexual violence.** The term "sexual violence" incorporates the definition of "sexual harassment" and means a physical sexual act perpetrated against a person's will or where the person is incapable of giving consent, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion. The term further includes acts of dating or domestic violence. A person may be incapable of giving consent by reason of age, threat or intimidation, lack of opportunity to object, disability, drug or alcohol consumption, unconsciousness, or other cause.

(15) **Unauthorized access.** The term "unauthorized access" means gaining entry without permission to any restricted area or property of the college or the property of another person, including any facility, computer system, email account, or electronic or paper files. Unauthorized access includes computer hacking and the unauthorized possession or sharing of any restricted means of gaining access, including keys, keyboards, passwords, or access codes.

(16) **Weapons violations.** A "weapons violation" includes the possession, display, or use of any firearm, explosive, dangerous chemical, knife, or other instrument capable of inflicting serious bodily harm in circumstances that are reasonably perceived as causing alarm for the safety of any person. The term "weapons violation" includes any threat to use a weapon to harm any person and the use of any fake weapon or replica to cause the apprehension of harm. The term further includes the possession on college premises of any firearm or other dangerous weapon in violation of public law or college policy, but does not include the lawful possession of any personal protection spray device authorized under RCW 9.91.160.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132Z-115-028 Hazing prohibited—Sanctions.** (1) Hazing by a student or a student group is prohibited pursuant to WAC 132Z-115-025(9).

(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 permit 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.

**OTS-5666.2****Chapter 132Z-119 WAC****SUPPLEMENTAL SEX DISCRIMINATION STUDENT CONDUCT CODE AND PROCEDURES**NEW SECTION

**WAC 132Z-119-010 Sex discrimination—Supplemental student conduct code and procedures—Order of precedence.** This supplemental student conduct code and procedure applies to allegations of sex discrimination arising on or after August 1, 2024, subject to Title IX jurisdiction pursuant to regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education. See 34 C.F.R. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with the college's standard student conduct code and procedure, WAC 132Z-115-006 through 132Z-115-105, these supplemental student conduct code and procedures shall take precedence.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132Z-119-020 Sex discrimination—Prohibited conduct and definitions.** 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 or student group who commits, attempts to commit, or aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit, an act(s) of "sex discrimination."

For purposes of this supplemental procedure, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Complainant" means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee;

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(2) "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.

(3) "Program" or "programs and activities" means all operations of the college.

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

(5) "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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

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

(7) "Sex Discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis (insignificant) harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis harm on the basis of sex.

(a) Sex-based harassment. "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) Quid pro quo harassment. A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) Hostile environment. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) Sexual violence. "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(A) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling) is 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 is 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.

(D) Statutory rape (rape of a child) is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) Domestic violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) Dating violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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.

(G) Stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) "Consent." For purposes of this code, "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) "Title IX retaliation" means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part, including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

(8) "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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(9) "Student group" 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.

(10) "Supportive measures" means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 adjust-

ments; 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(11) "Title IX coordinator" is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132Z-119-030 Sex discrimination—Jurisdiction.** This supplemental procedure applies only if the alleged misconduct meets the definition of "sex discrimination" as that term is defined in WAC 132Z-119-020(7) and occurs:

- (1) On college premises;
- (2) At or in connection with college programs or activities; or
- (3) Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, the pursuit of its objectives, or the ability of a student or staff to participate in the college's programs and activities.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132Z-119-040 Sex discrimination—Dismissal and initiation of discipline.** (1) Any member of the college community may file a complaint against a student or student group for conduct which may constitute sex discrimination.

(2) The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The disciplinary process for allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, against a student shall be addressed through the student conduct code.

(3) Both the respondent and the complainant in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination 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.

(4) When a summary suspension is imposed pursuant to WAC 132Z-115-105, 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.

(5) The student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies

will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended finding and disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) The student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) The respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint. In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the complainant must withdraw their complaint in writing;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the service of the written recommendation.

(g) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX Coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(h) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

(i) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

NEW SECTION**WAC 132Z-119-050 Sex discrimination—Prehearing procedure.** (1)

For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination 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, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

(2) In sex discrimination cases, the college may, in its sole and exclusive 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.

(3) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) Notice. The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in WAC 132Z-115-075, as well as a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) Advisors. The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (4)(b) of this section.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(4) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) Notice. In addition to all information required to be provided in a prehearing notice pursuant to WAC 132Z-115-075, the prehearing notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) Advisors. The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) Separate locations. The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) Withdrawal of complaint. If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

#### NEW SECTION

##### **WAC 132Z-119-060 Sex discrimination—Presentation of evidence.**

(1) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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 or advisor. The com-

mittee 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:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client communications and attorney work product privilege;

(iii) Clergy privileges;

(iv) Medical or mental health providers and counselor privileges;

(v) Sexual assault and domestic violence advocate privileges; and

(vi) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132Z-119-070 Sex discrimination—Initial order.** In cases involving sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132Z-119-080 Sex discrimination—Appeals.** (1) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's decision to the president by filing a written appeal with the appropriate vice president's office (appeal authority) 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, decision maker, 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 appeal authority will promptly serve a copy of the appeal on all nonappealing 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 appeal authority may ask for additional briefing from the parties on issues raised on appeal. The appeal authority'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 appeal authority shall serve a written decision on all parties and their attorneys, if any, within 20 calendar days after receipt of the appeal. This decision shall be final and subject to judicial review pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, Part V.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the appeal decision must be served simultaneously on all parties and the Title IX coordinator.

(7) The appeal authority shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

**WSR 24-16-040**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**BELLEVUE COLLEGE**

[Filed July 30, 2024, 9:15 a.m., effective July 30, 2024, 9:15 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education (department) released its final rule to fully effectuate Title IX's promise that no person experiences sex discrimination in federally funded education. Before issuing the proposed regulations, the department received feedback on its Title IX regulations, as amended in 2020, from a wide variety of stakeholders. The final regulations strengthen several major provisions from the current regulations and provide schools with information to meet their Title IX obligations while providing appropriate discretion and flexibility to account for variations in school size, student populations, and administrative structures. The final regulations also provide greater clarity regarding the definition of "sex-based harassment"; the scope of sex discrimination, including schools' obligations not to discriminate based on sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and schools' obligations to provide an educational environment free from discrimination based on sex. The final regulations are effective on August 1, 2024, and apply to complaints of sex discrimination regarding alleged conduct that occurs on or after that date. Existing policies and procedures will remain in place for complaints of alleged conduct that occurs prior to August 1, 2024

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 132H-126-010, 132H-126-030, 132H-126-040, 132H-126-100, 132H-126-110, 132H-126-120, 132H-126-130, 132H-126-150, 132H-126-160, 132H-126-170, 132H-126-200, 132H-126-210, 132H-126-300, 132H-126-310, 132H-126-320, 132H-126-330, 132H-126-340, 132H-126-400, 132H-126-410 132H-126-420, 132H-126-430, 132H-126-440, 132H-126-470, and 132H-126-480.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: The final regulations strengthen several major provisions from the current regulations and provide schools with information to meet their Title IX obligations while providing appropriate discretion and flexibility to account for variations in school size, student populations, and administrative structures. The final regulations also provide greater clarity regarding the definition of "sex-based harassment"; the scope of sex discrimination, including schools' obligations not to discriminate based on sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and schools' obligations to provide an educational environment free from discrimination based on sex.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 24, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 30, 2024.

Loreen M. Keller  
Associate Director  
Policies and Special Projects

## OTS-5664.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-010 Authority.** The board of trustees, acting pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(14), delegates to the president of Bellevue College the authority to administer student disciplinary action. Administration of the disciplinary procedures is the responsibility of the (~~provost for academic and~~) vice president of student affairs or designee and/or the designated student conduct officer. ((The)) Except in cases involving reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, a student conduct officer, or delegate, shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for reported violations of this code.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-04-040, filed 1/25/23, effective 2/25/23)

**WAC 132H-126-030 Statement of jurisdiction.** (1) The student conduct code shall apply to conduct by students or student groups that occurs:

(a) On college premises;  
(b) At or in connection with college-sponsored activities; or  
(c) Off-campus, if in the judgment of the college the conduct 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 locations in which students are engaged in official college activities including, but not limited to, foreign or domestic travel, activities funded by the Bellevue College's associated student government, athletic events, student groups, training internships, cooperative and distance education, online education, internships, practicums, supervised work experiences, (~~(or)~~) any other college-sanctioned social or club activities (~~(and)~~), or college-sponsored housing.

(3) The college 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.

(4) Students are responsible for their conduct from the time of application for admission through the last day of enrollment or actual (~~receipt~~) award of a 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.

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

(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 shall proceed with student disciplinary proceedings regardless of whether the underlying conduct is subject to civil or criminal prosecution.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-04-040, filed 1/25/23, effective 2/25/23)

**WAC 132H-126-040 Definitions.** The following definitions shall apply for the purposes of this student conduct code:

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

(2) "**College official**" is an employee of the college performing assigned administrative, security, professional, or paraprofessional duties.

(3) "**College premises**" shall include all campuses of the college, wherever located, and includes all land, buildings, facilities, vehicles, equipment, other property owned, used, or controlled by the college, study abroad program, retreat, and conference sites, and college-sponsored and/or college-hosted online platforms.

(4) "**Complainant**" (~~is a student or another member of the college community who is allegedly directly affected by a reported violation of this student conduct code. The complainant may be the reporting party, but not necessarily; witnesses or other third parties may report concerns. In any case involving a report of sexual misconduct as defined in this student conduct code, a complainant is afforded certain rights under this student conduct code including, but not limited to:~~

~~(a) The right to be informed of all orders issued in the disciplinary case in which this person is a complainant;~~

~~(b) The right to appeal a disciplinary decision; and~~

~~(c) The right to be accompanied by a process advisor.)) means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:~~

~~(a) A student or employee; or~~

~~(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the reported discrimination.~~

(5) "**Conduct review officer**" is (~~the provost for academic and student affairs or designee or other~~) a college administrator designated by the president to be responsible for receiving and reviewing or referring appeals of student disciplinary actions in accordance with the procedures of this code. ((The president is authorized to reassign any and all of the conduct review officer's duties or responsi-

bilities, as set forth in this chapter, as may be reasonably necessary.)

(6) **"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 disciplinary action.

(7) **"Disciplinary appeal"** is the process by which an aggrieved ((student)) party can appeal the discipline imposed by the student conduct officer. Disciplinary appeals from a suspension in excess of 10 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 (BAP).

(8) **"Filing"** is ((the process by which)) how a document is officially delivered to a college official responsible for facilitating a disciplinary review. Papers required to be filed shall be deemed filed upon actual receipt during office hours at the office of the specified college official. 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) Sending the document by email ((and first class mail)) to the specified college official's college email ((and office address)).

(9) **"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.

(10) **"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.

(11) **"Process advisor"** is a person selected by a respondent or a complainant to provide support and guidance during disciplinary proceedings under this student conduct code.

((+10)) (12) **"Program" or "programs and activities"** means all operations of the college.

(13) **"Relevant"** means related to the reports of sex discrimination under investigation. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the reported sex discrimination occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the reported sex discrimination occurred.

(14) **"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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

(15) **"Respondent"** is a student against whom disciplinary action is initiated. ((Each respondent is afforded certain rights including, but not limited to:

(a) ~~The right to be presumed not responsible for the reported misconduct unless or until a determination of responsibility is reached after completion of the disciplinary process;~~

~~(b) The right to be informed of all orders issued in the respondent's disciplinary case;~~

~~(c) The right to appeal a disciplinary decision; and~~

~~(d) The right to be accompanied by a process advisor.~~

~~(11))~~ (16) "Service" is the process by which a document is officially delivered to a party. Service is deemed complete upon hand delivery of the document or upon the date the document is emailed (~~and deposited in the mail~~). 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~~) to the party's official college email.

~~((12) "Sexual misconduct" includes prohibited sexual or gender-based conduct by a student including, but not limited to, sexual harassment, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, indecent exposure, dating violence, or domestic violence.~~

~~(13))~~ (17) "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, graduate, or complete courses after the date of a reported violation, 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."~~) a "student" for purposes of this code.

~~((14))~~ (18) "Student conduct officer" is a college administrator designated by the president (~~or provost for academic and student affairs or designee~~) to be responsible for implementing and enforcing the student conduct code. (~~The president or provost for academic and student affairs or designee is authorized to reassign any and all of the student conduct officer's duties or responsibilities, as set forth in this chapter, as may be reasonably necessary.~~

~~(15))~~ (19) "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 reported student conduct code violation including, but not limited to, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(20) "Student group" 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.

~~((16) "The president" is the president of the college. The president is authorized to delegate any and all of their responsibilities, as set forth in this chapter, as may be reasonably necessary.)~~

(21) "Supportive measures" means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary measures offered by the college to a 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(22) "Title IX coordinator" is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, and overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes in accordance with college policy.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-04-040, filed 1/25/23, effective 2/25/23)

**WAC 132H-126-100 Prohibited student conduct.** The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student or a college-sponsored student group who commits ~~((or))~~, attempts to commit, ~~((or))~~ aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit ~~((the following acts))~~ an act(s) of misconduct:

(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) **Abuse of the student conduct process.**

(a) Abuse of the student conduct process includes:

(i) Attempting to influence the impartiality or participation of any decision maker including a student conduct officer, conduct review officer, or presiding student conduct committee member;

(ii) Influencing or attempting to influence another person to commit an abuse of the student conduct process;

(iii) Harassment or intimidation of any participant in the student conduct process; or

(iv) Submitting or providing false or misleading information in bad faith or with a view to personal gain or intentional harm to another in the conduct process.

(b) This provision does not apply to reports made or information provided in good faith, even if the respondent is ultimately found not responsible in that conduct proceeding.

(4) **Academic dishonesty.** Any act of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication. The decision to bring a student conduct proceeding under this code for academic dishonesty is at the sole discretion of the student conduct officer. Nothing in this code prohibits instructors and/or academic divisions or departments from imposing academic consequences, up to and including a failing grade in an academic course or dismissal from an academic program, in response to academic dishonesty. Policies and

procedures governing the imposition of academic consequences for academic dishonesty can be found in the course syllabus and any applicable program handbook.

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

(b) **Plagiarism.** Taking and using as 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.** Falsifying data, information, or citations in completing an academic assignment. Fabrication also includes providing false or deceptive information to an instructor concerning the completion of an assignment.

(d) ~~((Multiple submissions. Submitting the same work in separate courses without the express permission of the instructor(s)).~~

~~(e))~~ **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.

(5) **Acts of dishonesty.** Acts of dishonesty 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 reasonable request or requirement of a college official or employee; or

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

(6) **Alcohol.** Use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of alcoholic beverages or paraphernalia (except as expressly permitted by college policies, and federal, state, and local laws), or public intoxication on college premises or at college-sponsored events. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used by, possessed by, or distributed to any person not of legal age.

(7) **Cyber misconduct.** Cyberstalking, cyberbullying, or online harassment. Use of electronic communications including, but not limited to, electronic mail, text messaging, social media sites, or applications (apps), to harass, abuse, bully, or engage in other conduct that 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 electronic communications or computer activities directly or through spyware, sending threatening emails or ~~((texts))~~ messages, disrupting electronic communications with spam or by sending a computer virus, ~~((or))~~ sending false emails or texts to third parties using another's identity (spoofing), nonconsensual recording of sexual activity, and nonconsensual distribution of a recording of sexual activity.

(8) ~~((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.~~

~~(9))~~ **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; (~~honorably discharged~~) 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.

~~((10))~~ **(9) Disorderly conduct.** Conduct that is disorderly, lewd, or indecent; disturbing the peace; or assisting or encouraging another person to disturb the peace.

~~((11))~~ **(10) Disruption or obstruction.** Disruption or obstruction of any instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding, or other college activity, including the obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular movement on college property or at a college activity, or any activity that is authorized to occur on college property, whether (~~or not~~) actually conducted or sponsored by the college.

~~((12))~~ **Domestic violence.** Use or attempted use of physical abuse or sexual abuse, or a pattern of any other coercive behavior committed, enabled, or solicited to gain or maintain power and control over a victim, including verbal, psychological, economic, or technological abuse that may or may not constitute criminal behavior, by a person:

~~(a) Who is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, or a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington;~~

~~(b) Who is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;~~

~~(c) Who shares a child in common with the victim; or~~

~~(d) Who commits acts 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 26.50.010.~~

~~(13))~~ **(11) Economic abuse.** In the context of domestic violence dating violence, economic abuse includes behavior that is coercive, deceptive, or unreasonably controls or restrains a person's ability to acquire, use, or maintain economic resources to which they are entitled, including using coercion, fraud, or manipulation to:

(a) Restrict a person's access to money, assets, credit, or financial information;

(b) Unfairly use a person's personal economic resources, including money, assets, and credit, for one's own advantage; or

(c) Exert undue influence over a person's financial and economic behavior or decisions, including forcing default on joint or other financial obligations, exploiting powers of attorney, guardianship, or conservatorship, or failing or neglecting to act in the best interests of a person to whom one has a fiduciary duty.

~~((14))~~ **(12) 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.

~~((15))~~ **(13) Failure to comply with directive.** Failure to comply with the reasonable direction of a college official 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.

~~((16))~~ **(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 unless 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, ~~((or))~~ context, and duration of the comments or actions.

~~((17))~~ **(15) 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 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.

~~((18))~~ **(16) 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))~~ way such exposure is likely to cause affront or alarm. Breastfeeding or expressing breast milk is not indecent exposure.

~~((19))~~ **(17) Cannabis or other drugs.**

(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 under the influence of any prescription drug or possession of drug paraphernalia, 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.

~~((20))~~ **(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 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 computer time or resources to interfere with someone else's work;

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

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

(g) Use of computer 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.

~~((21))~~ **(19) Property violation.** Damage to, misappropriation of, unauthorized use or possession of, vandalism of, or other nonaccidental damaging or destruction of college property or the property of another person. Property, for purposes of this subsection, also includes computer passwords, access codes, identification cards, personal financial account numbers, other confidential personal information, intellectual property, and college trademarks.

~~((22))~~ **(20) Retaliation.** Harming, threatening, intimidating, coercing, or ~~((taking adverse action of any kind against a person because such person reported a violation of this code or college policy, provided information about a reported violation, or participated as a witness or in any other capacity in a college investigation or disciplinary proceeding.~~

~~(23))~~ other adverse action taken against any individual for reporting, providing information, exercising one's rights or responsi-

bilities, 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.

~~(21)~~ **Safety violations.** ~~((Safety violations include committing any))~~ Nonaccidental, reckless, or unsafe ((aet)) conduct that ((endangers others, failing to follow established safety procedures (e.g., failing to evacuate during a fire alarm), or interfering with or otherwise compromising any college equipment relating to the safety and security of the campus community including, but not limited to, tampering with fire safety or first-aid equipment, or)) 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.

~~((24))~~ **(22) Sexual exploitation.** Taking nonconsensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for the respondent's own advantage or benefit, or to benefit or advantage anyone other than the one being exploited, when the behavior does not otherwise constitute one of the other ~~((sexual misconduct))~~ sex-based harassment offenses described herein. Examples of sexual exploitation may 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 nudity or sexual activity, or nonconsensual audio 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 nonconsensual indecent exposure of another person, as defined by subsection ~~((18))~~ (16) of this section.

~~((25)~~ **Sexual harassment.** ~~Unwelcome sexual or gender-based conduct, including unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive as to:~~

- ~~(a) Deny or limit the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational program;~~
- ~~(b) Alter the terms or conditions of employment; or~~
- ~~(c) Create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members.~~

~~For sexual harassment prohibited under Title IX, refer to WAC 132H-126-410.~~

~~(26)~~ **Sexual violence.** A type of sexual harassment that includes nonconsensual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, and sexual coercion.

~~(a-))~~ **(23) Sex discrimination.** The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis (insignificant) harm to an individual by treating them differently from a similarly situated individual on the basis of:

Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis harm on the basis of sex and is prohibited.

(a) **Sex-based harassment.** A form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) **Quid pro quo harassment.** A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) **Sexual violence.**

(A) **Nonconsensual sexual intercourse.** Any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling).** Any actual or attempted intentional 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, or sibling, brother or sister either wholly or half related. Descendant includes stepchildren and adopted children under the age of 18.

(D) **Statutory rape (rape of a child).** Nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) **Domestic violence.** Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, or stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) **Dating violence.** Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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.

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

(b) **Consent.** For purposes of this code, "consent" means knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity. Effective consent cannot result from force, ((~~or~~)) threat of physical force, coercion, dishonesty, or intimidation.

(ii) ((Physical force means someone is physically exerting control of another person through violence. Physical force includes, but is not limited to, hitting, kicking, and restraining.

(iii) Threatening someone to obtain consent for a sexual act is a violation of this policy. Threats exist where a reasonable person would have been compelled by the words or actions of another to give permission to sexual activity to which they otherwise would not have consented.

(iv)) 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.

((~~v~~)) (iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

((~~b~~) **Nonconsensual sexual intercourse.** Any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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.

(c) **Nonconsensual sexual contact.** Any intentional sexual touching, however slight, with any 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.

~~(d) **Sexual coercion.** Unreasonably pressuring another for sexual contact. When a complainant makes it clear through words or actions that they do not want to engage in sexual contact, want to stop, or do not want to go past a certain point of sexual interaction, continued pressure beyond that point is presumptively unreasonable and coercive. Other examples of coercion may include using blackmail or extortion, or administering drugs and/or alcohol to overcome resistance or gain consent to sexual activity. Sexual contact that is the result of coercion is nonconsensual.~~

~~(e) **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.~~

~~(f) **Statutory rape.** Consensual sexual intercourse between someone who is 18 years of age or older and someone who is under the age of 16.~~

~~(27) **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. Stalking also includes instances where the perpetrator knows or reasonably should know that the person is frightened, intimidated, or harassed, even if the perpetrator lacks such an intent.~~

~~(28)) (c) **Title IX retaliation.** Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part, including during an informal resolution process, during a sex discrimination investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving reports of sex discrimination.~~

~~(24) **Technological abuse.** An act or pattern of behavior that occurs within domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking and is intended to harm, threaten, intimidate, control, stalk, harass, impersonate, exploit, extort, or monitor, except as otherwise permitted by law, another person, that occurs using any form of technology including, but not limited to: Internet-enabled devices, online spaces and platforms, computers, mobile devices, cameras and imaging programs, apps, location tracking devices, or communication technologies, or any other emerging technologies.~~

~~((29)) (25) **Tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products.** The use of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products is prohibited 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. The use of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products is prohibited in vehicles owned, leased, rented, or operated by the college. "Related products" include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, bidi, clove cigarettes, waterpipes, hookahs, chewing tobacco, and snuff.~~

~~((30)) (26) **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 col-~~

lege property. Providing keys to an unauthorized person or providing access to an unauthorized person is also prohibited.

~~((31))~~ **(27) Unauthorized recording.** The following conduct is prohibited:

(a) Making audio, video, digital recordings, or photographic images of a person without that person's consent in a location where that person has a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., restroom or residence hall room).

(b) Storing, sharing, publishing, or otherwise distributing such recordings or images by any means.

~~((32))~~ **(28) Violation of other laws or policies.** Violation of any federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation or other college rules or policies, including ~~(on-campus)~~ college housing ~~(policies and college)~~, traffic, and parking rules.

~~((33))~~ **(29) Weapons.**

~~((a))~~ Possessing, holding, wearing, transporting, storing, or exhibiting 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:

~~((i))~~ **(a)** Commissioned law enforcement personnel ~~(or ii))~~ or legally authorized military personnel while in performance of their official duties.

(b) Students with legally issued concealed weapons permits may store their weapons in vehicles parked in accordance with RCW 9.41.050 on campus provided the vehicle is locked and the weapon is concealed from view.

(c) The president or delegate may authorize possession of a weapon on campus upon a showing that the weapon is reasonably related to a legitimate pedagogical purpose. Such permission shall be in writing and shall be subject to any terms or conditions ~~(incorporated therein))~~ in the written permission.

(d) Possession and/or use of disabling chemical sprays for purposes of self-defense is not prohibited.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-01-082, filed 12/17/18, effective 1/17/19)

**WAC 132H-126-110 Corrective action, disciplinary sanctions—**

**Terms and conditions.** (1) ~~((The following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon students found to have violated the student conduct code:))~~ One or more of the following corrective actions or disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon a student or upon college-sponsored student groups found responsible for violating the student conduct code.

(a) **((Disciplinary)) Warning.** A verbal or written statement to a student that ~~((they are violating or have violated the student conduct code))~~ there is a violation and that continuation of the same or similar behavior may result in more severe discipline. 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 ~~((the))~~ this student conduct code 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, which may include a deferred disciplinary sanction.

(i) Probation may be for a limited period of time or may be for the duration of the student's attendance at the college.

(ii) 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.

(d) **Disciplinary suspension.** Separation from the college and from the student status for a stated period of time.

(i) There will be no refund of tuition or fees for the quarter in which the action is taken.

(ii) Conditions of suspension may be imposed and will be specified. Except as otherwise specified in the final order, all conditions must be fulfilled before the end of the suspension period. Failure to fulfill all conditions of suspension in a timely manner (~~will~~) may extend the suspension period and any conditions, and may result in additional disciplinary sanctions.

(iii) The college may put a conduct hold in place during the suspension period.

(e) **Dismissal.** The revocation of all rights and privileges of membership in the college community and exclusion from the campus and college-owned or college-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.

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

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

(c) **No contact (~~order~~) directive.** (~~A prohibition of direct or indirect physical, verbal, electronic, and/or written contact with another individual or group.~~) 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.

(d) **Not in good standing.** A student found to be "not in good standing" with the college shall be subject to the following restrictions:

(i) Ineligible to hold an office in any student (~~organization~~) group 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.

(e) **Professional evaluation.** Referral for drug, alcohol, psychological, or medical evaluation by an appropriately certified or licensed professional.

(i) The student may choose the professional within the scope of practice and with the professional credentials as defined by the college.

(ii) The student will sign all necessary releases to allow the college access to any such evaluation.

(iii) 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.

(f) **Residence hall suspension.** Separation of the student from a residence hall or halls for a definite period of time, after which the student may be eligible to return. Conditions ((for reacceptance may be specified)) may be imposed before a student is permitted to return to a residence hall.

(g) **Residence hall dismissal.** Permanent separation of the student from a residence hall or halls.

(h) **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.

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

(3) More than one of the disciplinary terms and conditions listed above may be imposed for any single violation.

(4) 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-04-040, filed 1/25/23, effective 2/25/23)

**WAC 132H-126-115 Hazing prohibited—Sanctions.** (1) ~~((Hazing by a student or a student group is prohibited pursuant to WAC 132H-126-100(17)).~~

~~(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))~~ (2) 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.

~~((e))~~ (3) Any student group ~~((s))~~ 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))~~ (4) 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-04-040, filed 1/25/23, effective 2/25/23)

**WAC 132H-126-120 Initiation of disciplinary action.** (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) Upon receipt, a 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) **(Student on student sexual misconduct.** The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall investigate complaints or other reports of sexual misconduct by a student against a student.~~

~~(b) **Sexual misconduct involving an employee.** The college's human resource office or designee shall investigate complaints or other reports of sexual misconduct in which an employee is either the complainant or respondent.~~

~~((e)) **Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment.** The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. Allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, by a student shall be addressed through the student conduct code. Reports involving employees, student 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.~~

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

~~((e) College personnel will honor requests to keep sexual misconduct complaints confidential to the extent this can be done in compliance with federal and state laws and without unreasonably risking~~

~~the health, safety, and welfare of the complainant or other members of the college community.~~

~~(3))~~ (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) Informal dispute resolution shall not be used to resolve ~~((sexual misconduct complaints))~~ sex discrimination reports without written permission from both the complainant and the respondent.

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

~~((4))~~ (5) If the student conduct officer has determined that a complaint has merit and if the matter is not resolved through agreement or alternative dispute resolution, the student conduct officer may initiate disciplinary action against the respondent.

~~((a))~~ (6) Both the respondent and the complainant in cases involving ~~((allegations of sexual misconduct))~~ reports of sex discrimination 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.

~~((b))~~ The student conduct officer, prior to initiating disciplinary action in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, will make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to discuss the results of the investigation and possible disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions, if any, that may be imposed upon the respondent if the allegations of sexual misconduct are found to have merit.

~~(5))~~ (7) All disciplinary actions will be initiated by a student conduct officer. If that officer is the subject of a complaint initiated by the respondent or the complainant, the president shall, upon request and when feasible, designate another person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities relative to the complaint.

~~((6))~~ (8) A student conduct officer shall initiate disciplinary action by serving the respondent with written notice directing them to attend a disciplinary meeting. ~~((a))~~ The notice shall briefly describe the factual allegations, the provision(s) of the student conduct code the respondent is reported to have violated, the range of possible sanctions for the reported violation(s), and it will specify the time and location of the meeting.

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

~~((7))~~ (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 the 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. This period may be extended ~~((if))~~ at the sole discretion of the student conduct officer ~~((, based on information presented at the disciplinary~~

~~meeting, concludes that additional investigation is necessary. If the period is extended, the student conduct officer will notify the respondent, and the complainant in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, of this extension, the reason(s), and the anticipated extension time frame)) 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.~~

~~((8))~~ (11) A student conduct officer may take any of the following disciplinary actions:

- (a) Exonerate the respondent and terminate the proceedings~~((7))~~;
- (b) Impose a disciplinary sanction(s), with or without condition(s), as described in WAC 132H-126-110 and 132H-126-115~~((7))~~; or
- (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.

~~((9) 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 of the decision, the reasons for the decision, and any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions that may have been imposed upon the respondent, including disciplinary suspension or dismissal of the respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights. If protective sanctions and/or conditions are imposed, the student conduct officer shall make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to ensure prompt notice of the protective disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions.))~~

(12) In cases involving reports of sex discrimination, the student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) In cases involving sex discrimination, the student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct reported by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct reported by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing before the matter can be dismissed.

(g) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation.

(h) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's sex discrimination resolution procedure.

(i) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-04-040, filed 1/25/23, effective 2/25/23)

**WAC 132H-126-130 Appeal from disciplinary action.** (1) Except as specified for cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, as set forth in WAC 132H-126-120, the respondent may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the conduct review officer within 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. ((If a case involves allegations of sexual misconduct, a complainant also has a right to appeal a disciplinary decision or to intervene in the respondent's appeal of a disciplinary decision to the extent the disciplinary decision, sanctions or conditions relate to allegations of sexual misconduct against the respondent.))

(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 the respondent has been summarily suspended.

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

(a) ~~((The imposition of))~~ Disciplinary suspensions in excess of 10 instructional days ((or, for a student group, suspensions in excess of two academic quarters));

(b) ~~Dismissals ((or, for a student group, deprivation of recognition or approval granted by the college))~~; ((and))

(c) Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment cases; and

(d) Discipline cases referred to the committee by ((the)) a student conduct officer, ((the)) a 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 conduct review officer shall conduct a brief adjudicative proceeding for appeals of:

(a) Residence hall dismissals;

(b) Residence hall suspensions;

(c) Suspensions of 10 instructional days or less;

(d) Disciplinary probation;

(e) Written reprimands; and

(f) ~~((Sanctions against a student group, other than those set forth in subsection (7)(a) and (b) of this section;~~

~~(g))~~ Any conditions or terms imposed in conjunction with one of the foregoing disciplinary actions ((; and

~~(h) Appeals by a complainant in student disciplinary proceedings involving allegations of sexual misconduct in which the student conduct officer:~~

~~(i) Dismisses disciplinary proceedings based upon a finding that the allegations of sexual misconduct have no merit; or~~

~~(ii) Issues a verbal warning to the respondent.~~

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

~~(10) In cases involving allegations of 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 sexual misconduct complaint; or~~

~~(b) Any disciplinary sanction(s) and conditions imposed against a respondent for a sexual misconduct violation, including a disciplinary 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 respondent's appeal of a disciplinary decision shall be afforded the same procedural rights as are afforded the respondent).~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-01-082, filed 12/17/18, effective 1/17/19)

**WAC 132H-126-150 Amnesty policy.** (1) Bellevue College values the health, safety and wellness of those in our college community.

Students are encouraged to report crimes, share concerns, and seek medical attention for themselves or others in need.

(2) A student conduct officer may elect not to initiate disciplinary action against a student who, while in the course of helping another person seek medical or other emergency assistance, admits to a possible policy violation under this student conduct code, provided that any such violations did not and do not place the health or safety of any other person at risk.

(3) A student conduct officer may elect not to initiate disciplinary action against a student who, while in the course of reporting violence, (~~sexual misconduct~~) sex discrimination, or a crime in progress, admits to personal consumption of alcohol or drugs at or near the time of the incident, provided that any such use did not place the health or safety of any other person at risk.

(4) While policy violations cannot be overlooked, the college may elect to offer educational options or referrals, rather than initiating disciplinary action against students who report crimes, serve as witnesses, or seek medical attention as described in this section.

(5) This amnesty policy may not apply to students who repeatedly violate college policies in regard(~~s~~) to alcohol, drugs, or other prohibited conduct.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-160 Interim measures.** (1) After receiving a report of (~~sexual misconduct~~) sex discrimination or other serious student misconduct, a student conduct officer or designee may implement interim measures which may include, but are not limited to:

(a) A no-contact order prohibiting direct or indirect contact, by any means, with a complainant, a respondent, a reporting party, other specified persons, and/or a specific student group or organization;

(b) Reassignment of on-campus housing;

(c) Changes to class schedules, assignments, or test schedules;

(d) Modified on-campus employment schedule or location;

(e) Restrictions on access to portions of campus including, but not limited to, on-campus housing; or

(f) Alternative safety arrangements such as campus safety escorts.

(2) If an interim measure is put in place pending or during a conduct proceeding, the student will be notified of the interim measure and be advised how to raise an objection about the interim measure or request that it be made less restrictive. (~~The~~) A student conduct officer may adjust or modify interim measures as students' situations and schedules change and evolve over time. Interim measures will remain in place until (~~the~~) student receives notice they have been lifted or modified from (~~the~~) a student conduct officer.

(3) Implementation of any interim measure does not assume any determination of, or create any presumption regarding responsibility for, a violation under this student conduct code.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-170 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))~~ A student conduct officer may impose a summary suspension if there is reasonable basis to believe that the respondent:

- (a) Has violated a provision of the student conduct code; 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 business days of the oral notice.

(4) The written notice 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 reportedly 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 that warns the student that their privilege to enter or remain on college premises has been withdrawn and that the respondent shall be ~~((considered to be))~~ trespassing and subject to arrest for criminal trespass if the respondent enters the college campus. The respondent may be authorized to access college premises for the limited purpose of meeting with the student conduct officer, the conduct review officer, or to attend a disciplinary hearing. All such meetings and hearings shall be confirmed in writing in advance and the respondent entering college premises shall be required to produce the written permission to a college official on request.

(5) ~~((The))~~ A 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 the 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 offices who may be bound or protected by it.

(6) In cases involving ~~((allegations of sexual misconduct))~~ reports of sex discrimination, 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-200 Brief adjudicative proceedings—((Initial))**

**Hearing.** (1) Brief adjudicative proceedings shall be conducted by a conduct review officer designated by the president. The conduct review officer 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.

(2) The parties to a brief adjudicative proceeding are the respondent and the student conduct officer. Before ~~((taking action))~~ acting, 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 parties within ~~((ten business))~~ 10 calendar 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 ~~((twenty-one))~~ 21 calendar days of service of the initial decision, the initial decision shall be deemed the final decision.

(4) ~~((If the matter is an appeal by the respondent, or the complainant in the case of sexual misconduct, the conduct review officer may affirm, reverse, or modify the disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions imposed by the student conduct officer and/or impose additional disciplinary sanctions or conditions as authorized herein. If the conduct review officer, upon review, determines that the respondent's conduct may warrant imposition of a disciplinary suspension of more than ten instructional days or expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.~~

~~((5) 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 of the decision, the reasons for the decision, and a descrip-~~

~~tion of any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions that may have been imposed upon the respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights.)) 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 expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-210 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 (~~twenty-one~~) 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 determine whether the findings or 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, include a brief statement of the reasons for the decision and typically must be served on the parties within (~~twenty~~) 20 calendar days of the initial decision or 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 (~~twenty~~) 20 calendar days after the request is submitted without a response from the president.

(5) If the president, upon review, determines that the respondent's conduct may warrant imposition of a disciplinary suspension of more than (~~ten~~) 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 of the decision, the reasons for the decision, and a description of any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions that may have been imposed upon the respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-300 Student conduct committee.** (1) The student conduct committee shall consist of six members:

- (a) Two full-time students appointed by the student government;
- (b) Two faculty members appointed by the president;
- (c) Two administrative staff members, other than an administrator serving as a student conduct or conduct review officer, appointed by the president prior to the beginning of the academic year for alternating two-year terms.

(2) One of the administrative staff members shall serve as the chair of the committee and may ~~((take action))~~ act on preliminary hearing matters prior to convening the committee. ~~((The administrative staff members shall receive annual training on protecting victims and promoting accountability in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct.))~~

(3) Hearings may be heard by a quorum of three members of the committee, so long as one faculty member, one student, and one administrative staff member 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

~~((~~ (a) Are a complainant or witness;

~~((~~ (b) Have direct or personal interest, prejudice, or bias; or

~~((~~ (c) Have acted previously in an advisory capacity.

~~((~~ (5) Any party may petition for disqualification of a committee member pursuant to RCW 34.05.425(4)) 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 the committee for disqualification of a committee member.

(5) For cases involving reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination 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, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

(6) In sex discrimination cases, the college may, in its sole and exclusive 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-310 Student conduct committee—Prehearing.** (1) Proceedings of the student conduct committee shall be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW, and by the Model

Rules of Procedure, chapter 10-08 WAC. To the extent there is a conflict between these rules and chapter 10-08 WAC, these rules shall control.

(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 (~~(, as further specified in RCW 34.05.434 and WAC 10-08-040 and 10-08-045)~~). 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 reported 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 notice of discipline, or referral to the committee ~~((+))~~ and (b) the notice of appeal, or any response to referral, by the respondent or, in a case involving ~~((allegations of sexual misconduct))~~ reports of sex discrimination, the complainant. 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))~~ A student conduct officer, upon request, shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in obtaining relevant and admissible evidence that is within the college's control.

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

(9) ~~((All parties))~~ Each party may be accompanied at the hearing by a process advisor of their choice, which may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

~~((The respondent, in all appeals before the committee, and the complainant, in an appeal involving allegations of sexual misconduct before the committee, may elect to be represented by an attorney at their own expense. The respondent and/or complainant will be deemed to have waived the right to be represented by an attorney unless, at~~

~~least four business days before the hearing, written notice of the attorney's identity and participation is filed with the committee chair with a copy to the student conduct officer.~~

~~(11))~~ 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 also be represented by ~~((a second, appropriately screened,))~~ an assistant attorney general.

(11) Attorneys for students must file a notice of appearance with the committee chair at least five 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.

(12) In cases involving reports of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) **Notice.** The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in subsection (2) of this section, and a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) **Advisors.** The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (13)(b) of this section.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(13) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) **Notice.** In addition to all information required in subsection (2) of this section, the notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the reported sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) **Advisors.** The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) **Separate locations.** The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) **Withdrawal of complaint.** If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-320 Student conduct committee—Presentation 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 reports of ~~((sexual misconduct))~~ sex discrimination, the respondent and complainant shall not directly question or cross-examine one another ~~((. Attorneys for the respondent and complainant are also prohibited from directly questioning opposing parties absent express permission from the committee chair. Subject to this exception, all cross-examination questions by the respondent and complainant shall be directed to the committee chair, who in their discretion shall pose the questions on the party's behalf. All cross-examination questions submitted to the chair in this manner shall be memorialized in writing and maintained as part of the hearing record.))~~ 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 witness by a party's attorney or advisor. The 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:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client communications and attorney work product privilege;

(iii) Clergy privileges;

(iv) Medical or mental health providers and counselor privileges;

(v) Sexual assault and domestic violence advocate privileges; and

(vi) 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 repor-

ted conduct, or is evidence of specific instances of prior sexual conduct with the respondent that is offered to prove consent to the reported sex-based 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 reported sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

(8) Except in cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-330 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 ~~((twenty))~~ 20 calendar days following the conclusion of the hearing or the committee's receipt of closing arguments, whichever is later, the committee shall issue ~~((an initial))~~ a 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 and explained.

(3) The committee's ~~((initial order))~~ decision shall also include a determination on appropriate ~~((discipline))~~ sanctions, if any. If the matter was referred to the committee by ~~((the))~~ a student conduct officer, the committee shall identify and impose disciplinary sanctions or conditions, if any, as authorized in the student conduct code. If the matter is an appeal by ~~((the respondent or the complainant in the case of sexual misconduct))~~ a party, the committee may affirm, reverse, or modify the disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions imposed by the student conduct officer and/or impose additional disciplinary sanctions or conditions as authorized herein. The notice will also inform the respondent of their appeal rights.

(4) The committee chair shall cause copies of ~~((the initial))~~ its decision to be served on the parties and their ~~((legal counsel of record. 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 sexual misconduct, the chair of the student conduct committee will make arrangements to have a written notice served on the complainant informing the complainant of the decision, the reasons for the decision, and a description of any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions that may have been imposed upon the respondent, including suspension or dismissal of the respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights. This notice shall be served on the complainant on the same date as the initial decision is served on 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.)) attorney, 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 sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-340 Student conduct committee—Review of an initial decision.** (1) ~~((A respondent, or a complainant in a case involving allegations of sexual misconduct, who is aggrieved by the findings or conclusions issued by the student conduct committee may request a review of the committee's initial decision to the president by filing a notice of appeal with the president's office within twenty-one days of service of the committee's initial decision or a written notice.)) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's decision to the president by filing a written appeal with the president's office within 21 calendar days of service of the committee's decision. Failure to file a timely appeal request within this time frame constitutes a waiver of the right and the initial decision shall be deemed final.~~

(2) ~~The ((notice of)) written appeal must identify the specific findings of fact and/or conclusions of law in the initial decision that are challenged and must contain an argument as to why the appeal should be granted. ((The president's review shall be restricted to the hearing record made before the student conduct committee and will normally be limited to those issues and arguments raised in the notice of appeal. As part of the review process, the president may ask the non-appealing party(ies) to respond to the arguments contained in the notice of appeal.~~

~~(3) The president shall provide a written decision to all parties within thirty days after receipt of the notice of appeal or receipt of the response from nonappealing parties, whichever is later. The president's decision shall be final and shall include a notice of any rights to request reconsideration and/or judicial review.~~

~~(4) In cases involving allegations of 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 of the final decision. This notice shall inform 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.~~

~~(5) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.) 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, decision maker, 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 nonappealing 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 sex-based harassment, the president's decision must be served simultaneously on the complainant, respondent, and Title IX coordinator.~~

~~(7) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.~~

**SUPPLEMENTAL TITLE IX STUDENT CONDUCT PROCEDURES FOR REPORTED INCIDENTS OCCURRING BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2024**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-04-040, filed 1/25/23, effective 2/25/23)

**WAC 132H-126-400 Order of precedence.** This supplemental procedure applies to allegations of sexual harassment occurring before August 1, 2024, subject to Title IX jurisdiction pursuant to regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education. See 34 C.F.R. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with the college's standard disciplinary procedures, WAC 132H-126-100 through 132H-126-340, these supplemental procedures shall take precedence. Bellevue College may, at its discretion, contract with an administrative law judge or other person to act as presiding

officer and assign such presiding officer to exercise any or all of the duties in lieu of the student conduct committee and committee chair.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-04-040, filed 1/25/23, effective 2/25/23)

**WAC 132H-126-410 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." These definitions apply to reported incidents occurring before August 1, 2024.

For purposes of this supplemental procedure, "sexual harassment" encompasses the following conduct:

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

(2) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find 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 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 18.

(d) **Statutory rape.** Consensual sexual intercourse between someone who is 18 years of age or older and someone who is under the age of 16.

(4) **Domestic violence.** Use or attempted use of physical abuse or sexual abuse, or a pattern of any other coercive behavior committed, enabled, or solicited to gain or maintain power and control over a victim, including verbal, psychological, economic, or technological abuse that may or may not constitute criminal behavior, by a person:

(a) Who is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, or a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington;

(b) Who is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;

(c) Who shares a child in common with the victim; or

(d) Who commits acts 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 26.50.010.

(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) **Economic abuse.** In the context of domestic violence dating violence, economic abuse includes behavior that is coercive, deceptive, or unreasonably controls or restrains a person's ability to acquire, use, or maintain economic resources to which they are entitled, including using coercion, fraud, or manipulation to:

(a) Restrict a person's access to money, assets, credit, or financial information;

(b) Unfairly use a person's personal economic resources, including money, assets, and credit, for one's own advantage; or

(c) Exert undue influence over a person's financial and economic behavior or decisions, including forcing default on joint or other financial obligations, exploiting powers of attorney, guardianship, or conservatorship, or failing or neglecting to act in the best interests of a person to whom one has a fiduciary duty.

(7) **Technological abuse.** An act or pattern of behavior that occurs within domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking and is intended to harm, threaten, intimidate, control, stalk, harass, impersonate, exploit, extort, or monitor, except as otherwise permitted by law, another person, that occurs using any form of technology including, but not limited to: Internet-enabled devices, online spaces and platforms, computers, mobile devices, cameras and imaging programs, apps, location tracking devices, or communication technologies, or any other emerging technologies.

(8) **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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-420 Title IX jurisdiction.** (1) This supplemental procedure applies only if the reported 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; and

(d) Before August 1, 2024.

(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 reported 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 ~~((e))~~ (d) 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, chapter 132H-126 WAC.

(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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-430 Initiation of discipline.** These supplemental procedures apply to reported incidents occurring before August 1, 2024.

(1) Upon receiving the 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, the complainant, and their respective advisors. The notice must:

(a) Set forth the basis for Title IX jurisdiction;

(b) Identify the reported 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 reported 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 their party's behalf;

(ii) An advisor may be an attorney; and

(iii) The college will appoint the party an advisor of the college's choosing at no cost to the party, if the party fails to do so; and

(3) Explain that if a party fails to appear at the hearing, a decision of responsibility may be made in their absence.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-440 Prehearing procedure.** These supplemental pre-hearing procedures apply to reported incidents occurring before August 1, 2024.

(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 132H-126-310. In no event will the hearing date be set less than (~~ten~~) 10 business 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 business 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-470 Initial order.** These supplemental procedures apply to reported incidents occurring before August 1, 2024.

(1) In addition to complying with WAC 132H-126-330, the student conduct committee will be responsible for conferring and drafting an initial order that:

(a) Identifies the allegations of sexual harassment;

(b) Describes the grievance and disciplinary procedures, starting with filing of the formal complaint through the determination of responsibility, including notices to parties, interviews with witnesses and parties, site visits, methods used to gather evidence, and hearings held;

(c) Makes findings of fact supporting the determination of responsibility;

(d) Reaches conclusions as to whether the facts establish whether the respondent is responsible for engaging in sexual harassment in violation of Title IX;

(e) Contains a statement of, and rationale for, the committee's determination of responsibility for each allegation;

(f) Describes any disciplinary sanction or conditions imposed against the respondent, if any;

(g) Describes to what extent, if any, complainant is entitled to remedies designed to restore or preserve complainant's equal access to the college's education programs or activities; and

(h) Describes the process for appealing the initial order to the president.

(2) The committee chair will serve the initial order on the parties simultaneously.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

**WAC 132H-126-480 Appeals.** These supplemental procedures apply to reported incidents occurring before August 1, 2024.

(1) The parties shall have the right to appeal from the initial order's determination of responsibility and/or dismissal of an allegation(s) of sexual harassment in a formal complaint. The right to appeal will be subject to the same procedures and time frames set forth in WAC 132H-126-340.

(2) The president or their delegate will determine whether the grounds for appeal have merit, provide the rationale for this conclusion, and state whether the disciplinary sanction and condition(s) imposed in the initial order are affirmed, vacated, or amended, and, if amended, set forth any new disciplinary sanction and/or condition(s).

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

## WSR 24-16-047

## EMERGENCY RULES

## HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

[Filed July 30, 2024, 12:54 p.m., effective July 30, 2024, 12:54 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: To comply with federal law, the health care authority is extending the time period of parole for certain persons from Ukraine to qualify for refugee medical assistance.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 182-503-0535 and 182-507-0135.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: The Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024 (division B of P. L. 118-50) extended to September 30, 2024, eligibility for certain benefits offered to Ukrainian arrivals and refugees.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 30, 2024.

Wendy Barcus  
Rules Coordinator

**OTS-5636.1**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-20-043, filed 9/27/23, effective 10/28/23)

**WAC 182-503-0535 Washington apple health—Citizenship and immigration status. (1) Definitions.**

(a) **Nonqualified alien** means someone who is lawfully present in the United States (U.S.) but who is not a qualified alien, a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, or a qualifying American Indian born abroad.

(b) **Qualified alien** means someone who is lawfully present in the United States and who is one or more of the following:

(i) A person lawfully admitted for permanent residence (LPR).

(ii) An abused spouse or child, a parent of an abused child, or a child of an abused spouse who no longer resides with the person who committed the abuse, and who has one of the following:

(A) A pending or approved I-130 petition or application to immigrate as an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen or as the spouse of an unmarried LPR younger than 21 years of age.

(B) Proof of a pending application for suspension of deportation or cancellation of removal under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

(C) A notice of prima facie approval of a pending self-petition under VAWA. An abused spouse's petition covers his or her child if the child is younger than 21 years of age. In that case, the child retains qualified alien status even after he or she turns 21 years of age.

(iii) A person who has been granted parole into the U.S. for one year or more, under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) Section 212 (d) (5), including public interest parolees.

(iv) A member of a Hmong or Highland Laotian tribe that rendered military assistance to the U.S. between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, including the spouse, unremarried widow or widower, and unmarried dependent child of the tribal member.

(v) A person who was admitted into the U.S. as a conditional entrant under INA Section 203 (a) (7) before April 1, 1980.

(vi) A person admitted to the U.S. as a refugee under INA Section 207.

(vii) A person who has been granted asylum under INA Section 208.

(viii) A person granted withholding of deportation or removal under INA Section 243(h) or 241 (b) (3).

(ix) A Cuban or Haitian national who was paroled into the U.S. or given other special status.

(x) An Amerasian child of a U.S. citizen under 8 C.F.R. Section 204.4(a).

(xi) A person from Iraq or Afghanistan who has been granted one of the following:

(A) Special immigrant status under INA Section 101 (a) (27);

(B) Special immigrant conditional permanent resident; or

(C) Parole under Section 602 (b) (1) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 or Section 1059(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2006.

(xii) An Afghan who, under Section 2502 of the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act of 2021, is evaluated as a qualified alien until March 31, 2023, or the end of their parole term, whichever is later, when granted parole:

(A) Between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023; or

(B) After September 30, 2022, and is:

(I) Their spouse or child; or

(II) The parent or guardian of an unaccompanied minor described under this subsection.

(xiii) A citizen or national of Ukraine (or a person who last habitually resided in Ukraine) who, under section 401 of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (AUSAA) and the Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024 (USSAA), is evaluated as a qualified alien until the end of their parole term when:

(A) Granted parole into the United States between February 24, 2022, and September 30, ((2023)) 2024; or

(B) Granted parole into the United States after September 30, ((2023)) 2024, and is:

(I) The spouse or child of a person described in (b) (xiii) (A) of this subsection; or

(II) The parent, legal guardian, or primary caregiver of a person described in (b) (xiii) (A) of this subsection who is determined to be

an unaccompanied child under section 462 (g) (2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 or section 412 (d) (2) (B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(xiv) A person who has been certified or approved as a victim of trafficking by the federal office of refugee resettlement, or who is:

(A) The spouse or child of a trafficking victim of any age; or

(B) The parent or minor sibling of a trafficking victim who is younger than 21 years of age.

(xv) A person from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, or the Republic of the Marshall Islands living in the United States in accordance with the Compacts of Free Association.

(c) **U.S. citizen** means someone who is a United States citizen under federal law.

(d) **U.S. national** means someone who is a United States national under federal law.

(e) **Undocumented person** means someone who is not lawfully present in the U.S.

(f) **Qualifying American Indian born abroad** means someone who:

(i) Was born in Canada and has at least 50 percent American Indian blood, regardless of tribal membership; or

(ii) Was born outside of the United States and is a member of a federally recognized tribe or an Alaska Native enrolled by the Secretary of the Interior under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

(2) **Eligibility.**

(a) A U.S. citizen, U.S. national or qualifying American Indian born abroad may be eligible for:

(i) Apple health for adults;

(ii) Apple health for kids;

(iii) Apple health for pregnant women; or

(iv) Classic medicaid.

(b) A qualified alien who meets or is exempt from the five-year bar may be eligible for:

(i) Apple health for adults;

(ii) Apple health for kids;

(iii) Apple health for pregnant women; or

(iv) Classic medicaid.

(c) A qualified alien who neither meets nor is exempt from the five-year bar may be eligible for:

(i) Alien medical programs;

(ii) Apple health for kids;

(iii) Apple health for pregnant women; or

(iv) Medical care services.

(d) A nonqualified alien may be eligible for:

(i) Alien medical programs;

(ii) Apple health for kids;

(iii) Apple health for pregnant women; or

(iv) Medical care services.

(e) An undocumented person may be eligible for:

(i) Alien medical programs;

(ii) State-only funded apple health for kids; or

(iii) State-only funded apple health for pregnant women.

(3) **The five-year bar.**

(a) A qualified alien meets the five-year bar if he or she:

(i) Continuously resided in the U.S. for five years or more from the date he or she became a qualified alien; or

(ii) Entered the U.S. before August 22, 1996, and:

(A) Became a qualified alien before August 22, 1996; or

(B) Became a qualified alien on or after August 22, 1996, and has continuously resided in the U.S. between the date of entry into the U.S. and the date he or she became a qualified alien.

(b) A qualified alien is exempt from the five-year bar if he or she is:

(i) A qualified alien as defined in subsection (1)(b)(vi) through (xv) of this section;

(ii) An LPR, parolee, or abused person, who is also an armed services member or veteran, or a family member of an armed services member or veteran, as described below:

(A) An active-duty member of the U.S. military, other than active-duty for training;

(B) An honorably discharged U.S. veteran;

(C) A veteran of the military forces of the Philippines who served before July 1, 1946, as described in Title 38 U.S.C. Section 107; or

(D) The spouse, unremarried widow or widower, or unmarried dependent child of an honorably discharged U.S. veteran or active-duty member of the U.S. military.

#### OTS-5637.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-20-043, filed 9/27/23, effective 10/28/23)

**WAC 182-507-0135 Immigration status requirement for refugee medical assistance (RMA).** (1) An individual is eligible for refugee medical assistance (RMA) if the individual provides documentation issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to show that the individual is:

(a) Admitted as a refugee under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationalities Act (INA);

(b) Paroled into the United States as a refugee or asylee under section 212 (d)(5) of the INA;

(c) Granted conditional entry under section 203 (a)(7) of the INA;

(d) Granted asylum under section 208 of the INA;

(e) Admitted as an Amerasian immigrant from Vietnam through the orderly departure program, under section 584 of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, incorporated in the FY88 continuing resolution P.L. 100-212;

(f) A Cuban-Haitian entrant who was admitted as a public interest parolee under section 212 (d)(5) of the INA;

(g) Certified as a victim of human trafficking by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR);

(h) An eligible family member of a victim of human trafficking certified by ORR who has a T-2, T-3, T-4, or T-5 visa;

(i) Admitted as special immigrant from Iraq or Afghanistan under one of the following:

(i) Special immigrant status under section 101 (a)(27) of the INA;

(ii) Special immigrant conditional permanent resident; or

(iii) Parole under section 602 (b) (1) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 or section 1059(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2006;

(j) An Afghan granted humanitarian parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023, their spouse or child, or a parent or guardian of an unaccompanied minor who is granted parole after September 30, 2022, under section 2502 of the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act of 2021; or

(k) A citizen or national of Ukraine (or a person who last habitually resided in Ukraine) who, under section 401 of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (AUSAA) and the Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024 (USSAA), is evaluated as a qualified alien when:

(i) Granted parole into the United States between February 24, 2022, and September 30, (~~2023~~) 2024; or

(ii) Granted parole into the United States after September 30, (~~2023~~) 2024, and is:

(A) The spouse or child of a person described in (k) (i) of this subsection; or

(B) The parent, legal guardian, or primary caregiver of a person described in (k) (i) of this subsection who is determined to be an unaccompanied child under section 462 (g) (2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 or section 412 (d) (2) (B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(2) A permanent resident alien meets the immigration status requirements for RCA and RMA if the individual was previously in one of the statuses described in subsection (1) of this section.

**WSR 24-16-051**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**CENTRALIA COLLEGE**

[Filed July 30, 2024, 4:26 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring Centralia College's student conduct code (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedures recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 132L-351-005, 132L-351-010, 132L-351-015, 132L-351-020, 132L-351-025, 132L-351-030, 132L-351-035, 132L-351-040, 132L-351-045, 132L-351-050, 132L-351-055, 132L-351-060, 132L-351-065, 132L-351-070, 132L-351-075, 132L-351-080, 132L-351-085, 132L-351-090, 132L-351-095, 132L-351-100, 132L-351-105, 132L-351-110, 132L-351-115, 132L-351-120, 132L-351-200, 132L-351-210, 132L-351-220, 132L-351-230, 132L-351-240, 132L-351-250, 132L-351-260, 132L-351-270, and 132L-351-280.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

In addition to complying with the new final rule, the college is updating its student conduct code to address [no further information supplied by agency]. These new definitions of prohibited behavior and updated procedures are necessary to address conduct that may pose a threat to the general welfare of the college community and/or college operations and to protect the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Date Adopted: August 1, 2024.

Robert Cox  
Vice President of Student Services

**OTS-5641.2**

**Chapter 132L-352 WAC**  
**CENTRALIA COLLEGE—STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES CODE**

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-005 Authority.** The Centralia College board of trustees, acting pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(14), delegates to the president of the college the authority to administer student disciplinary action. The president is authorized to delegate or reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary. Administration of the disciplinary procedures is the responsibility of the vice president of student services or their designee. Except in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the student conduct officer, or delegate, shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code. This code will govern all issues that happen after August 1, 2024. Chapter 132L-351 WAC will govern all issues that happen prior to August 1, 2024.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-010 Statement of jurisdiction.** (1) The student conduct code shall apply to conduct by students or student groups that occurs:

- (a) On college premises;
- (b) At or in connection with college programs or activities; or
- (c) Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, 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 locations in which students are engaged in college programs or activities including, but not limited to, college-sponsored housing, foreign or domestic travel, activities funded by the students, student government, student clubs or organizations, athletic events, training internships, cooperative and distance education, online education, practicums, supervised work experiences or any other college-sanctioned social or club activities.

(3) Students are responsible for their conduct from the time they gain admission to the college through the last day of enrollment or award of any degree or certificate, 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 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 college 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 disciplinary 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.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-015 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 student affairs, subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.50.090 (3)(b).

(c) Students shall be protected from academic evaluation that 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 that is free from unlawful discrimination, inappropriate and disrespectful conduct, and any and all harassment, including sex discrimination.

(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.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-020 Definitions.** The following definitions shall apply for the 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) "**Complainant**" means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee; or

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(4) "**Conduct review officer**" is a college administrator designated by the president who is responsible for reviewing or referring appeals of student disciplinary actions as specified in 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 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 10 instructional days or a dismissal from the college are heard by the student conduct committee. Appeals of all other disciplinary action shall be reviewed by a conduct review officer 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) "**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.

(10) "**Program**" or "**programs and activities**" means all operations of the college.

(11) "**Relevant**" means related to the allegations of sex discrimination under investigation. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred.

(12) "**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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

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

(14) "**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) By 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 that the document is emailed and deposited in the mail, whichever is first.

(15) "**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 a "student" for purposes of this chapter.

(16) "**Student conduct officer**" is a college administrator designated by the president to be responsible for implementing and enforcing the student conduct code.

(17) "**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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(18) "**Student group**" 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.

(19) "**Supportive measures**" means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(20) "**Title IX coordinator**" is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-030 Prohibited student conduct.** The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student or a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team or living 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:

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

(b) Plagiarism - Taking and using as one's own, without proper attribution, the ideas, writings, 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 - 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.

(4) **Acts of dishonesty.** Acts of dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

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

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

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

(5) **Alcohol.** Use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of alcoholic beverages or paraphernalia (except as expressly permitted by college policies, and federal, state, and local laws), or public intoxication on college premises or at college-sponsored events. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used by, possessed by, or distributed to any person not of legal age.

(6) **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.

(7) **Cyber misconduct.** 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.

(8) **Disruption or obstruction.** Disruption or obstruction of instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding, or other college activity, including the obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular movement on college premises or at a college activity, or any activity that is authorized to occur on college premises, whether or not actually conducted or sponsored by the college.

(9) **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.

(10) **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.

(11) **Failure to comply with directive.** Failure to comply with the direction 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.

(12) **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.

(13) **Hazing.** Hazing is any act committed as part of a person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team, or living group, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization, athletic team, or living group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student, including 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, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions. Consent is not a valid defense against hazing.

(14) **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.

(15) **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.

(16) **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.

(17) **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.

(18) **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.

(19) **Sex discrimination.** The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis (insignificant) harm on the basis of sex.

(a) **Sex-based harassment.** "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) **Quid pro quo harassment.** A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) **Sexual violence.** "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(A) **Nonconsensual sexual intercourse** is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling)** is 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** is 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.

(D) **Statutory rape (rape of a child)** is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) **Domestic violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) **Dating violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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.

(G) **Stalking** means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) **Consent.** For purposes of this code, "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) **Title IX retaliation** means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing, including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

(20) **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.

(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) **Weapons.** Carrying, exhibiting, displaying, or drawing any firearm, dagger, sword, knife, or other cutting or stabbing instrument, club, or any other weapon apparently capable of producing bodily harm, in a manner, under circumstances, and at a time and place that either manifests an intent to intimidate another or that warrant alarm for the safety of other persons.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-035 Corrective action, disciplinary sanctions, terms and conditions.** (1) One or more of the following corrective actions or disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon a student or upon college-sponsored student organizations, athletic teams, or living groups found responsible for violating 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 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 student status for a stated period of time. There will be no refund of tuition or fees for the quarter in which the suspension is imposed.

(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 dismissal is imposed.

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

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

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

(c) **Not in good standing.** A student deemed "not in good standing" with the college 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 directive.** 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) **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 and the evaluation is at the student's expense. 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.

(f) **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 pro-

ceeding. This may take the form of monetary reimbursement, appropriate service, or other compensation.

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

(h) **Residence hall suspension or termination.** Removal from a residence hall for a specified period or permanently. Conditions may be imposed before a student is permitted to return to a residence hall.

(3) More than one of the disciplinary terms and conditions listed above may be imposed for any single violation.

(4) 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.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-040 Hazing sanctions.** (1) 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 non-profit, the individual directors of the corporation may be held individually liable for damages.

(2) 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.

(3) Any student group 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.

(4) Any student group 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.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-045 Initiation of disciplinary action.** (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) **Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment.** The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimina-

tion, including sex-based harassment. Allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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) Informal dispute resolution shall not be used to resolve sex-based harassment complaints without written permission from both the complainant and the respondent.

(b) 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 sex discrimination 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, the president shall, upon request and when feasible, designate another person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities relative to the complaint.

(8) The student conduct officer shall initiate disciplinary action by serving the respondent with written notice directing him or her 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 after proper service of notice, the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.

(10) Within 10 calendar 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. 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 132L-352-035; or
- (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 sex discrimination, the student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) In cases involving sex discrimination, the student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing before the matter can be dismissed.

(g) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation

shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation.

(h) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(i) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-050 Appeal from disciplinary action.** (1) Except as specified for cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, as set forth in WAC 132L-352-045(12) (Initiation of Disciplinary Action), the respondent may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the student conduct officer within 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) A conduct review officer shall conduct a brief adjudicative proceeding for appeals of:

(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.

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

(a) Disciplinary suspensions in excess of 10 instructional days;

(b) Dismissals;

(c) Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment cases; and

(d) Disciplinary cases referred to the committee by the student conduct officer, a conduct review officer, or the president.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-055 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 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.

(2) The parties to a brief adjudicative proceeding are the respondent and the student conduct officer. 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 calendar 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) 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 expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-060 Brief adjudicative proceedings—Review of an initial decision.** (1) An initial decision is subject to review by the president, provided a party 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 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.

(3) During the review, the president shall give all parties 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 expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-065 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;
- (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 the committee for disqualification of a committee member.

(5) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination cases, as well as the meaning and application of the term "relevant" in relation to questions and evidence, and the types of evidence that are impermissible, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

(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.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-070 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 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 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 chair may provide to the committee members in advance of the hearing copies of:

(a) The student 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 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 advisor 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.

(12) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) **Notice.** The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in subsection (2) of this section, and a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) **Advisors.** The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (13)(b) of this section.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(13) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) **Notice.** In addition to all information required in subsection (2) of this section, the notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown,

the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) **Advisors.** The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) **Separate locations.** The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) **Withdrawal of complaint.** If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-075 Student conduct committee—Presentation 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 ensure 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 recordings 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 college's case.

(6) All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. Except as otherwise provided in this section, evidence shall be admitted or excluded in accordance with RCW 34.05.452.

(7) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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 or advisor. 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:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client communications and attorney work product privilege;

(iii) Clergy privileges;

(iv) Medical or mental health providers and counselor privileges;

(v) Sexual assault and domestic violence advocate privileges; and

(vi) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

(8) Except in cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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.

#### NEW SECTION

##### **WAC 132L-352-080 Student conduct committee—Initial decision.**

(1) At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee chair shall permit

the parties to make closing arguments in whatever form, written or verbal, the committee 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 a decision in accordance with RCW 34.05.461 and WAC 10-08-210. The 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 and explained.

(3) The committee's decision shall also include a determination of appropriate sanctions, 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(s) 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 its decision to be served on the parties and their attorney, 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 sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-085 Student conduct committee—Review of initial decision.** (1) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's decision to the president by filing a written 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, decision maker, 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 nonappealing 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 sex-based harassment, the president's decision must be served simultaneously on the complainant, respondent, and Title IX coordinator.

(7) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132L-352-090 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(s) 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 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 offices who may be bound or protected by it.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, 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.

**WSR 24-16-052**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**EDMONDS COLLEGE**

[Filed July 30, 2024, 4:28 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring Edmonds College into compliance with new Title IX federal regulations. The Edmonds College board of trustees adopted these emergency rules in an open public meeting on July 29, 2024, and approved the emergency rules effective upon filing, Resolution #24-7-1.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending chapters 132Y-125 and 132Y-300 WAC.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13), chapter 34.05 RCW; 20 U.S.C. § 1092(F), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Department of Education April 2024 Title IX Regulations Final Rule.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt investigative and disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 20, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 20, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 30, 2024.

Katherine M. Smith  
Title IX Coordinator

**OTS-5695.2**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-034, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/21/20)

**WAC 132Y-125-001 Student code of conduct.** (1) **Authority.** The Edmonds College board of trustees, acting pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(13), delegates to the president of the college the authority to administer disciplinary action. The president is authorized to delegate or reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary. Administration of the disciplinary procedures is the responsibility of the vice president for student services or their designee. Except in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the student conduct officer or delegee shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code.

(2) **Statement of student rights.** As members of the Edmonds College 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 rights are guaranteed to each student within the limitations of statutory law and college policies necessary to achieve the educational goals of the college:

(a) **Academic freedom.**

(i) 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.

(ii) 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).

(iii) 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.

(iv) 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.

(b) **Due process.**

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

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

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

(3) **Prohibited student misconduct.** The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student or a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team, or living group, who commits, attempts to commit, aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit((7)) an act(s) of misconduct which includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

(a) ~~((**Academic dishonesty.** Any act of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to:~~

~~(i) Cheating: Includes any attempt to give or obtain unauthorized assistance relating to the completion of an academic assignment, intentional use or attempted use of unauthorized material, information, or study aids, misrepresentation of invention or any information such as falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.~~

~~(ii) Plagiarism including, but not limited to, presenting or submitting another person's, entities', and/or sources' ideas, words, or other works in an instructional course without assigning proper credit.~~

~~(iii) Unauthorized collaboration including, but not limited to, intentionally sharing or working together in an academic exercise when such actions are not approved by the course instructor.~~

~~(iv) Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, presenting or submitting in an instructional course either information that is known to be false (while concealing that falsity) or work that is substantially the same as that previously submitted in another course (without the current instructor's approval).~~

(b) ~~**Other dishonesty.** Any other acts of dishonesty. Such acts include, but are not limited to:~~

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

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

~~(iii) Knowingly furnishing false information, or failing to furnish accurate and honest information, in response to the request or requirement of a college officer or employee.~~

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

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

~~(ii) Any operation of the college, including the infringement on the rights of another member(s) of the college community; or~~

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

(d) ~~**Assault, intimidation, harassment.** Unwanted touching, assault, battery, physical abuse, verbal abuse, threat(s), intimidation, harassment, bullying, stalking, or other conduct which harms, threatens, or is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of another person or another person's property. For purposes of this subsection:~~

~~(i) Bullying is defined as repeated or aggressive unwanted behavior, not otherwise protected by law that intentionally humiliates, harms, or intimidates the victim.~~

~~(ii) Stalking is defined as 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.~~

(e) ~~**Cyber misconduct.** Cyberstalking, cyberbullying or online harassment. Use of electronic communications including, but not limited to, electronic mail, instant messaging, text and image messaging, electronic bulletin boards, 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 and/or social media identity, non-consensual recording of sexual activity, and/or nonconsensual distribution of a recording of sexual activity.~~

~~(f) **Property violation.** Attempted or actual damage to, or theft or misuse of, real or personal property, or money of:~~

~~(i) The college or state;~~

~~(ii) Any student, college official, employee, or college affiliated or sponsored organization; or~~

~~(iii) Any other member of the college community, or organization; or~~

~~(iv) Possession of such property or money after it has been stolen.~~

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

~~(h) **Weapons.** Possession 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, unless previously authorized in writing by the president or designee.~~

~~(i) **Hazing.** Hazing includes, but is not limited to, any initiation into or affiliation with a student organization or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious mental or emotional harm, to any student.~~

~~(j) **Tobacco violation.** Violation of the college's Tobacco and Smoke-Free Policy HR 8.0.~~

~~(k) **Alcohol.** The use, possession, delivery, sale, or being observably under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, except as permitted by law and applicable college policies.~~

~~(l) **Marijuana.** The use, possession, delivery, sale, or being observably under the influence of marijuana or the psychoactive compounds found in marijuana and intended for human consumption, regardless of form. While state law permits the recreational use of marijuana, federal law prohibits such use on college premises or in connection with college activities.~~

~~(m) **Drugs.** The use, possession, delivery, sale, or being observably under the influence of any legend drug, narcotic drug, or controlled substance as defined in chapters 69.41 and 69.50 RCW except in accordance with a lawful prescription for that student by a licensed health care professional.~~

~~(n) **Lewd conduct.** Conduct which is lewd, or obscene.~~

~~(o) **Discrimination.** Conduct which harms or adversely affects any member of the college community because of their race; color; national origin; sensory, mental or physical disability; use of a service animal; gender, including pregnancy, marital status; age (40+); religion; creed; genetic information; sexual orientation; gender identity and expression; veteran's status; any other legally protected classification; or any violation of the college's nondiscrimination policy.~~

~~(p) **Sexual misconduct.** The term "sexual misconduct" includes sexual harassment, sexual intimidation, and sexual violence. Sexual har-~~

assessment prohibited by Title IX is defined in the supplemental procedures to this code. See WAC 132Y-125-130. (prohibited conduct under Title IX).

~~(i) **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:~~

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

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

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

~~(ii) **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.~~

~~(iii) **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.~~

~~(A) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse. Any actual or attempted sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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, as an ancestor, descendant, brother, or sister or either wholly or half related. Descendant includes stepchildren, and adopted children under the age of eighteen.~~

~~(D) Statutory rape. Consensual intercourse between a person who is eighteen years of age or older, and a person who is under the age of sixteen.~~

~~(E) 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 cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim, 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 the person's act under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, RCW 26.50.010.~~

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

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

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

~~(aa) The length of the relationship;~~

~~(bb) The type of relationship; and~~

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

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

~~(I) Fear for their safety or the safety of others; or~~

~~(II) Suffer substantial emotional distress.~~

For the purposes of this code, "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 he or she is unable to understand what is happening or is 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.

Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

~~(q) **Harassment.** Unwelcome and offensive conduct, including verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct, that is directed at a person because of such person's protected status and that is sufficiently serious as to deny or limit, and that does deny or limit, the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational program or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members. Protected status includes a person's race; color; national origin; sensory, mental or physical disability; use of a service animal; gender, including pregnancy, marital status; age; religion; creed; genetic information; sexual orientation; gender identity and expression; veteran's status; or any other legally protected classification. See "sexual misconduct" for the definition of "sexual harassment." Harassing conduct may include, but is not limited to, physical conduct, verbal, written, social media, and electronic communications.~~

~~(r) **Retaliation.** Harming, threatening, intimidating, coercing, or taking adverse action of any kind against a person because such a person reported an alleged violation of this code or college policy, provided information about an alleged violation, or participated as a witness or in any other capacity in a college investigation or disciplinary proceeding.~~

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

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

~~(ii) Unauthorized duplication, transfer, download, upload, or distribution of a computer program, file, message, or other item;~~

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

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

- ~~(v) Use of such time or resources to send, display, or print an obscene or abusive message, text, or image;~~
- ~~(vi) Use of such time or resources to interfere with normal operation of the college's computing system or other electronic information resources;~~
- ~~(vii) Use of such time or resources in violation of applicable copyright or other law;~~
- ~~(viii) Adding to or otherwise altering the infrastructure of the college's electronic information resources without authorization; or~~
- ~~(ix) Failure to comply with the college's regulation on appropriate use of college information technology resources or the electronic use policies as established by the college.~~
- (t) **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.
- (u) **Safety violation.** Safety violation includes any nonaccidental 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.
- (v) **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 traffic and parking rules.
- (w) **Abuse or misuse of hearing procedures.** Abuse or misuse of any of the procedures relating to student complaints or misconduct including, but not limited to:
- (i) Falsification or misrepresentation of information;
- (ii) Disruption, or interference with the orderly conduct of a proceeding;
- (iii) Interfering with someone else's proper participation in a proceeding;
- (iv) Destroying or altering potential evidence, or attempting to intimidate or otherwise improperly pressure a witness or potential witness, including retaliation;
- (v) Attempting to influence the impartiality of, or harassing or intimidating a student conduct committee member; or
- (vi) Failure to comply with any disciplinary sanction(s) imposed under Edmonds College's student conduct code.
- (x) **Ethical violation.** The breach of any generally recognized and/or 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 program.) **Abuse of others**, as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.
- (b) **Abuse in later life.**
- (i) Neglect, abandonment, economic abuse, or willful harm of an adult aged 60 or older by an individual in an ongoing relationship of trust with the victim; or
- (ii) Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking of an adult aged 50 or older by any individual; and
- (iii) Does not include self-neglect.
- (c) **Academic dishonesty.** Any act of academic dishonesty, including:
- (i) Cheating - Any attempt to give or obtain unauthorized assistance relating to the completion of an academic assignment.
- (ii) Plagiarism - Taking and using as one's own, without proper attribution, the ideas, writings, 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.

(iii) Fabrication - 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.

(iv) 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.

(d) **Acts of dishonesty.** Acts of dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

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

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

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

(e) **Alcohol.** Use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of alcoholic beverages or paraphernalia (except as expressly permitted by college policies, and federal, state, and local laws), or public intoxication on college premises or at college-sponsored events. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used by, possessed by, or distributed to any person not of legal age.

(f) **Cannabis, drug, and tobacco violations.**

(i) 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 at 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) Tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products. The use, distribution, or sale of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products is prohibited on and within all college owned, leased, or managed property. "Related products" include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, bidi, clove cigarettes, waterpipes, hookahs, chewing tobacco, vaporizers, and snuff.

(g) **Cyber misconduct.** 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, nonconsensu-

al recording of sexual activity, and nonconsensual distribution of a recording of sexual activity.

(h) **Disruption or obstruction.** Disruption or obstruction of instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding, or other college activity, including the obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular movement on college premises or at a college activity, or any activity that is authorized to occur on college premises, whether or not actually conducted or sponsored by the college.

(i) **Discriminatory harassment,** as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.

(j) **Ethical violation,** as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.

(k) **Failure to comply with directive.** Failure to comply with the direction 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.

(l) **Harassment or bullying,** as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.

(m) **Hazing,** as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.

(n) **Indecent exposure,** as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.

(o) **Lewd conduct,** as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.

(p) **Misuse of electronic resources,** as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.

(q) **Property violation,** as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.

(r) **Retaliation,** as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.

(s) **Safety violations,** as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.

(t) **Sex discrimination,** as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.

(u) **Title IX retaliation,** as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.

(v) **Unauthorized access,** as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.

(w) **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.

(x) **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:

(i) Commissioned law enforcement personnel or legally authorized military personnel while in performance of their official duties.

(ii) Students with legally issued weapons permits may store their weapons 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Possession and/or use of disabling chemical sprays for purposes of self-defense is not prohibited.

(4) 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 shall proceed with student disciplinary proceedings regardless of whether the underlying conduct is subject to civil or criminal investigation or prosecution.

((+4)) (5) **Corrective action, disciplinary sanctions, terms and conditions.** Disciplinary actions include, but are not limited to, the following sanctions that may be imposed upon students ((according to

~~the student code of conduct hearing procedures)) or college-sponsored student organizations, athletic teams, or living groups found responsible for violating this 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 (~~the college's student conduct~~) this code 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 and/or enrollment, and/or participation in college programs or activities, 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~~) an expulsion 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 and/or enrollment at the college.

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

(e) (~~Dismissal~~) **Expulsion.** 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 sanction is taken.

(~~5~~) ~~Terms and conditions.~~) (f) **Hazing sanctions.**

(i) 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) Any student group 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.

(iv) Any student group 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.

(6) Disciplinary terms and conditions that may be imposed alone or in conjunction with the imposition of a sanction(s) 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 approved 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. A student may not return to campus if the evaluation indicates that the student is not capable of functioning within the college community, or if the evaluation lacks information for the college to make reasonable accommodations, or until future evaluation recommends that the student is capable of reentering the college and complying with the rules of conduct.~~

~~(c) **No contact/trespass 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 for a stated period of time.) **Education.** Participation in or successful completion of an educational assignment designed to create an awareness of the student's misconduct.~~

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

~~(c) **Not in good standing.** A student deemed "not in good standing" with the college 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 directive.** 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) **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 approved 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. A student may not return to campus if the evaluation indicates that the student is not capable of functioning within the college community, or if the evaluation lacks information for the college to make reasonable accommodations, or until future evaluation recommends that the student is capable of reentering the college and complying with the rules of conduct.~~

~~(f) **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 pro-~~

ceeding. This may take the form of monetary reimbursement, appropriate service, or other compensation.

(g) **Residence hall suspension or termination.** Removal from a residence hall for a specified period or permanently. Conditions may be imposed before a student is permitted to return to a residence hall.

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

(7) More than one of the disciplinary terms and conditions listed above may be imposed for any single violation.

(8) 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-034, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/21/20)

**WAC 132Y-125-005 Statement of jurisdiction.** (1) The student conduct code shall apply to conduct by students or student groups that occurs:

(a) On college premises;

(b) At or in connection with college ~~((sponsored))~~ programs or activities; or

(c) ~~((To off-campus conduct that,))~~ Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, ~~((adversely affects))~~ the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community ~~((or)),~~ the pursuit of its objectives, or the ability of a student or staff member to participate in the college's programs and activities.

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

(3) Students are responsible for their conduct from the time ~~((of application for))~~ they gain admission to the college through the ~~((actual receipt))~~ last day of enrollment or award of ~~((a))~~ any degree or certificate, 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))~~ college 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 disciplinary 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-034, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/21/20)

**WAC 132Y-125-010 Definitions.** The following definitions shall apply for purposes of this student conduct code:

(1) "Abuse of others" means 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) "Business day" means a weekday, excluding weekends and college holidays and/or college closures.

~~((2))~~ (3) "College premises" includes 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))~~ (4) "Complainant" means individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to prohibited conduct, including a student or employee, or a person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(5) "Complaint" means a written or oral request that can be objectively understood as a request for the college to investigate and make a determination about prohibited conduct.

(6) "Conduct review officer" is the (~~vice president for 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.

~~((4))~~ (7) "Confidential employee" means a college employee whose communications are privileged and confidential under federal or state law. An employee's status as a confidential employee only applies when they are functioning within the scope of duties to which the privilege or confidentiality applies.

(8) "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 they know, or reasonably should know, that the other person is physically or mentally incapacitated has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(9) "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 disciplinary action.

~~((5))~~ (10) "Disciplinary appeal" is the process by which an aggrieved student can appeal the discipline imposed by the student conduct officer. Disciplinary appeals from a suspension in excess of ~~((ten))~~ 10 instructional days or an expulsion are heard by the student conduct ~~((appeals board))~~ committee. Appeals of all other appealable disciplinary action shall be reviewed through brief adjudicative proceedings.

~~((6))~~ (11) "Disciplinary sanction" means consequences imposed on a respondent following a determination that the respondent violated the college's policy prohibiting sex discrimination.

(12) "Discriminatory harassment" means:

(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; or

(ii) 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; honorably discharged 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.

(13) "Ethical violation" means 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.

(14) "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.

~~((7))~~ (15) "Harassment or bullying" means the 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 bene-

fit 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/or duration of the comments or actions.

(16) "Hazing" means any act committed as part of a person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team, or living group, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization, athletic team, or living group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student, including 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, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Hazing does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions. Consent is not a valid defense against hazing.

(17) "Indecent exposure" means 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) "Investigation procedure" is the process the college uses to initiate, informally resolve, and/or investigate allegations that an individual has violated college policies prohibiting sex discrimination or sex-based harassment.

(19) "Lewd conduct" means conduct which is lewd, or obscene.

(20) "Mandatory reporters" are all college employees, excluding confidential employees. Mandatory reporters are required to report conduct that could reasonably constitute sex discrimination to the Title IX coordinator.

(21) "Misuse of electronic resources" means the 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.

(22) "Peer retaliation" means retaliation by a student against another student.

(23) "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.

(24) "Preponderance of the evidence" means on a more probable than not basis.

(25) "President" is the president of Edmonds ((Community)) College. The president is authorized to delegate any of their responsibilities as set forth in this chapter, and as may be reasonably necessary; and reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary.

~~((8))~~ "Complainant" is an alleged victim of sexual misconduct.

~~(9))~~ (26) "Program" or "programs and activities" means all operations of the college.

(27) "Property violation" means 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.

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

(29) "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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

(30) "Respondent" is ((the student against whom disciplinary action is initiated)) an individual who has been alleged to have violated the student conduct code or college's policy prohibiting sex discrimination.

(31) "Retaliation" means 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.

~~((10))~~ (32) "Safety violations" include 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.

(33) "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.

((11)) (34) "Sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis harm on the basis of sex.

Sex-based harassment. "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(a) Quid pro quo harassment. A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(b) Hostile environment. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(i) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(ii) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(iii) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(iv) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(v) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(c) Sexual violence includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(i) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling) is any actual or attempted intentional sexual touching, however slight, with any body part or object, by a person upon another person that is without con-

sent 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 is 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 (rape of a child) is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(v) Domestic violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, or stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(vi) Dating violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(A) The length of the relationship;

(B) The type of relationship; and

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

(35) "Stalking" means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(36) "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 the purposes of this code.

(~~(12)~~) (37) "Student conduct officer" is a college administrator designated by the president to be responsible for implementing and enforcing the student conduct code.

(~~(13)~~ "Sexual misconduct" has the meaning ascribed to this term in WAC 132Y-125-001.) (38) "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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(39) "Student group" is a student organization, athletic team, or living group including, but not limited to, student clubs and organi-

zations, members of a class or student cohort, student performance groups, and student living groups within student housing.

(40) "Summary suspension" means an emergency suspension of a student respondent pending investigation and resolution of disciplinary proceedings pursuant to the procedure and standards set forth in WAC 132Y-125-060.

(41) "Supportive measures" means the reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 security 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, college employment, college housing, or extracurricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(42) "Title IX coordinator" is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy. "Title IX coordinator" is the individual responsible for processing Title IX complaints and conducting or overseeing formal investigations and informal resolution processes.

(43) "Title IX personnel" includes the Title IX coordinator and designees, investigators, student conduct officers, and decision makers at both the hearing and appeal level, responsible for administering the college's sex discrimination investigation and disciplinary procedures; facilitators of the informal sex discrimination resolution process; and any other employees who are responsible for implementing the college's sex discrimination investigation or sex discrimination disciplinary procedures for students or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures.

(44) "Title IX retaliation" means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by the college, a student, or an employee or other person authorized by the college to provide aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by college policies and procedures prohibiting sex discrimination, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part, including in an informal resolution process, in these investigation procedures, and any disciplinary proceeding for sex discrimination. Nothing in this definition precludes the college from requiring an employee to provide aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity to participate as a witness in, or otherwise assist with, an investigation, proceeding, or hearing.

(45) "Unauthorized access" means the 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-034, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/21/20)

**WAC 132Y-125-015 Initiation of disciplinary action.** (~~((1) 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 vice president for student services shall, upon request and when feasible, designate another person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities relative to the complainant.~~

~~(2) The student conduct officer shall initiate disciplinary action by serving the respondent with written notice directing him or her 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 shall also specify the time and location of the meeting. 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 after proper service of notice, the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.~~

~~(3) Within ten 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 his or her 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.~~

~~(4) The student conduct officer may take any of the following disciplinary actions:~~

~~(a) Exonerate the respondent and terminate the proceedings; or~~

~~(b) Impose a disciplinary sanction(s), as described in WAC 132Y-125-001 (4) and (5).~~

~~(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.~~

~~(5) 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 complainant's protection, including disciplinary suspension or dismissal of the respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights. If protective sanctions and/or conditions are imposed, the student conduct officer shall make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to ensure prompt notice of the protective disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions.)~~ (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) Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. Allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 respondent.

(a) Informal dispute resolution shall not be used to resolve sex-based harassment complaints without written permission from both the complainant and the respondent.

(b) 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) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, both the respondent and the complainant 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, the president shall, upon request and when feasible, designate another person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities relative to the complaint.

(8) The student conduct officer shall initiate disciplinary action by serving the respondent with written notice directing him or her 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 after proper service of notice, the student conduct

officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.

(10) Within 10 calendar 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. 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 132Y-125-001; or

(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 sex discrimination, the student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) In cases involving sex discrimination, the student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing before the matter can be dismissed.

(g) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation.

(h) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(i) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-034, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/21/20)

**WAC 132Y-125-020 Appeal from disciplinary action.** (1) Except as specified for cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, as set forth in WAC 132Y-125-015, 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 conduct review 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 (~~ten~~) 10 instructional days;

(b) (~~(Dismissals; and)~~) Expulsions;

(c) Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment cases; and

(d) Disciplinary cases referred to the committee by the student conduct officer, the conduct review officer, or the president.

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

- (a) Suspensions of ~~((ten))~~ 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, disciplinary verbal warnings and dismissals of disciplinary actions are final action and are not subject to appeal.~~

~~(10) In cases involving allegations of 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 sexual misconduct complaint; or~~
- ~~(b) Any disciplinary sanction(s) and conditions imposed against a respondent for a sexual misconduct violation, including a disciplinary 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 respondent's appeal of a disciplinary decision shall be afforded the same procedural rights as are afforded the respondent.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-034, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/21/20)

**WAC 132Y-125-025 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 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.

(2) The parties to a brief adjudicative proceeding are the respondent, the student conduct officer, and in cases involving sexual misconduct, the complainant. 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 ~~((ten))~~ 10 calendar 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 ~~((ten))~~ 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 of more than ~~((ten))~~ 10 instructional days or expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-034, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/21/20)

**WAC 132Y-125-030 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 ~~((ten))~~ 21 calendar days of service of the initial decision.

(2) The president 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.

(3) During the review, the president shall give each party an opportunity to file written responses explaining their views 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 ~~((twenty))~~ 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 ~~((twenty))~~ 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 ~~((ten))~~ 10 instructional days or expulsion, 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.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-12-068, filed 5/29/15, effective 6/29/15)

**WAC 132Y-125-035 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;

(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 ~~((administrative staff member))~~ 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. The chair shall receive annual training on protecting victims and promoting accountability in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct.

(3) Hearings may be heard by a quorum of three members of the committee so long as 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 ~~((pursuant to RCW 34.05.425(4)))~~.

(5) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination 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, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

(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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-12-068, filed 5/29/15, effective 6/29/15)

**WAC 132Y-125-040 ~~((Appeal—))~~ Student conduct committee—Prehearing.** (1) Proceedings of the student conduct committee shall be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW ~~((and by the Model Rules of Procedure, chapter 10-08 WAC. To the extent there is a conflict between these rules and chapter 10-08 WAC, these rules shall control))~~.

(2) The student conduct committee chair shall serve all parties with written notice of any hearing not less than seven calendar days in advance of the hearing date ~~((, as further specified in RCW 34.05.434 and WAC 10-08-040 and 10-08-045))~~. The chair may shorten

this notice period if both parties agree, and 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, upon request, shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in obtaining relevant and admissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(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. Any improper "ex parte" communication shall be placed on the record, as further provided in RCW 34.05.455.

(9) Each party may be accompanied at the hearing by ~~((a nonattorney assistant of his/her choice. A respondent may elect to be represented by an attorney at his or her own cost, but will be deemed to have waived that right unless, at least four business days before the hearing, written notice of the attorney's identity and participation is filed with the committee chair with a copy to the student conduct officer))~~ an advisor of their choice, which may be an attorney retained at the party's expense. 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 also be represented by ~~((a second appropriately screened))~~ an assistant attorney general.

(10) 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.

(11) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) Notice. The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in subsection (2) of this section, and a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) Advisors. The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(12) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) Notice. In addition to all information required in subsection (2) of this section, the notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the

reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) Advisors. The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) Separate locations. The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) Withdrawal of complaint. If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-12-068, filed 5/29/15, effective 6/29/15)

**WAC 132Y-125-045 Student conduct committee ((hearings))—Presentation((s)) 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 ((he/she)) they select((s)), 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 college's case ((for imposing disciplinary sanctions)).

(6) All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. Except as otherwise provided in this section, evidence shall be admitted or excluded in accordance with RCW 34.05.452.

(7) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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 witness by a party's attorney or advisor. 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:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client communications and attorney work product privilege;

(iii) Clergy privileges;

(iv) Medical or mental health providers and counselor privileges;

(v) Sexual assault and domestic violence advocate privileges; and

(vi) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

(8) Except in cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-12-068, filed 5/29/15, effective 6/29/15)

**WAC 132Y-125-050 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)),~~ written or verbal, the committee 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 ~~((twenty))~~ 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))~~ sanctions, 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 ~~((the respondent))~~ 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 ~~((legal counsel of record))~~ attorney, 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 sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-12-068, filed 5/29/15, effective 6/29/15)

**WAC 132Y-125-055 ~~((Appeal from student conduct committee initial decision.))~~ Student conduct committee—Review of initial decision.**

(1) ~~((A respondent who is aggrieved by the findings or conclusions issued by the student conduct committee))~~ Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's initial decision to the president by filing a notice of appeal with the president's office within ~~((twenty-one))~~ 21 calendar days of service of the committee's initial decision. Failure to file a timely appeal constitutes a waiver of the right and the initial decision shall be deemed final.

(2) The ~~((notice of))~~ written appeal must identify the specific findings of fact and/or conclusions of law in the initial decision that are challenged and must contain argument why the appeal should be granted. ~~((If necessary to aid review, the president may ask for addi-~~

~~tional 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 notice of appeal.)~~ 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, decision maker, 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) ((The president shall provide a written decision to all parties within forty five days after receipt of the notice of appeal. The president's decision shall be final and shall include a notice of any rights to request reconsideration and/or judicial review.~~

~~(4))~~ Upon receiving a timely appeal, the president or designee will promptly serve a copy of the appeal on all nonappealing 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 notice of 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 sex-based harassment, the president's decision must be served simultaneously on the complainant, respondent, and Title IX coordinator.

(7) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-034, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/21/20)

**WAC 132Y-125-060 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 (~~business~~) 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 that warns the student that his or her privilege to enter into or remain on college premises has been withdrawn, that the respondent shall be considered trespassing and subject to arrest for criminal trespass if the respondent enters the college campus other than to meet with the student conduct officer or conduct review officer, or to attend a disciplinary hearing.

(5) (~~If the respondent chooses to appeal the summary suspension,~~) 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 student 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; and

(e) To the extent permissible under applicable law, the conduct review officer shall provide a copy of the decision to all persons or offices, 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.

**((DISCIPLINE)) PROCEDURES FOR CASES INVOLVING ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-034, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/21/20)

**WAC 132Y-125-125 ((Order of precedence.)) Procedures for cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct.** ~~((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. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with the Edmonds College's standard disciplinary procedures, WAC 132Y-125-005 through 132Y-125-060, these supplemental procedures shall take precedence.))~~ The college recognizes its responsibility to investigate, resolve, implement supportive and corrective measures, and monitor the educational environment and workplace to promptly and effectively stop, remediate, and prevent discrimination on the basis of sex, as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, and Washington state's law against discrimination, and their implementing regulations. To this end, the college has enacted and adopted the following Title IX sex discrimination investigation procedure (procedure) for purposes of receiving and investigating allegations of sex discrimination arising within the college's educational programs and activities. Any individual found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination in violation of college policy may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the college's educational programs and activities.

Application of this procedure is restricted to allegations of sex discrimination, which includes, but is not limited to, allegations of sex-based harassment, as those terms are defined within this code. Nothing in this procedure limits or otherwise restricts the college's ability to investigate alleged misconduct and pursue discipline based on violations of other federal, state, and local laws, their implementing regulations, and other college policies prohibiting gender discrimination through processes set forth in the college's code of student conduct.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-034, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/21/20)

**WAC 132Y-125-130 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, Edmonds College may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student or a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team, or living group, 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~~" encompasses the following conduct:

~~(1) Quid pro quo harassment. An Edmonds College student employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the college on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.~~

~~(2) Hostile environment. Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to Edmonds College's educational programs or activities, or 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. Consensual 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 cohabitated with the victim, 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 26.50.010.~~

~~(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) sex-based harassment, as defined in WAC 132Y-125-010.~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-034, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/21/20)

**WAC 132Y-125-135 Title IX ((jurisdiction)) investigation procedure.** ((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 Edmonds 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 Edmonds College from pursuing other disciplinary action based on allegations that the respondent violated other provisions of the Edmonds College's student conduct code, WAC 132Y-125-001.

(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.) **(1) Title IX coordinator investigation duties.** During an investigation, the Title IX coordinator or a delegate is responsible for:

(a) Accepting, evaluating, and processing all sex discrimination and sex-based harassment complaints, reports, or referrals;

(b) Conducting an intake meeting with the complainant and, at that time, notifying the complainant, or the individual who reported the conduct if the complainant is unknown, of the college's Title IX investigation and disciplinary procedures, as well as the informal resolution process if appropriate and available. After providing this information, the Title IX coordinator will ascertain whether the complainant would like the college to proceed with an investigation of the sex discrimination complaint, and, if so, will initiate a complaint subject to the procedure and factors set forth in this procedure.

(c) Addressing and resolving, if possible, questions regarding confidentiality raised by parties and witnesses;

(d) Determining whether a complaint should be dismissed during the investigation phase, and if so, notifying the complainant or the parties (if respondent has been notified of the complaint) of the reasons for the dismissal, and providing the complainant or parties with information about the procedure for filing an appeal of the dismissal;

(e) When a party is a student employee and the allegations involve sex-based harassment, making a fact-specific inquiry into whether the party's primary relationship with the college is to receive an education and whether alleged sex-based harassment occurred while the party was performing employment-related work and, based on this inquiry, determine whether the party should be treated as a student or an

employee under this investigation procedure and related disciplinary procedures;

(f) Maintaining accurate records of all complaints, reports, and referrals;

(g) Retaining investigation files, complaints, reports, and referrals in compliance with applicable records retention periods or federal or state law, whichever is longer;

(h) Conducting an impartial investigation of a complaint or assigning the investigation to an impartial investigator and overseeing the investigation;

(i) Engaging in an interactive process with both parties to identify and provide supportive measures that ensure during the investigation and disciplinary processes that the parties have equitable access to education programs and activities and are protected from further discrimination or retaliation and making revisions to supportive measures as circumstances may require;

(j) Upon completion of an investigation, issuing or overseeing the issuance of a final investigation report to the parties and to the appropriate disciplinary authority in compliance with this investigation procedure;

(k) Recommending nondisciplinary corrective measures to stop, remediate, and/or prevent recurrence of discriminatory conduct to college disciplinary authorities and administrators.

(2) **Filing a complaint.** Any employee, student, applicant, or visitor who believes that they have been the subject of sex discrimination in violation of the college policies, should report the incident or incidents to the Title IX coordinator. The complaint can be in writing or oral. If the complaint is against the Title IX coordinator, the complainant should report the matter to the president's office for referral to an alternate designee.

(3) **Title IX coordinator initiated complaint.** In the absence or withdrawal of any or all allegations in a complaint, the Title IX coordinator may file a complaint based on their evaluation of the following factors:

(a) A complainant's request not to proceed with initiation of a complaint;

(b) A complainant's reasonable safety concerns regarding initiation of a complaint;

(c) The risk additional acts of sex discrimination would occur if the complaint is not initiated;

(d) The severity of the alleged sex discrimination, including whether the discrimination if established, would require the removal of the respondent from campus or imposition of other disciplinary sanction(s) to end the discrimination and prevent its recurrence;

(e) The age and relationship of the parties;

(f) The scope of the alleged sex discrimination, including information suggesting a pattern, ongoing sex discrimination, or sex discrimination alleged to have impacted multiple individuals;

(g) The availability of evidence to assist a decision maker with determining whether sex discrimination occurred; and

(h) Whether the college could end the alleged sex discrimination and prevent its recurrence without initiating an investigation and disciplinary procedure.

If, upon evaluating these and any other relevant factors, the Title IX coordinator determines that the alleged conduct poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the complainant or to other members of the college community or that the alleged conduct prevents

the college from ensuring equal access on the basis of sex to its educational programs and activities, then the Title IX coordinator may initiate a complaint.

When initiating a complaint, the Title IX coordinator will provide the complainant with advance notice of this decision and an opportunity to appropriately address reasonable concerns about the complainant's safety or the safety of others, including the provision of supportive measures.

Regardless of whether a complaint is initiated under this section, the Title IX coordinator must take other prompt and effective steps, in addition to those steps necessary to implement remedies for the individual complainant, to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the college's educational programs and activities.

The analysis set forth above need not be performed if the Title IX coordinator reasonably determines that the alleged conduct could not constitute sex discrimination.

**(4) Principles of investigation applicable to sex discrimination complaints.** The college shall provide an adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints of sex discrimination by:

(a) Treating complainants and respondents equitably;

(b) Presuming that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged misconduct unless or until a determination of responsibility is reached after completion of the investigation and disciplinary processes;

(c) Having the investigation conducted by a neutral and unbiased investigator without a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally, or an individual complainant or respondent.

(d) Having the investigator make findings of fact based on the preponderance of the evidence standard;

(e) Placing the burden on the college, not the parties, to conduct an investigation that gathers sufficient evidence to determine whether sex discrimination occurred;

(f) Objectively evaluating all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible under this code, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, and provide credibility determinations that are not based solely on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness;

(g) Providing an equal opportunity for parties to present fact witnesses and other inculpatory or exculpatory evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible;

(h) Providing 10 calendar days for each party to review and submit written comments on the draft investigation report and, upon request, to review relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence gathered by the investigator before finalizing the investigation report; and

(i) Taking reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties' unauthorized disclosure of information and evidence obtained solely through the investigation procedure. Such steps shall not prevent the parties from using the information or evidence for related disciplinary proceedings or litigation related to the complaint of sex discrimination.

**(5) Confidentiality.** The college will seek to protect the privacy of the complainant to the fullest extent possible, consistent with the legal obligation to investigate, offer appropriate supportive measures and/or take disciplinary action, and comply with the federal and state

law, as well as college policies and procedures. Although the college will attempt to honor complainant requests for confidentiality, it cannot guarantee complete confidentiality. Determinations regarding how to handle requests for confidentiality will be made by the Title IX coordinator.

Confidential employees, when acting in their confidential capacity, will maintain confidentiality of information shared by a complainant and are not required to report conduct that may reasonably constitute sex discrimination to the Title IX coordinator. When a confidential employee learns of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination, the confidential employee must explain:

(a) Their status as a confidential employee, including the circumstances under which they are not required to notify the Title IX coordinator about the possible sex discrimination;

(b) How the complainant can contact the Title IX coordinator to make a complaint about the possible sex discrimination; and

(c) That the Title IX coordinator may offer and coordinate supportive measures, as well as initiate an informal resolution process or investigation pursuant to these investigation procedures.

The Title IX coordinator will inform the complainant about the college's sex discrimination investigation and disciplinary processes and attempt to obtain consent from the complainant before commencing an investigation of alleged sex-based harassment. If a complainant asks that their name not be revealed to the respondent or that the college not investigate the allegation, the Title IX coordinator will inform the complainant that maintaining confidentiality may limit the college's ability to fully respond to the allegations and that retaliation by the respondent and/or others is prohibited. If the complainant still insists that their name not be disclosed or that the college not investigate, the Title IX coordinator will determine whether the college can honor the request and at the same time maintain a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all members of the college community, including the complainant.

If the college is unable to honor a complainant's request for confidentiality, the Title IX coordinator will notify the complainant of the decision and disclose the complainant's identity only to the extent reasonably necessary to effectively conduct and complete the investigation in compliance with this investigation procedure.

If the college decides not to conduct an investigation or take disciplinary action because of a request for confidentiality, the Title IX coordinator will evaluate whether other measures are available to address the circumstances giving rise to the complaint and prevent their recurrence, and implement such measures if reasonably feasible.

(6) **Notice of investigation and other notice requirements.** Upon receiving a complaint of sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator will initiate the investigation by serving the respondent and the complainant with a notice of investigation in advance of their initial interviews. This notice will be served sufficiently in advance to allow the parties adequate time to prepare for their initial interviews.

If a complaint includes allegations of sex-based harassment and the college has reasonable concerns for the safety of any person as a result of providing a notice of investigation, service of the notice may be reasonably delayed in order to address the safety concern appropriately. Reasonable concerns must be based on individualized safety and risk analysis and not on mere speculation or stereotypes.

The notice of investigation must:

(a) Include a description of the college's sex discrimination investigation and disciplinary procedures, including descriptions of procedures applicable to sex-based harassment and informal resolution processes, if applicable;

(b) Sufficient information for the parties to respond to the allegations, including the identities of the parties, a description of the alleged discriminatory conduct, and the time and location of the alleged incident, to the extent this information is available to the college;

(c) A statement that retaliation is prohibited;

(d) Information that the parties are entitled to have an advisor of their choice and at their own expense, available during the investigation and any disciplinary proceedings and that the advisor may be, but is not required to be an attorney, and that during the investigation, the advisor's role will be limited to attending meetings or interviews with the party and providing advice to the party; and

(e) A statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access a description of the relevant, not otherwise impermissible evidence and that both parties shall have an equal opportunity to review such evidence upon request.

In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the notice of investigation shall also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment until a determination is made at the conclusion of the applicable disciplinary procedure and prior to such a determination, the parties will have the opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(ii) A statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the investigative report describing the relevant, not otherwise impermissible evidence, and that both parties shall have an equal opportunity to review this evidence upon request; and

(iii) A notice that the college's student conduct code prohibits students from knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during an investigation or disciplinary proceeding.

Amended notice of investigation. If, during the course of the investigation, the college decides to investigate sex discrimination allegations against a party that are not included in the original notice of investigation, the college will issue an amended notice of investigation to both parties that includes this additional information and complies with the applicable notice requirements set forth above.

Notice of meetings and interviews. In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college shall provide written notice to parties whose participation is invited or expected of the date, time, location, participants, and purposes of all meetings or proceedings with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.

(7) **Investigative process.** During the investigation, the investigator:

(a) Will provide the parties with equal opportunity to present relevant statements, and other evidence in the form of fact or expert witnesses and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence;

(b) Will not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or gather and present relevant evidence, except when a no contact order has been imposed based on an individualized and fact-specific determination that a party poses a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of another party and/or wit-

nesses or when contact with a party and/or witness is prohibited by court order. A college-imposed no contact order shall be no broader than is necessary to protect the threatened party or witness and must provide the party or their advisor with alternative means of gathering and presenting relevant evidence from the protected witness or party; and

(c) Will allow each party to be accompanied by an advisor of their choosing, who may be an attorney, to any investigation related meeting or interview. Advisors' roles during the investigation meetings or interviews will be limited to providing support and advice to the party. Advisors will not represent or otherwise advocate on behalf of the parties during the investigation process. An attorney advising a party must enter a notice of appearance with the Title IX coordinator and the investigator at least five business days before the initial interview or meeting they plan to attend, so the college can secure its own legal representation, if necessary.

(d) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the investigator will provide both parties and their respective advisors with an equal opportunity to review the draft investigation report and to inspect and review relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence upon request. After disclosure of the report, each party will receive 10 calendar days in which to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigation report. If a party fails to submit a written response within 10 calendar days, the party will be deemed to have waived their right to respond and the investigator will finalize the report without this information.

(e) During sex discrimination and sex-based harassment investigations under this procedure, the investigator may not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that seeks disclosure of privileged communications, unless the privilege has been effectively waived by the holder. This provision applies, but is not limited to, information subject to:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client and attorney work product privileges;

(iii) Privileges applicable to members of the clergy and priests;

(iv) Privileges applicable to medical providers, mental health therapists, and counselors;

(v) Privileges applicable to sexual assault and domestic violence advocates; or

(vi) Other legal privileges identified in RCW 5.60.060.

(f) 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:

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

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

(g) Upon completion of the investigation, the Title IX coordinator will distribute the final investigation report to the parties. The Title IX coordinator will also provide the investigation report and the evidence gathered during the investigation to the student conduct officer, who is responsible for determining whether pursuing disciplinary action is warranted.

**(8) Dismissal of complaint during investigation - Right to appeal.** During an investigation, a sex discrimination complaint may be dismissed, in whole or in part, for the following reasons:

(a) The respondent cannot be identified, after the college has taken reasonable steps to do so;

(b) The respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(c) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint, and any remaining allegations would not constitute sex discrimination, even if proven. In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's withdrawal in writing before dismissal.

(d) The conduct alleged by the complainant, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(e) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

The complainant and the respondent (if the respondent has been notified of the complaint) may appeal the dismissal of a complaint pursuant to the appeal process outlined in this code.

If the dismissal occurs during the investigation, the Title IX coordinator will provide the complainant or the complainant and the respondent (if the respondent has been notified of the complaint) written notice explaining:

(i) Why dismissal was necessary or desirable;

(ii) The right to appeal the dismissal and a description of the procedure for appealing the dismissal; and

(iii) If applicable, notice that the complaint is being referred to an appropriate disciplinary authority for proceedings outside the jurisdiction of Title IX.

If the dismissal involves an allegation of sex-based harassment and the parties have both been notified of the investigation, the notice of dismissal will be served on the parties simultaneously.

When a complaint is dismissed, the Title IX coordinator will, at a minimum:

(A) Offer supportive measures to the complainant as appropriate;

(B) If the respondent has been notified of the allegations, offer supportive measures to the respondent as appropriate; and

(C) Take other prompt and effective steps, as appropriate, to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the college's education program or activity.

Dismissal of a sex discrimination complaint does not preclude the college from investigating and pursuing discipline based on allegations that a respondent violated other federal or state laws and regulations, college conduct policies, and/or other codes and contractual provisions governing student and employee conduct.

**(9) Supportive measures.** The Title IX coordinator must offer and coordinate supportive measures to both the complainant and the respondent. Supportive measures may vary depending on the circumstances and what the college may determine to be reasonably available. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to:

(a) Counseling;

(b) Extensions of deadlines and other course-related adjustments;

(c) Campus security escort services;

(d) Increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus;

(e) Restrictions on contact applied to one or more parties;

(f) Leaves of absence;

(g) Changes in class, college work, college housing, or extracurricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and

(h) Training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

Supportive measures may not be imposed for punitive or disciplinary purposes and must not unreasonably burden either party. Supportive measures must be designed to protect the safety of the parties and/or the college's educational environment, or to provide support to the parties during the formal or informal resolution processes.

The Title IX coordinator may modify or terminate supportive measures during or after formal or informal resolution procedures are completed, as the parties' and/or the college's circumstances change.

If, at any point during the sex discrimination investigation or disciplinary proceeding, a party becomes dissatisfied with their supportive measures or undergoes a change of circumstances that warrants revisions to their supportive measures, the party may submit a request to revise their supportive measures to the Title IX coordinator. The Title IX coordinator will respond to such a request within 10 calendar days. If the party disagrees with the Title IX coordinator's decision, they may submit a written appeal to the vice president for human resources, or their designee, within five calendar days of receiving the Title IX coordinator's decision. Review of the appeal shall be performed by an impartial employee with authority to modify or reverse the Title IX coordinator's decision to provide, deny, modify or terminate supportive measures applicable to the party seeking review. Challenged supportive measures will be reviewed to determine whether they are meeting the purposes set forth above.

In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination other than sex-based harassment and retaliation, the college is not required to alter the alleged discriminatory practice(s) for the purpose of providing a supportive measure.

(10) **Emergency removal.** If a respondent poses an immediate threat to the health and safety of the college community, or an immediate threat of significant disruption to college operations, the college's student conduct officer, after consulting with the Title IX coordinator, may summarily suspend the student respondent pursuant to WAC 132Y-125-060. The summary suspension shall remain in place pending completion of the investigation and final resolution of any resulting disciplinary proceedings.

(11) **Complaint resolution and consolidation.** Complaints submitted to the Title IX coordinator may be resolved through either informal or formal resolution processes.

(a) Informal resolution. Under appropriate circumstances and only if the complainant and the respondent voluntarily agree, the parties may pursue informal resolution during the investigation of a concern. Informal resolution is not appropriate when the allegation involves:

(i) A complainant who is a minor or a vulnerable adult; or

(ii) A respondent poses an immediate threat to the health, safety, or welfare of a member of the college community;

If informal resolution is appropriate, the parties may explore resolution through:

(A) Guided conversations or communications conducted by the Title IX coordinator, the vice president for enrollment and student services, or some other mutually agreed upon third party;

(B) A structured resolution process conducted by a trained mediator; or

(C) Voluntary agreement between the parties to alter either or both parties' college work or class schedules and/or college student housing arrangements.

A proposal to engage in informal resolution should be provided to the parties in the notice of investigation or after the notice of investigation has been served on both parties.

Before engaging in informal resolution, the college must provide written notification to the parties of their rights and responsibilities. This notice shall explain:

(I) The allegations;

(II) The requirements of the informal resolution process;

(III) That, prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and initiate or resume the formal resolution process;

(IV) That the parties' agreement to a resolution at the conclusion of the informal resolution process will prevent the parties from initiating or resuming the formal resolution process;

(V) That the potential terms of any informal resolution agreement will only be binding on the parties to the agreement; and

(VI) What information the college will retain from the informal resolution process and how that information will be used, if the process is not successful and the formal resolution process is initiated or resumed.

Because the informal resolution process is voluntary, either party may withdraw from the process at any time, at which point the formal resolution process will resume.

If the parties voluntarily resolve a complaint, the college will record the terms of the resolution in a written agreement signed by both parties and provide written notice to both parties that the complaint has been closed.

If the parties agree to an informal resolution process, the college will commence informal resolution within 10 calendar days after the parties agree to this option and conclude within 21 calendar days of beginning that process; subject to reasonable delays and extensions for good cause shown.

(b) Formal resolution. Formal resolution means that the complainant's allegations of sex discrimination will be subjected to a formal investigation by an impartial and unbiased investigator. The investigation may be conducted by the Title IX coordinator. The results of the investigator's report will be shared with the parties, the Title IX coordinator, as well as the appropriate disciplinary authority who is responsible for determining whether disciplinary proceedings are warranted.

(12) Consolidation of complaints. Complaints of sex discrimination may be consolidated when the complaints are against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against another party, when the allegations of sex discrimination arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

#### REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

WAC 132Y-125-140	Initiation of discipline.
WAC 132Y-125-145	Prehearing procedure.
WAC 132Y-125-150	Rights of parties.
WAC 132Y-125-155	Evidence.
WAC 132Y-125-160	Initial order.
WAC 132Y-125-165	Appeals.

**OTS-5696.2**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-034, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/21/20)

**WAC 132Y-300-005 Statement of policy.** Edmonds ((Community)) College provides equal opportunity in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of protected classes as required by state and federal law. Prohibited discrimination and/or harassment of protected classes includes ((sexual)) sex discrimination and sex-based harassment.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-034, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/21/20)

**WAC 132Y-300-010 Procedures.** (1) **Introduction.** Edmonds College, hereinafter referred to as "the college," recognizes its responsibility for investigating and resolving incidents; implementing corrective measures; monitoring the educational environment and workplace; and implementing regulations to stop, remediate, and prevent discrimination and harassment based on an individual's association with protected classes as required by law. To this end, the college has enacted a policy prohibiting discrimination against and harassment of members of these protected classes and procedures that deal with complaints and violations of the policy. Any individual found to be in violation of the policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the ((college or dismissal from)) college's educational programs and activities and/or termination of employment.

Any employee, student, or visitor who is the alleged subject of discrimination or harassment should report the incident or incidents to the ((EO/AA office,)) Title IX coordinator ((identified below)). If the complaint is against ((that officer)) the Title IX coordinator, the complainant should report the matter to the president's office for referral to an alternate designee.

**Civil Rights:** Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action (EO/AA).

**Title IX:** ((Gender Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Violence)) Sex discrimination, Sex-based harassment.

Title: ((EO/AA Office)) Human Resources, Title IX Coordinator

Office: Edmonds ((Community)) College

20000 - 68th Ave. W.

Clearview Building, Room 122

Lynnwood, WA 98036

(2) (~~(Filing a complaint. The college encourages the timely reporting of any incidents of alleged discrimination or harassment. Any employee of, student of, or visitor to the college may file a complaint. Complaints must be submitted in writing.)~~) **Definitions.** For purposes of this procedure, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Complainant" means individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to prohibited conduct, including a student or employee, or a person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in a college education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(b) "Complaint" means a written or oral request that can be objectively understood as a request for the college to investigate and make a determination about prohibited conduct.

(c) "Confidential employee" means a college employee whose communications are privileged and confidential under federal or state law. An employee's status as a confidential employee only applies when they are functioning within the scope of duties to which the privilege or confidentiality applies.

(d) "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 they know, or reasonably should know, that the other person is physically or mentally incapacitated has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(e) "Disciplinary action" is the process by which discipline is imposed for a violation of college policy or procedure.

(f) "Disciplinary appeal" is the process by which an aggrieved party can appeal discipline imposed.

(g) "Disciplinary sanction" means consequences imposed on a respondent following a determination that the respondent violated the college's policies prohibiting discrimination and harassment.

(h) "Discriminatory harassment" means 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 create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members. Discriminatory harassment may include written, social media, and electronic communications not otherwise protected by law.

(i) "Employee" includes any individual employed by Edmonds College.

(j) "Harassment or bullying" means the 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.

(i) 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.

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

(iii) For purposes of this procedure, "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/or duration of the comments or actions.

(k) "Investigation procedure" is the process the college uses to initiate, informally resolve, and/or investigate allegations that an individual has violated college policies prohibiting discrimination or harassment.

(l) "Mandatory reporters" are all college employees, excluding confidential employees. Mandatory reporters are required to report conduct that could reasonably constitute discrimination or harassment.

(m) "Pregnancy or related conditions" means:

(i) Pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation;

(ii) Medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation; or

(iii) Recovery from pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, or related medical conditions.

(n) "President" is the president of Edmonds College. The president is authorized to delegate any of their responsibilities as set forth in this procedure, and as may be reasonably necessary; and reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in this procedure as may be reasonably necessary.

(o) "Program" or "programs and activities" means all operations of the college.

(p) "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; honorably discharged veteran or military status; HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C status; or membership in any other group protected by federal, state, or local law.

(q) "Relevant" means related to the allegations of discrimination and harassment under investigation. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged discrimination or harassment occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination or harassment occurred.

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

(s) "Respondent" is an individual who has been alleged to have violated college policies or procedures prohibiting discrimination and harassment.

(t) "Retaliation" means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by the college, a student, or an employee or other person authorized by the college to provide aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by college policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination or harassment, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part, including in an informal resolution process, in these investigation procedures, and any disciplinary proceeding for discrimination or harassment. Nothing in this definition precludes the college from requiring an employee to provide aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity to participate as a witness in, or otherwise assist with, an investigation, proceeding, or hearing.

(u) "Sex discrimination" which includes sex-based harassment, occurs when a respondent causes more than de minimis (insignificant) harm to an individual by treating them differently from an otherwise similarly situated individual based on:

- (i) Sex stereotypes;
- (ii) Pregnancy or related conditions;
- (iii) Sexual orientation; and
- (iv) Gender identity.

Preventing a person from participating in a program or activity consistent with their gender identity constitutes more than de minimis harm and is prohibited.

(v) "Sex-based harassment." For purposes of this procedure, sex-based harassment is a type of discrimination that occurs when a respondent engages in the following discriminatory conduct on the basis of sex:

(i) Quid pro quo harassment. An employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) Hostile environment. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the recipient's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the recipient's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the recipient's education program or activity.

(iii) Sexual violence. Sexual violence 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 (fondling). 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 either wholly or half related. Descendant includes stepchildren and adopted children under the age of 18.

(D) Statutory rape (rape of a child). Nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) Domestic violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, or stalking, or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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 26.50.010.

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

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

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

- The length of the relationship;
- The type of relationship; and
- The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

(w) "Stalking" means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(x) "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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(y) "Supportive measures" means the reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary measures offered by the college to the complainant or respondent without unreasonably burdening either party, and without fee or charge for purposes of:

(i) Restoring or preserving a party's access to college programs or activities, including measures that are designed to protect the safety of the parties or the college's educational environment; or

(ii) Providing support during the college's investigation and disciplinary procedures, or during any informal resolution process.

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

(z) "Title IX coordinator" is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of discrimination and harassment, including sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

(aa) "Title IX personnel" includes the Title IX coordinator and designees, investigators, and decision makers responsible for administering the college's sex discrimination investigation and disciplinary procedures; facilitators of the informal sex discrimination resolution process; and any other employees who are responsible for implementing the college's sex discrimination investigation or sex discrimination disciplinary procedures for employees or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures.

(bb) "Title IX retaliation" means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by the college, a student, or an employee or other person authorized by the college to provide aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by college policies and procedures prohibiting sex discrimination, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part, including in an informal resolution process, in these investigation procedures, and any disciplinary proceeding for sex discrimination. Nothing in this definition precludes the college from requiring an employee to provide aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity to participate as a witness in, or otherwise assist with, an investigation, proceeding, or hearing.

**(3) Training requirements.**

(a) All employees shall undergo training on the following topics:

(i) The definition and scope of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment under this procedure;

(ii) The college's obligation to address sex discrimination in its education programs and activities;

(iii) Employee responsibility, upon learning of a student's pregnancy or related condition, to provide the student with the Title IX coordinator's contact information and information about available assistance; and

(iv) Employee obligations to notify the Title IX coordinator about conduct that may reasonably be sex discrimination.

(b) Title IX personnel - In addition to the required training for all employees, Title IX personnel shall undergo training on the following topics:

- (i) The college's procedures for sex discrimination and sex-based harassment involving a student;
- (ii) How to conduct an investigation;
- (iii) How to serve impartially without prejudgment of facts, conflicts of interest, or bias;
- (iv) Use of technology during an investigation or hearing;
- (v) The definition of relevance as used for purposes of evaluating evidence and questions for purposes of this investigation procedure;
- (vi) Effective report writing; and
- (vii) Informal resolution facilitators: Procedures for the college's informal resolution process.

(c) Title IX coordinator and designees.

In addition to the required training for all employees and for Title IX personnel, the Title IX coordinator and any designees shall undergo training on the following topics:

- (i) How to ensure the college's compliance with its Title IX obligations;
- (ii) How to offer and coordinate supportive measures;
- (iii) Specific actions to prevent discrimination and ensure equal access upon learning of a student's pregnancy or related conditions; and
- (iv) The college's recordkeeping system and requirements.

All sex discrimination training materials will be made available for review upon request.

(4) **Title IX coordinator investigation duties.** During an investigation, the Title IX coordinator or a delegate is responsible for the following:

(a) Accepting, evaluating, and processing all discrimination and harassment complaints, reports, or referrals;

(b) Conducting an intake meeting with the complainant and, at that time, notifying the complainant, or the individual who reported the conduct if the complainant is unknown, of the college's sex discrimination investigation and disciplinary procedures, as well as the informal resolution process, if appropriate and available. After providing this information, the Title IX coordinator will ascertain whether the complainant would like the college to proceed with an investigation of the discrimination or harassment complaint;

(c) Initiating a complaint subject to factors set forth in this procedure;

(d) When a party is a student employee and the allegations involve sex-based harassment, making a fact-specific inquiry into whether the party's primary relationship with the college is to receive an education and whether alleged sex-based harassment occurred while the party was performing employment-related work and, based on this inquiry, determine whether the party should be treated as a student or an employee under this investigation procedure and related disciplinary procedures;

(e) Addressing and resolving, if possible, questions regarding confidentiality raised by parties and witnesses;

(f) Determining whether a complaint should be dismissed during the investigation phase, and if so, notifying the complainant or the parties (if respondent has been notified of the complaint) of the reasons for the dismissal, and providing the complainant or parties with information about the procedure for filing an appeal of the dismissal;

(g) Maintaining accurate records of all complaints, reports, and referrals;

(h) Retaining investigation files, complaints, reports, and referrals in compliance with applicable records retention periods or federal or state law, whichever is longer;

(i) Either conducting an impartial investigation of a complaint or assigning the investigation to an impartial investigator and overseeing the investigation;

(j) Engaging in an interactive process with both parties to identify and provide supportive measures that ensure during the investigation and disciplinary processes that the parties have equitable access to education programs and activities and are protected from further discrimination or retaliation and making revisions to supportive measures as circumstances may require;

(k) Upon completion of an investigation, issuing or overseeing the issuance of a final investigation report to the parties and to the appropriate disciplinary authority in compliance with this procedure; and

(l) Recommending nondisciplinary corrective measures to stop, remediate, and/or prevent recurrence of discriminatory conduct to college disciplinary authorities and administrators.

(5) **Filing a complaint.** Any employee, student, applicant, or visitor who believes that they have been the subject of discrimination or harassment in violation of the college policies, should report the incident or incidents to the college's Title IX coordinator. The complaint can be in writing or oral. If the complaint is against the Title IX coordinator, the complainant should report the matter to the vice president for human resources for referral to an alternate designee.

For complainants who wish to submit a written complaint, a formal complaint form is available online at ([www.edcc.edu/titleix/](http://www.edcc.edu/titleix/)) [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?EdmondsCC&layout\\_id=6](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?EdmondsCC&layout_id=6). Hardcopies of the complaint form are available at the (~~following locations on campus:~~) human resources (~~office and vice president for student services office.~~) Any person submitting a discrimination or harassment complaint shall be provided with a written copy of the college's nondiscrimination and harassment policy and procedures.

~~The proposed content is designed to assist you with filing a discrimination and/or harassment complaint. Please write clearly and focus on the alleged discriminatory and/or harassing conduct. The complaint should include as much information regarding the incident(s) giving rise to the complaint as possible, including the location, date, and time of the alleged incident(s); the name of the individual or group whom the complaint is against, if known; a description of the incident(s); and the remedy sought.~~

~~You may attach additional documents if needed. Please include your contact information (phone, email, mailing address), sign, and return your complaint to the EO/AA office, Title IX coordinator or designee. A link to an online reporting form is located at <http://www.edcc.edu/titleix/>.~~

~~(3) **Confidentiality and right to privacy.** The college will seek to protect the privacy of the complainant to the fullest extent possible, consistent with the legal obligation to investigate, take appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action, comply with the state and federal laws, as well as the college's policy and procedures.~~

~~Although the college will attempt to honor complainants' requests for confidentiality, it cannot guarantee complete confidentiality. Determinations regarding how to handle requests for confidentiality will be made by the Title IX coordinator.~~

~~(a) The Title IX coordinator will inform and attempt to obtain consent from the complainant before commencing an investigation of alleged discrimination or sexual harassment. If a complainant asks that their name not be revealed to the respondent or that the college not investigate the allegation, the Title IX coordinator will inform the complainant that maintaining confidentiality may limit the college's ability to fully respond to the allegations and that retaliation by the respondent and/or others is prohibited. If the complainant still insists that their name not be disclosed or that the college not investigate, the Title IX coordinator will determine whether the college can honor the request and at the same time maintain a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all members of the college community, including the complainant. Factors to be weighed during this determination may include, but are not limited to:~~

- ~~(i) The seriousness of the alleged sexual harassment;~~
- ~~(ii) The age of the complainant;~~
- ~~(iii) Whether the sexual harassment was perpetrated with a weapon;~~
- ~~(iv) Whether the respondent has a history of committing acts of sexual harassment or violence or has been the subject of other sexual harassment or violence complaints or findings;~~
- ~~(v) Whether the respondent threatened to commit additional acts of sexual harassment or violence against the complainant or others; and~~
- ~~(vi) Whether relevant evidence about the alleged incident can be obtained through other means (e.g., security cameras, other witnesses, physical evidence).~~

~~(b) If the college is unable to honor a complainant's request for confidentiality, the Title IX coordinator will notify the complainant of the decision and ensure that complainant's identity is disclosed only to the extent reasonably necessary to effectively conduct and complete the investigation in compliance with this grievance procedure.~~

~~(c) If the college decides not to conduct an investigation or take disciplinary action because of a request for confidentiality, the Title IX coordinator will evaluate whether other measures are available to address the circumstances giving rise to the complaint and prevent their recurrence, and implement such measures if reasonably feasible.~~

~~(4-)) and student services departments.~~

~~(a) Title IX coordinator initiated complaint.~~

~~(i) In the absence or withdrawal of any or all allegations in a complaint, the Title IX coordinator may file a complaint based on their evaluation of the following factors:~~

~~(A) A complainant's request not to proceed with initiation of a complaint;~~

~~(B) A complainant's reasonable safety concerns regarding initiation of a complaint;~~

~~(C) The risk additional acts of discrimination or harassment would occur if the complaint is not initiated;~~

~~(D) The severity of the alleged sex discrimination or harassment, including whether the discrimination if established, would require the removal of the respondent from campus or imposition of other disciplinary sanction(s) to end the discrimination or harassment and prevent its recurrence;~~

~~(E) The age and relationship of the parties, including whether the respondent is a college employee;~~

(F) The scope of the alleged discrimination or harassment, including information suggesting a pattern, ongoing discrimination or harassment, or discrimination or harassment alleged to have impacted multiple individuals;

(G) The availability of evidence to assist a decision maker with determining whether discrimination occurred; and

(H) Whether the college could end the alleged discrimination or harassment and prevent its recurrence without initiating an investigation and disciplinary procedure.

(b) If, upon evaluating these and any other relevant factors, the Title IX coordinator determines that the alleged conduct poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the complainant or to other members of the college community, or that the alleged conduct prevents the college from ensuring equal access on the basis of sex to its programs and activities, then the Title IX coordinator may initiate a complaint.

(c) When initiating a complaint, the Title IX coordinator will provide the complainant with advance notice of this decision and an opportunity to appropriately address reasonable concerns about the complainant's safety or the safety of others, including the provision of supportive measures.

(d) Regardless of whether a complaint is initiated under this section, the Title IX coordinator must take other prompt and effective steps, in addition to those steps necessary to implement remedies for the individual complainant, to ensure that discrimination or harassment does not continue or recur within the college's programs and activities.

(e) The analysis set forth above need not be performed if the Title IX coordinator reasonably determines that the alleged conduct could not constitute discrimination or harassment.

**(6) Confidentiality.**

(a) The college will seek to protect the privacy of the complainant to the fullest extent possible, consistent with the legal obligation to investigate, offer appropriate supportive measures and/or take disciplinary action, and comply with the federal and state law, as well as college policies and procedures. Although the college will attempt to honor complainant requests for confidentiality, it cannot guarantee complete confidentiality. Determinations regarding how to handle requests for confidentiality will be made by the Title IX coordinator.

(b) Confidential employees, when acting in their confidential capacity, will maintain confidentiality of information shared by a complainant and are not required to report conduct that may reasonably constitute discrimination or harassment. When a confidential employee learns of conduct that reasonably may constitute discrimination or harassment, the confidential employee must explain:

(i) Their status as a confidential employee, including the circumstances under which they are not required to notify the Title IX coordinator about the possible sex discrimination;

(ii) How the complainant can contact the Title IX coordinator to make a complaint about the possible discrimination; and

(iii) That the Title IX coordinator may offer and coordinate supportive measures, as well as initiate an informal resolution process or investigation pursuant to this procedure.

(c) The Title IX coordinator will inform the complainant about the college's discrimination and harassment investigation and disciplinary processes and attempt to obtain consent from the complainant

before commencing an investigation. If a complainant asks that their name not be revealed to the respondent or that the college not investigate the allegation, the Title IX coordinator will inform the complainant that maintaining confidentiality may limit the college's ability to fully respond to the allegations and that retaliation by the respondent and/or others is prohibited. If the complainant still insists that their name not be disclosed or that the college not investigate, the Title IX coordinator will determine whether the college can honor the request and at the same time maintain a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all members of the college community, including the complainant.

(d) If the college is unable to honor a complainant's request for confidentiality, the Title IX coordinator will notify the complainant of the decision and disclose the complainant's identity only to the extent reasonably necessary to effectively conduct and complete the investigation in compliance with this procedure.

(e) If the college decides not to conduct an investigation or take disciplinary action because of a request for confidentiality, the Title IX coordinator will evaluate whether other measures are available to address the circumstances giving rise to the complaint and prevent their recurrence, and implement such measures if reasonably feasible.

**(7) Notice of investigation and other notice requirements.**

Notice of investigation. Upon receiving a complaint of discrimination or harassment, the Title IX coordinator will initiate the investigation by serving the respondent and the complainant with a "Notice of Investigation" in advance of their initial interviews. This notice will be served sufficiently in advance to allow the parties adequate time to prepare for their initial interviews.

If a complaint includes allegations of sex-based harassment and the college has reasonable concerns for the safety of any person as a result of providing a notice of investigation, service of the notice may be reasonably delayed in order to address the safety concern appropriately. Reasonable concerns must be based on individualized safety and risk analysis and not on mere speculation or stereotypes.

The notice of investigation must include:

(a) Description of the college's discrimination and harassment investigation and disciplinary procedures, including descriptions of procedures applicable to sex-based harassment and informal resolution processes, if applicable;

(b) Sufficient information for the parties to respond to the allegations, including the identities of the parties, a description of the alleged discriminatory conduct, and the time and location of the alleged incident, to the extent this information is available to the college;

(c) A statement that retaliation is prohibited;

(d) Information that the parties are entitled to have a representative of their choice and at their own expense, available during the investigation and any disciplinary proceedings and that the representative may be, but is not required to be an attorney, and that during the investigation, the representative's role will be limited to attending meetings or interviews with the party and providing advice to the party; and

(e) A statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access a description of the relevant, not otherwise impermissible evidence and that both parties shall have an equal opportunity to review such evidence upon request.

In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the notice of investigation shall also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment until a determination is made at the conclusion of the applicable disciplinary procedure, and prior to such a determination, the parties will have the opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(ii) A statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the investigative report describing the relevant, not otherwise impermissible evidence, and that both parties shall have an equal opportunity to review this evidence upon request; and

(iii) Notice that the college's employment policies prohibit employees from knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during an investigation or disciplinary proceeding.

Amended notice of investigation. If during the course of the investigation, the college decides to investigate discrimination or harassment allegations against a party that are not included in the original investigation notice, the college will issue an amended notice of investigation to both parties that includes this additional information and complies with the applicable notice requirements set forth above.

Notice of meetings and interview. In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college shall provide written notice to parties whose participation is invited or expected of the date, time, location, participants, and purposes of all meetings or proceedings with sufficient time for the parties to prepare to participate.

(8) **Investigation process.** During the investigation, the investigator:

(a) Will provide the parties with equal opportunity to present relevant statements, and other evidence in the form of fact or expert witnesses and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence;

(b) Will not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or gather and present relevant evidence, except when a no contact order has been imposed based on an individualized and fact-specific determination that a party poses a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of another party and/or witnesses or when contact with a party and/or witness is prohibited by court order. A college-imposed no contact order shall be no broader than is necessary to protect the threatened party or witness and must provide the party or their advisor with alternative means of gathering and presenting relevant evidence from the protected witness or party;

(c) Will allow each party to be accompanied by a representative of their choosing, who may be an attorney, to any investigation related meeting or interview. Representatives' roles during the investigation meetings or interviews will be limited to providing support and advice to the party. Representatives will not represent or otherwise advocate on behalf of the parties during the investigation process. An attorney advising a party must enter a notice of appearance with the Title IX coordinator and/or the investigator at least five business days before the initial interview or meeting they plan to attend, so the college can secure its own legal representation, if necessary; and

(d) Will, in cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, provide both parties and their respective representatives with an equal opportunity to review the draft investigation report and to inspect and review relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence upon request. After disclosure of the report, each party will have 10

calendar days in which to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigation report. If a written response is not received by a party within 10 calendar days, the party will be deemed to have waived their right to respond and the investigator will finalize the report without this information.

(e) During sex discrimination and sex-based harassment investigations under this procedure, the investigator may not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that seeks disclosure of privileged communications, unless the privilege has been effectively waived by the holder. This provision applies, but is not limited to, information subject to the following:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client and attorney work product privileges;

(iii) Privileges applicable to members of the clergy and priests;

(iv) Privileges applicable to medical providers, mental health therapists, and counselors;

(v) Privileges applicable to sexual assault and domestic violence advocates; or

(vi) Other legal privileges identified in RCW 5.60.060.

(f) 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:

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

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

(g) Upon completion of the investigation, the Title IX coordinator will distribute the final investigation report to the parties. The Title IX coordinator will also provide the investigation report and the evidence gathered during the investigation to the vice president for human resources, who is responsible for determining whether pursuing disciplinary action is warranted.

**(9) Dismissal of complaint during investigation - Right to appeal.** During an investigation, a discrimination or harassment complaint may be dismissed, in whole or in part, for the following reasons:

(a) The respondent cannot be identified, after the college has taken reasonable steps to do so;

(b) The respondent is not participating in the college's programs or activities and is not employed by the college. The college's discretion to dismiss a sex-based harassment complaint lodged against a former employee may be limited by RCW 28B.112.070, which requires the college to complete investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct by employees directed at student complainants unless the complainant requests otherwise;

(c) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint, and any remaining allegations would not constitute discrimination or harassment, even if proven. In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's withdrawal in writing before dismissal;

(d) The conduct alleged by the complainant, even if proven, would not constitute discrimination or harassment; or

(e) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) The complainant and the respondent (if the respondent has been notified of the complaint) may appeal the dismissal of a complaint.

(g) If the dismissal occurs during the investigation, the Title IX coordinator will provide the complainant or the complainant and the respondent (if the respondent has been notified of the complaint) written notice explaining:

(i) Why dismissal was necessary or desirable;

(ii) The right to appeal the dismissal and a description of the procedure for appealing the dismissal; and

(iii) If applicable, notice that the complaint is being referred to an appropriate disciplinary authority.

(h) If the dismissal involves an allegation of sex-based harassment and the parties have both been notified of the investigation, the notice of dismissal will be served on the parties simultaneously.

(i) When a complaint is dismissed, the Title IX coordinator will, at a minimum:

(i) Offer supportive measures to the complainant as appropriate;

(ii) Offer supportive measures to the respondent, if notified and as appropriate; and

(iii) Take other prompt and effective steps, as appropriate, to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the college's programs or activities.

(j) Dismissal of a discrimination or harassment complaint does not preclude the college from investigating and pursuing discipline based on allegations that a respondent violated other federal or state laws and regulations, college conduct policies, and/or other codes and contractual provisions governing employee conduct.

(10) **Supportive measures.** In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the Title IX coordinator must offer and coordinate supportive measures to both the complainant and the respondent. Supportive measures may vary depending on the circumstances and what the college may determine to be reasonably available. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to: Counseling; extensions of deadlines and other work-related adjustments; campus security escort services; increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus; restrictions on contact applied to one or more parties; leaves of absence; changes in work-related activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(a) Supportive measures may not be imposed for punitive or disciplinary purposes.

(b) Supportive measures must not unreasonably burden either party and must be designed to protect the safety of the parties and/or the college's educational environment, or to provide support to the parties during the formal or informal resolution processes.

(c) The Title IX coordinator may modify or terminate supportive measures during or after formal or informal resolution procedures are completed, as the parties' and/or the college's circumstances change.

(d) If, at any point during the sex discrimination investigation or disciplinary proceeding, a party becomes dissatisfied with their supportive measures or undergoes a change of circumstances that warrants revisions to their supportive measures, the party may submit a request to revise their supportive measures to the Title IX coordinator. The Title IX coordinator will respond to such a request within 10 calendar days. If the party disagrees with the Title IX coordinator's decision, they may submit a written appeal to the vice president of

human resources or their designee within five calendar days of receiving the Title IX coordinator's decision. Review of the appeal shall be performed by an impartial employee with authority to modify or reverse the Title IX coordinator's decision to provide, deny, modify, or terminate supportive measures applicable to the party seeking review. Challenged supportive measures will be reviewed to determine whether they are meeting the purposes set forth above.

(e) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination other than sex-based harassment and retaliation, the college is not required to alter the alleged discriminatory practice(s) for the purpose of providing a supportive measure.

(11) **Emergency removal.** If an employee respondent poses an immediate threat to the health and safety of the college community or an immediate threat of significant disruption to college operations, the president or designee, after consulting with the Title IX coordinator, may place an employee on administrative leave. The administrative leave shall remain in place pending completion of the investigation and final resolution of any resulting disciplinary proceedings.

(12) **Complaint resolution and consolidation.** Complaints submitted to the Title IX coordinator may be resolved through either informal or formal resolution processes.

(a) Informal resolution. Under appropriate circumstances, and only if the complainant and the respondent voluntarily agree, the parties may pursue informal resolution during the investigation of a concern. Informal resolution is not appropriate when the allegation involves:

(i) A complainant who is a minor or a vulnerable adult;

(ii) A respondent poses an immediate threat to the health, safety, or welfare of a member of the college community;

(iii) An employee, who is alleged to have engaged in sex-based harassment of a student complainant.

If informal resolution is appropriate, the parties may explore resolution through:

(A) Guided conversations or communications conducted by the Title IX coordinator, a human resource representative, or some other mutually agreed upon third party;

(B) A structured resolution process conducted by a trained mediator; or

(C) Voluntary agreement between the parties to alter either or both parties' college work.

(D) A proposal to engage in informal resolution should be provided to the parties in the notice of investigation or after the notice of investigation has been served on both parties.

Before engaging in informal resolution, the college must provide written notification to the parties of their rights and responsibilities. This notice shall explain:

(I) The allegations;

(II) The requirements of the informal resolution process;

(III) That, prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and initiate or resume the formal resolution process;

(IV) That the parties' agreement to a resolution at the conclusion of the informal resolution process will prevent the parties from initiating or resuming the formal resolution process;

(V) That the potential terms of any informal resolution agreement will only be binding on the parties to the agreement; and

(VI) What information the college will retain from the informal resolution process and how that information will be used, if the process is not successful and the formal resolution process is initiated or resumed.

Because the informal resolution process is voluntary, either party may withdraw from the informal resolution process at any time, at which point the formal investigation process will resume.

If the parties voluntarily resolve a complaint, the college will record the terms of the resolution in a written agreement signed by both parties and provide written notice to both parties that the complaint has been closed.

If the parties agree to an informal resolution process, the college will commence informal resolution within 10 calendar days after the parties agree to this option and conclude within 21 calendar days of beginning that process; subject to reasonable delays and extensions for good cause shown.

(b) Formal resolution. Formal resolution means that the complainant's allegations of discrimination or harassment will be subjected to a formal investigation by an impartial and unbiased investigator. The investigation may be conducted by the Title IX coordinator. The results of the investigator's report will be shared with the parties, the Title IX coordinator, as well as the appropriate disciplinary authority who is responsible for determining whether disciplinary proceedings are warranted.

(c) Consolidation of complaints. Complaints of discrimination and harassment may be consolidated when the complaints are against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against another party, when the allegations of discrimination or harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

**(13) Publication of nondiscrimination and harassment policy and procedures.** The policy and procedures regarding complaints of discrimination and harassment shall be published and distributed as determined by the president or designee. Individuals who believe they have been subjected to discrimination or harassment will be provided a copy of the policy and procedures.

~~((5))~~ **(14) Limits to authority.** Nothing in these procedures shall prevent the president or designee from taking immediate disciplinary action in accordance with the college's policies and procedures, and federal, state, and/or municipal rules and regulations.

~~((6))~~ **(15) Retaliation, intimidation, and coercion.** Retaliation by, for, or against any participant (including complainant, respondent, witness, investigator, or EO/AA office, Title IX coordinator or designee) is expressly prohibited. Retaliatory action of any kind taken against a participant who is seeking redress under the nondiscrimination and harassment policy and using these procedures is prohibited and is subject to discipline. Individuals who think they have been retaliated against, intimidated, or coerced should contact the EO/AA office, Title IX coordinator or designee immediately.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-12-069, filed 5/29/15, effective 6/29/15)

**WAC 132Y-300-015 Other remedies.** (1) **Criminal complaints.** Discriminatory or harassing conduct may also be, or occur in conjunction

with, criminal conduct. Criminal complaints may be filed with the following law enforcement authorities:

~~((City of Edmonds Police Department  
<http://www.edmondswa.gov/government/departments/police.html>)~~)

City of Lynnwood Police Department

~~((<http://www.ci.lynnwood.wa.us/Public-Safety/Police-Department>)~~)  
<https://www.lynnwoodwa.gov/Government/Departments/Police-Department>

Snohomish County Sheriff's Department

<http://snohomishcountywa.gov/210/Sheriff>

The college will proceed with an investigation of harassment and discrimination complaints regardless of whether the underlying conduct is subject to civil or criminal prosecution.

(2) **Other discrimination complaint options.** Discrimination and harassment complaints may also be filed with the following federal and state agencies:

Washington State Human Rights Commission

~~(([www.hum.wa.gov/index.html](http://www.hum.wa.gov/index.html))~~) <https://www.hum.wa.gov/>

U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

[www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov)

WSR 24-16-053  
EMERGENCY RULES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 24-143—Filed July 30, 2024, 4:41 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: This emergency rule closes Chinook salmon retention in Catch Record Card Area 5.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 220-313-060.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: Estimates of landed catch through July 28 indicate that anglers have reached 95 percent (6,235 of 6,539) of total legal-size Chinook encounters agreed to in this year's list of agreed fisheries. These measures are needed to meet conservation goals and avoid exceeding the fishery management objectives. There is insufficient time to file permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 30, 2024.

Kelly Susewind  
Director

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-313-06000B Puget Sound salmon—Saltwater seasons and daily limits.** Effective August 1 through August 15, 2024, the following provisions of WAC 220-313-060 regarding salmon seasons for Marine Area 5 shall be modified as described below. All other provisions of WAC 220-313-060 not addressed herein, or unless otherwise amended by emergency rule, remain in effect:

**Catch Record Card Area 5:** Salmon: Daily limit 2. Release Chinook, chum, sockeye, and wild coho.

**WSR 24-16-057**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**CENTER FOR DEAF AND**  
**HARD OF HEARING YOUTH**

[Filed July 31, 2024, 7:36 a.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring the Washington School for the Deaf's student conduct code (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedure recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 142-120-500, 142-120-505, 142-120-510, 142-120-515, 142-120-520, 142-120-525, 142-120-530, and 142-120-535.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 72.40.0191.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires recipients of federal financial assistance, which operate an education program or activity, to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 8, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 25, 2024.

Shauna Bilyeu  
Executive Director

**OTS-5669.2**

**SUPPLEMENTAL STUDENT CONDUCT PROCEDURES FOR CASES INVOLVING ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATION OF TITLE IX**

NEW SECTION

**WAC 148-120-500 Order of precedence.** These supplemental procedures apply 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. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental procedures conflict with the Washington School for the Deaf's standard disciplinary procedures, WAC 148-120-001 through 148-120-410, or any provisions set forth in student handbooks, and other school or agency policies and procedures, these supplemental procedures will take precedence.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 148-120-505 Prohibited conduct under Title IX.** (1) Pursuant to chapter 392-400 WAC and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681, the Washington school for the deaf may impose disciplinary sanctions up to and including expulsion against a student who has been found responsible for committing, attempting to commit, aiding, abetting, inciting, encouraging or assisting another person to commit or engage in acts of sex discrimination, which include sex-based harassment.

(2) For the purposes of this supplemental procedure, the following conduct is prohibited:

- (a) Sex discrimination;
- (b) Sex-based harassment;
- (c) Sexual violence;
- (d) Stalking; and
- (e) Retaliation.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 148-120-510 Definitions.** For the purposes of this supplemental procedure, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Agency" means the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth.
- (2) "Complainant" means the following individuals who have been subjected to alleged conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:
  - (a) A student or employee; or
  - (b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the agency's educational program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.
- (3) "Complaint" means a written or oral request that can be objectively understood as a request for the agency to investigate and make a determination about alleged sex discrimination.

(4) "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 they know, or reasonably should know, that the other person is physically or mentally incapacitated has engaged in nonconsensual conduct. Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(5) "Decision maker" means the school's principal or designee.

(6) "Disciplinary sanction" means consequences imposed on a respondent following a determination that the respondent violated the agency's policy prohibiting sex discrimination or the school's conduct code.

(7) "Impermissible evidence" means privileged communications, unless the privilege has been effectively waived by the holder, and irrelevant evidence about a complainant's prior sexual behavior.

(a) Privileged communications include:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client and attorney work product privileges;

(iii) Privileges applicable to members of the clergy and priests;

(iv) Privileges applicable to medical providers, mental health therapists, and counselors;

(v) Privileges applicable to sexual assault and domestic violence advocates; or

(vi) Other legal privileges identified in RCW 5.60.060.

(b) Prior sexual behavior. 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:

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

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

(8) "Investigation procedure" is the process the school uses to initiate, informally resolve, and/or investigate allegations that a student has violated school policies prohibiting sex discrimination or sex-based harassment.

(9) "Peer retaliation" means retaliation by a student against another student.

(10) "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.

(11) "Program or program activity" means all operations of the school.

(12) "Relevant" means related to the allegations of sex discrimination under investigation. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged sex discrimination

occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred.

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

(14) "Respondent" means an individual who has been alleged to have violated the school's policy prohibiting sex discrimination.

(15) "Retaliation" means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by the agency, a student, or an employee or other person authorized by the school to provide aid, benefit, or service under the school's education program or activity, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by school policies and procedures prohibiting sex discrimination, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part, including in an informal resolution process, in these investigation procedures, and any disciplinary proceeding for sex discrimination. Nothing in this definition precludes the school from requiring an employee to provide aid, benefit, or service under the school's education program or activity to participate as a witness in, or otherwise assist with, an investigation, proceeding, or hearing.

(16) "School" means the Washington school for the deaf.

(17) "Sex discrimination" occurs when a respondent causes a complainant more than de minimis (insignificant) harm by treating the complainant differently from other similarly situated individual(s) based on:

- (a) Sex stereotypes;
- (b) Sex characteristics;
- (c) Pregnancy or related conditions;
- (d) Sexual orientation; or

(e) Gender identity. Preventing a person from participating in an education program or activity consistent with their gender identity constitutes more than de minimis harm and is prohibited.

(18) "Sex-based harassment" for purposes of this supplemental procedure, sex-based harassment is a type of sex discrimination that occurs when a respondent engages in the following discriminatory conduct on the basis of sex:

(a) Quid pro quo harassment. An employee, agent, or other person authorized by the agency to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the agency's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(b) Hostile environment. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

- (i) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the recipient's education program or activity;
- (ii) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(iii) The parties' ages, roles within the agency's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(iv) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(v) Other sex-based harassment in the recipient's education program or activity.

(c) Sexual violence. Sexual violence includes the following conduct:

(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 (fondling). 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 (rape of a child). Nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(v) Domestic violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking, or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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 26.52.010.

(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.

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

(i) Fear for their safety or the safety of others; or

(ii) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

(19) "Title IX coordinator" is responsible for processing Title IX complaints and conducting or overseeing formal investigations and any informal resolution processes under this procedure.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 148-120-515 Rights of parties.** The provisions of these supplemental procedures shall apply equally to the respondent and the complainant.

The school bears the burden of offering and presenting sufficient evidence to establish that the respondent is responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, sex-based harassment, or retaliation related to or arising from such allegations by a preponderance of the evidence.

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

NEW SECTION

**WAC 148-120-520 Determination.** (1) Following an investigation and evaluation of all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, the decision maker:

(a) May question parties and witnesses to adequately assess a party's or witness's creditability to the extent credibility is both in dispute and relevant to evaluating one or more allegations of sex discrimination. This process involves:

(i) The decision maker will request the party or witness to attend an interview.

(ii) During the interview, the decision maker may ask questions that do not seek irrelevant or impermissible evidence;

(b) Will use the preponderance of the evidence standard of proof to determine whether sex discrimination occurred. The standard of proof requires the decision maker to evaluate relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence for its persuasiveness. If the decision maker is not persuaded under this standard by the evidence that sex discrimination occurred, whatever the quantity of the evidence is, the decision maker will not determine that sex discrimination occurred;

(c) Will notify the parties in writing of the determination whether sex discrimination occurred under Title IX including the rationale for such determination, and the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal;

(d) Will not impose discipline on a respondent for sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX unless there is a determination at the conclusion of the grievance procedures that the respondent engaged in prohibited sex discrimination;

(e) Will comply with the grievance procedures before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions against a respondent; and

(f) Will not discipline a party, witness, or others participating in the grievance procedures for making a false statement or for engaging in consensual sexual conduct based solely on the determination whether sex discrimination occurred.

(2) If there is a determination that sex discrimination occurred, the Title IX coordinator will, as appropriate:

(a) Coordinate the provision and implementation of remedies to a complainant and other people the agency identifies as having had equal access to the agency's education program or activity limited or denied by sex discrimination;

(b) Coordinate the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent, including notification to the complainant of any such disciplinary sanctions; and

(c) Take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur within the agency's education program or activity.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 148-120-525 Disciplinary process for sex-based harassment.**

(1) Following a determination that sex-based harassment occurred, the principal may impose disciplinary sanctions, which may include time out, detention, behavior contracts, restrictions of privileges, reprimand, restitution, suspensions, or expulsion.

(2) Any discipline imposed under the section is subject to the requirements in WAC 148-120-250, and WAC 392-172A-05140 through 392-172A-05175.

(3) Following a determination that sex-based harassment occurred, the principal may provide remedies, which may include education or reflection assignments, behavior contracts, or restriction of privileges.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 148-120-530 Appeals.** (1) If the complainant or respondent disagrees with the decision maker's determination, the disagreeing party may appeal the determination by filing a written notice of appeal with the executive director for the center for deaf and hard of hearing youth within 21 calendar days following the date upon which the complainant received the determination.

(2) The school will implement appeal procedures equally for both parties and provide written notice to the other party when an appeal is filed.

(3) The school will ensure that the decision maker for the appeal is not the same decision maker who reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator, or the Title IX coordinator.

(4) The hearing will commence by the 20th calendar day following the filing of the written notice of appeal, unless otherwise agreed to by the complainant and the executive director for good cause.

(5) Both parties will be allowed a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of or challenging the outcome of the initial determination.

(6) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, the decision maker, on appeal, will render a written decision within 20 calendar days following the filing of the notice of appeal and provide the parties with a copy of the decision.

(7) The written decision will describe the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 148-120-535 Extension of time frames.** The time frames in these supplemental procedures may be extended on a case-by-case basis

for good cause and with notice to the parties that includes the reason for the delay.

(1) The Title IX coordinator, decision maker, or executive director, may send written notice to the parties stating the extension of the time frame for a major stage and the reason for the extension; or

(2) A party may submit a written request to the Title IX coordinator asking for an extension of the time frame for a major stage and the reason for requesting the extension.

## WSR 24-16-067

## EMERGENCY RULES

## WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE

[Filed July 31, 2024, 12:26 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring Wenatchee Valley College's student conduct code (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedure recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

Date Adopted: July 31, 2024.

Faimous Harrison  
President

**OTS-5706.1**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 01-12-015, filed 5/25/01, effective 6/25/01)

**WAC 132W-115-020 Jurisdiction ((and authority for student discipline)).** ((All rules in this chapter concerning student conduct and discipline apply to every student enrolled at the college whenever the student is engaged in or present at a college-related activity whether occurring on or off college facilities.

The board of trustees, acting pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(14), has delegated by written order to the president of the college the authority to administer disciplinary action. Pursuant to this authority, the president, or designee, shall be responsible for the administration of the disciplinary procedures provided for herein. However, the president or acting president shall review all disciplinary action in which there is a recommendation that a student be suspended or dismissed.))

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

(a) On college premises;

(b) At or in connection with college-sponsored activities; or

(c) Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, 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 locations in which students are engaged in college programs or activities including, but not limited to, college-sponsored housing, foreign or domestic travel, activities funded by the students, student government, student clubs or organizations, athletic events, training internships, cooperative and distance education, online education, practicums, supervised work experiences or any other college-sanctioned social or club activities.

(3) Students are responsible for their conduct from notification of acceptance at the college through the actual receipt of a 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 college 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 disciplinary 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.

OTS-5711.1

## SUPPLEMENTAL SEX DISCRIMINATION STUDENT CONDUCT CODE AND PROCEDURES

### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132W-115-230 Supplemental student conduct code and procedures—Order of precedence.** This supplemental student conduct code and procedure applies to allegations of sex discrimination arising on or after August 1, 2024, subject to Title IX jurisdiction pursuant to regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education. See 34 C.F.R. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with Wenatchee Valley Colleges standard disciplinary procedures, WAC 132W-115-080 through 132W-115-220, these supplemental procedures shall take precedence.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132W-115-240 Prohibited conduct and definitions.** 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 or student group who commits, attempts to commit, or aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit, an act(s) of "sex discrimination."

For purposes of this supplemental procedure, the following definitions apply.

(1) "Complainant" means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee;

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(2) "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.

(3) "Program" or "programs and activities" means all operations of the college.

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

(5) "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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

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

(7) "Sex discrimination." The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis (insignificant) harm to an individual by treating them differently from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis harm on the basis of sex.

(a) Sex-based harassment. "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) Quid pro quo harassment. A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) Hostile environment. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) Sexual violence. "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(A) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling) is 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 is 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.

(D) Statutory rape (rape of a child) is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) Domestic violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) Dating violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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.

(G) Stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) "Consent." For purposes of this code, "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) "Title IX retaliation" means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part, including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

(8) "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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(9) "Student group" 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.

(10) "Supportive measures" means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 adjust-

ments; 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(11) "Title IX coordinator" is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132W-115-250 Jurisdiction.** This supplemental procedure applies only if the alleged misconduct meets the definition of "sex discrimination" as that term is defined in WAC 132W-115-080 and occurs:

- (1) On college premises;
- (2) At or in connection with college programs or activities; or
- (3) Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, the pursuit of its objectives, or the ability of a student or staff to participate in the college's programs and activities.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132W-115-260 Dismissal and initiation of discipline.** (1) Any member of the college community may file a complaint against a student or student group for conduct which may constitute sex discrimination.

(2) The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The disciplinary process for allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, against a student shall be addressed through the student conduct code.

(3) Both the respondent and the complainant in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination 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. When a summary suspension is imposed pursuant to WAC 132W-115-140 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.

(4) The student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommenda-

tion, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) The student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint. In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the complainant must withdraw their complaint in writing;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the service of the written recommendation.

(g) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(h) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132W-115-270 Prehearing procedure.** (1) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination cases, as well as the meaning and application of the term "relevant," in relations to ques-

tions and evidence, and the types of evidence that are impermissible, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

(2) In sex discrimination cases, the college may, in its sole and exclusive 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.

(3) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) Notice. The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in WAC 132W-115-110, as well as a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) Advisors. The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (4)(b) of this section.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(4) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) Notice. In addition to all information required to be provided in a prehearing notice pursuant to WAC 132W-115-110 the prehearing notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing; and

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the

hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) Advisors. The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) Separate locations. The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) Withdrawal of complaint. If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132W-115-280 Presentation of evidence.** In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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 or advisor. 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.

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

(5) 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132W-115-290 Initial order.** In cases involving sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132W-115-300 Appeals.** (1) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's decision to the president by filing a written appeal with the vice president of student affairs office (appeal authority) 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, decision maker, 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 appeal authority will promptly serve a copy of the appeal on all nonappealing 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 appeal authority may ask for additional briefing from the parties on issues raised on appeal. The appeal authority'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 appeal authority shall serve a written decision on all parties and their attorneys, if any, within 20 calendar days after receipt of the appeal. This decision shall be final and subject to judicial review pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, Part V.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the appeal decision must be served simultaneously on all parties and the Title IX coordinator.

(7) The appeal authority shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

**WSR 24-16-068  
EMERGENCY RULES****TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

[Filed July 31, 2024, 10:50 a.m., effective July 31, 2024, 10:50 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: To bring Tacoma Community College's (college) student conduct code into compliance with new Title IX federal regulations, recently adopted by the United States Department of Education under 34 C.F.R. § 106 and the antihazing provisions of SHB 1751 and RCW 28B.10.900 - [28B.10].902, and to bring adjudicative procedures into compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), chapter 34.05 RCW. The college board of trustees adopted these emergency rules in an open public meeting on [no date provided by agency], and approved the emergency rules becoming effective upon filing.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 132V-121-090, 132V-121-100, 132V-121-110, 132V-121-120, 132V-121-130, 132V-121-140, 132V-121-150, 132V-121-160, 132V-121-170 and 132V-121-180; and amending WAC 132V-121-020, 132V-121-040, 132V-121-050, 132V-121-060, 132V-121-070, and 132V-121-080.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

In addition to complying with the new final rule, the college is updating its student conduct code to bring it into compliance with the antihazing provision of SBH [SHB] 1751 and RCW 28B.10.900 - [28B.10].902 and to align procedures with the APA under chapter 34.05 RCW. These new definitions of prohibited behavior and updated procedures are necessary to address conduct that may pose a threat to the general welfare of the college community and/or college operations and to protect the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 5, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 17, Amended 5, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 11, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 29, 2024.

Natalie Boes  
Rules Coordinator

## OTS-5638.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-24-031, filed 12/1/11, effective 1/1/12)

**WAC 132V-121-020 ((Title-)) Authority.** ((This chapter will be known as the code of student conduct of Tacoma Community College.)) The Tacoma Community College board of trustees, acting pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(14), delegates to the president of the college the authority to administer student disciplinary action. The president is authorized to delegate or reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary. Administration of the disciplinary procedures is the responsibility of the vice president of student affairs or their designee. Except in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the student conduct officer, or delegate, shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-24-031, filed 12/1/11, effective 1/1/12)

**WAC 132V-121-030 ((Definitions-)) Statement of jurisdiction.** ((The definitions and phrases in this section apply throughout this chapter.

**Academic misconduct** is the violation of college policies (e.g., tampering with grades, taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of an exam prior to the scheduled testing time).

**Calendar day** means all days of the month, not just instructional days. In cases where a specified due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the working day closest to the date due will be used (i.e., if the seventh day deadline falls on Saturday the document will be due on Friday).

**Cheating** includes, but is not limited to, when a student misrepresents that he or she mastered information on an academic exercise.

**College** means Tacoma Community College main campus and any other campus or college facility which may be created by the board of trustees.

**College employee** includes any person employed by the college performing assigned administrative or professional responsibilities.

**College premises** includes all land, buildings, facilities and other property in the possession of or owned, used, controlled, or leased/rented by the college, and agencies or institutions that have educational agreements with the college, extending to associated electronic communication including websites and distance learning classroom environments.

~~**Complainant** means any person who alleges that a student violated the code of student conduct.~~

~~**Conduct hold** means a block prohibiting the student from registering for classes until he or she receives clearance from the student conduct administrator.~~

~~**Fabrication** is the use of invented information or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive or mislead.~~

~~**Faculty** means any person hired by the college to conduct classroom or teaching activities or who is otherwise considered by the college to be a member of its faculty.~~

~~**Instructional day** means any regularly scheduled instructional day designated in the instructional calendar, including summer quarter, as a day when classes are held or during final examination week. Saturdays and Sundays are not regularly scheduled instructional days.~~

~~**May** is used in the permissive sense.~~

~~**Member of the college community** includes any person who is a student, faculty member, college employee, or volunteer. A person's status in a particular situation will be determined by the student conduct administrator.~~

~~**Plagiarism** includes, but is not limited to, the inclusion of someone else's words, ideas or data as one's own work.~~

~~**Policy** means the written regulations of the college as found in, but not limited to, the code of student conduct, college website, college catalog, and college administrative manual.~~

~~**Respondent** means any student accused of violating the code of student conduct.~~

~~**Student conduct administrator** means a college employee authorized by the vice president for student services to impose consequences upon any student(s) found to have violated the code of student conduct.~~

~~**Student conduct appeal board** means members of the college community authorized by the vice president for student services to hear an appeal by a student of a student conduct administrator's determination and imposed consequences for an alleged violation of the code of student conduct.~~

~~**Student** means any person who is admitted to or enrolled for classes through the college, including any person in affiliated distance learning courses. Admitted or enrolled students who withdraw after allegedly violating the code are considered students.~~

~~**Will** is used in the imperative sense.)) (1) The student conduct code shall apply to conduct by students or student groups that occurs:~~

~~(a) On college premises;~~

~~(b) At or in connection with college programs or activities; or~~

~~(c) Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, 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 locations in which students are engaged in college programs or activities including, but not limited to, college-sponsored housing, foreign or domestic travel, activities funded by the students, student government, student clubs or organizations, athletic events, training internships, cooperative and distance education, online education, practicums, supervised work experiences, or any other college-sanctioned social or club activities.~~

~~(3) Students are responsible for their conduct from the time they gain admission to the college through the last day of enrollment or award of any degree or certificate, even though conduct may occur be-~~

fore classes begin or after classes end, as well as during the academic year and during periods between terms of 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 college 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 disciplinary 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-24-031, filed 12/1/11, effective 1/1/12)

**WAC 132V-121-040** ~~((Code of student conduct authority.))~~ **State-ment of student rights.** ~~((1) The vice president for student services will develop policies for the administration of the student conduct system and procedural rules for the conduct of student conduct appeal board hearings that are consistent with provisions of the code of student conduct.~~

~~(2) Decisions made by the student conduct appeal board and/or student conduct administrator will be final.))~~ 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 student affairs, subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.50.090 (3)(b).

(c) Students shall be protected from academic evaluation that 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 that is free from unlawful discrimination, inappropriate and disrespectful conduct, and any and all harassment, including sex discrimination.

(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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-24-031, filed 12/1/11, effective 1/1/12)

**WAC 132V-121-050** ~~((Jurisdiction of the college code of student conduct.))~~ **Definitions.** ~~((1) The college code of student conduct will apply to conduct that occurs on college premises, at college sponsored activities, and to off-campus conduct that adversely affects the college community and/or the pursuit of its objectives.~~

~~(2) Each student will be responsible for his/her conduct beginning at the time of application for admission and for the duration of their enrollment through the college, even though conduct may occur before classes begin or after classes end. The code of student conduct will apply to a student's conduct even if the student withdraws from school after the alleged misconduct has occurred.~~

~~(3) The vice president for student services will decide whether the code of student conduct will be applied to conduct occurring off-campus, on a case-by-case basis.~~

~~(4) Violation of law and college discipline.~~

~~(a) College disciplinary proceedings are separate and independent of any civil or criminal proceedings.~~

~~(b) The college will cooperate with law enforcement and other agencies in the enforcement of criminal law on campus. Members of the college community, acting in their personal capacities, are free to interact with governmental representatives as they deem appropriate.))~~  
The following definitions shall apply for the purposes 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) "Complainant" means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee; or

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(4) "Conduct review officer" is a college administrator designated by the president who is responsible for reviewing or referring appeals of student disciplinary actions as specified in 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 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 10 instructional days or a dismissal from the college are heard by the student conduct committee. Appeals of all other disciplinary action shall be reviewed by a conduct review officer 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) "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.

(10) "Program" or "programs and activities" means all operations of the college.

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

(12) "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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

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

(14) "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) By 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 that the document is emailed and deposited in the mail, whichever is first.

(15) "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 a "student" for purposes of this chapter.

(16) "Student conduct officer" is a college administrator designated by the president to be responsible for implementing and enforcing the student conduct code.

(17) "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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(18) "Student group" 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.

(19) "Supportive measures" means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

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

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-24-031, filed 12/1/11, effective 1/1/12)

**WAC 132V-121-060 ((Standards for)) Prohibited student conduct.**

~~((Any student found to have committed or to have attempted to commit the following misconduct is subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in WAC 132V-121-070, Code of student conduct procedures.~~

~~(1) Acts of dishonesty including, but not limited to, the following (see Tacoma Community College Administrative Procedure for Academic Dishonesty):~~

~~(a) Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, academic misconduct or other forms of academic dishonesty.~~

~~(b) Withholding information or furnishing false information to any college official, faculty member or office.~~

~~(c) Forgery, alteration or misuse of any college document, record, or instrument of identification.~~

~~(2) Disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, other college activities, including its public service functions on or off campus, or of other authorized noncollege activities when the conduct occurs on college premises.~~

~~(3) Physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, coercion, or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person, including reckless driving.~~

~~(4) Stalking which is a pattern of unwanted behavior that is directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person alarm and/or fear.~~

~~(5) Sexual harassment which is defined as engaging in unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when such behavior offends the recipient, causes discomfort or humiliation, or interferes with school-related performance (as stated in chapter 132V-300 WAC, Grievance Procedure - Sexual Harassment, Sex Discrimination and Disability Discrimination).~~

~~(6) Attempted or actual theft of and/or damage to property of the college or property of a member of the college community on campus.~~

~~(7) Hazing which means any method of initiation into a student group or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such a group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious mental or emotional harm, to any student or other person attending any institution of higher education (as stated in chapter 132V-130 WAC, Hazing policy).~~

~~(8) Failure to comply with directions of college employees acting in performance of their duties and/or failure to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so.~~

~~(9) Unauthorized possession, duplication or use of keys to any college premises or unauthorized entry to or use of college premises.~~

~~(10) Violation of any college policy.~~

~~(11) Violation of any federal, state or local law.~~

~~(12) Being under the influence, use, possession, manufacturing or distribution of marijuana (including medical marijuana), heroin, narcotics or other controlled substances, or associated paraphernalia (pursuant to RCW 69.50.102).~~

~~(13) Being under the influence, use, possession, manufacturing or distribution of alcoholic beverages (except as expressly permitted by college regulations) at college-sponsored events. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstances, be used by, possessed by or distributed to any person under twenty-one years of age.~~

~~(14) Possession of firearms, explosives, other weapons, or dangerous chemicals on college premises or use of any such item in a manner that harms, threatens or causes fear to others.~~

~~(15) Leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled and/or normal activities on any college premises.~~

~~(16) Obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on college premises or at college sponsored or supervised functions.~~

~~(17) Falsely setting off or otherwise tampering with any emergency safety equipment, alarm, or other device established for the safety of individuals and/or college facilities.~~

~~(18) Conduct that is disorderly, breach of peace, or aiding, abetting or procuring another person to breach the peace on college premises or at functions sponsored by the college or members of the academic community. Disorderly conduct includes, but is not limited to, any unauthorized use of electronic or other devices to make an audio or video record of any person while on college premises without his/her prior knowledge, or with his/her effective consent when such a recording is likely to cause injury or distress. This includes, but is not limited to, taking pictures of another person in a locker room or restroom without their permission.~~

~~(19) Theft or other abuse of computer facilities and resources including, but not limited to:~~

~~(a) Unauthorized entry into a file for any purpose;~~

~~(b) Use of another individual's identification and/or password without his or her permission;~~

~~(c) Use of computing facilities and resources to interfere with the work of another student, faculty member or college official;~~

~~(d) Interfering with normal operation of the college computing system;~~

~~(e) Violation of copyright laws;~~

~~(f) Any violation of the college's acceptable use of information systems and services policy.~~

~~(20) Abuse of the student conduct system including, but not limited to:~~

~~(a) Failure to obey the notice from a student conduct appeal board or college employee to appear for a meeting or hearing as part of the student conduct system;~~

~~(b) Falsification, distortion or misrepresentation of information before a student conduct appeal board;~~

~~(c) Disruption or interference with the orderly conduct of a student conduct appeal board hearing;~~

~~(d) Institution of a code of student conduct proceeding in bad faith;~~

~~(e) Attempting to discourage an individual's participation in, or use of, the student conduct system;~~

~~(f) Attempting to influence the impartiality of a member of a student conduct appeal board prior to and/or during the course of the student conduct appeal board proceeding;~~

~~(g) Harassment (verbal or physical) and/or intimidation of a member of a student conduct appeal board prior to, during and/or after a code of student conduct proceeding;~~

~~(h) Failure to comply with the consequence(s) imposed under the code of student conduct;~~

~~(i) Influencing or attempting to influence another person to violate the code of student conduct system.)) The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student or a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team, or living 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:

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

(b) Plagiarism - Taking and using as one's own, without proper attribution, the ideas, writings, 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 - 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.

(4) **Acts of dishonesty.** Acts of dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

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

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

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

(5) **Alcohol.** Use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of alcoholic beverages or paraphernalia (except as expressly permitted by college policies, and federal, state, and local laws), or public intoxication on college premises or at college-sponsored events. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used by, possessed by, or distributed to any person not of legal age.

(6) **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, win-

dows 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.

(7) **Cyber misconduct.** 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.

(8) **Disruption or obstruction.** Disruption or obstruction of instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding, or other college activity, including the obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular movement on college premises or at a college activity, or any activity that is authorized to occur on college premises, whether or not actually conducted or sponsored by the college.

(9) **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.

(10) **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.

(11) **Failure to comply with directive.** Failure to comply with the direction 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.

(12) **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 intimidat-

ing, 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.

(13) **Hazing.** Hazing is any act committed as part of a person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team, or living group, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization, athletic team, or living group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student, including 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, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions. Consent is not a valid defense against hazing. Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to:

(a) 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;

(b) Humiliation by ritual act;

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

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

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

(14) **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.

(15) **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.

(16) **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.

(17) **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.

(18) **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.

(19) **Sex discrimination.** The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis (insignificant) harm on the basis of sex.

(a) **Sex-based harassment.** "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) **Quid pro quo harassment.** A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) **Sexual violence.** "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(A) **Nonconsensual sexual intercourse** is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling)** is 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** is 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.

(D) **Statutory rape (rape of a child)** is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) **Domestic violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) **Dating violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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.

(G) **Stalking** means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) **Consent.** For purposes of this code, "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) **Title IX retaliation** means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing, including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

(20) **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.

(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) **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 official duties.

(b) Students with legally issued weapons permits may store their weapons 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.

(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) Possession and/or use of disabling chemical sprays for purposes of self-defense is not prohibited.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-24-031, filed 12/1/11, effective 1/1/12)

**WAC 132V-121-070 ((Code of student conduct procedures-)) **Corrective action, disciplinary sanctions, terms and conditions.** ((-1) Purpose. The code of student conduct procedures are designed to afford complainants and respondents a fair and accessible process that edu-**

~~educates students about their rights and responsibilities, holds students accountable for their actions, and provides due process.~~

~~(2) Complaints and student conduct appeal board hearings.~~

~~(a) Any member of the college community may submit a complaint against a student for violation of the code of student conduct. Any complaint must be submitted in writing to the student conduct administrator within ten instructional days of the date the person became aware or reasonably can be expected to have become aware of the alleged violation of the code of student conduct.~~

~~(b) All complaints will be presented to the respondent by the college in written form (i.e., by U.S. mail to the student's address of record, to the student's TCC email address, or delivered in person).~~

~~(c) The student conduct administrator will schedule an initial meeting with the respondent to discuss the complaint.~~

~~(i) During the initial meeting, the student conduct administrator will explain the process, the respondent's rights and responsibilities, and review the complaint and alleged violation(s) of the code of student conduct. The student conduct administrator will seek information from the respondent regarding the allegations and may seek additional information from other involved parties or observers.~~

~~(ii) If there is more than one respondent involved in the complaint, the student conduct administrator at sole discretion may permit the conferences concerning each respondent to be conducted either separately or jointly.~~

~~(3) The student conduct administrator will investigate to determine if the complaint has merit and will take one of the following actions:~~

~~(a) If the student conduct administrator determines that the case has no merit, the case will be dismissed;~~

~~(b) If the respondent and the student conduct administrator mutually agree to the resolution of the complaint, it will be put in writing and there will be no subsequent proceedings;~~

~~(c) If the respondent disagrees with the student conduct administrator's resolution of the complaint, the respondent may appeal the decision of the student conduct administrator to the student conduct appeal board, provided:~~

~~(i) The respondent must submit his or her appeal in writing to the student conduct administrator within seven calendar days of the date the decision is communicated to the student, either verbally or in writing, by the student conduct administrator;~~

~~(ii) A time will be set for a student conduct board appeal board hearing no later than the fifteenth instructional day after the respondent's written appeal has been received by the student conduct administrator;~~

~~(d) Such other action as the student conduct administrator deems appropriate.~~

~~(4) At any time during this process, failure to meet with the student conduct administrator at the appointed time may subject the respondent to a conduct hold. If the respondent fails to meet with the student conduct administrator in a timely fashion the complaint will be determined in the respondent's absence.~~

~~(5) Student conduct appeal board hearings will be conducted according to the following guidelines:~~

~~(a) Formal rules of process, procedure, and/or rules of evidence, such as are applied in criminal or civil court, are not used in student conduct proceedings;~~

~~(b) The respondent will be notified in written form (i.e., by U.S. mail to the student's address of record, to the student's TCC email address, or delivered in person) at least seven calendar days in advance of the hearing. Such notification will include the time, date and location of the hearing; and the specific complaints against the respondent. Upon request, any documents or other physical evidence that will be presented by any party at the hearing will be provided no less than three instructional days before the hearing to all other parties. Upon request, a list of persons who may appear at the hearing or provide written testimony for any party will be provided no less than three instructional days before the hearing to all other parties;~~

~~(c) Student conduct appeal board hearings normally will be conducted in private;~~

~~(d) The student conduct appeal board will be composed of five members. The membership will consist of one member of the exempt staff, chosen by the vice president for student services; two faculty members chosen by the faculty union president; and two students chosen by the president of the associated student body;~~

~~(i) Chairperson. The student conduct appeal board will elect its own chairperson for each complaint brought before it.~~

~~(ii) Quorum. A quorum will consist of no less than three members, provided, that one exempt staff, one faculty and one student are present.~~

~~(iii) Substitutes:~~

~~(A) Any member of the student conduct appeal board who has direct knowledge or involvement in a complaint under consideration may be excused from participation in the hearing or appeal.~~

~~(B) Substitutes may be appointed to form a quorum.~~

~~(e) The complainant and respondent and their advisors, if any, will be allowed to attend the entire portion of the student conduct appeal board hearing at which information is received (excluding deliberations). Admission of any other person to the student conduct appeal board hearing and level of involvement will be at the sole discretion of the student conduct appeal board and/or the student conduct administrator;~~

~~(f) In student conduct appeal board hearings involving more than one respondent, the student conduct administrator, in his or her sole discretion, may permit the student conduct appeal board hearings concerning each student to be conducted either separately or jointly;~~

~~(g) The complainant and the respondent may be assisted by an advisor of their choice. The advisor must be a member of the college community and may not be an attorney. The complainant and/or the respondent is responsible for presenting his or her own information. Therefore, advisors are not permitted to speak or to participate directly in any hearing before a student conduct appeal board. A student should select as an advisor a person whose schedule allows attendance at the scheduled date and time for the student conduct appeal board hearing because delays will not normally be allowed due to the scheduling conflicts of an advisor;~~

~~(h) The complainant, the respondent and the student conduct appeal board may arrange for witnesses to present pertinent information to the student conduct appeal board. The college will try to arrange the attendance of possible witnesses who are members of the college community, if reasonably possible, and who are identified by the complainant and/or respondent at least two weekdays prior to the student conduct appeal board hearing. Witnesses will provide information to and answer questions from the student conduct appeal board. Questions~~

may be suggested by the respondent and/or complainant to be answered by each other or by other witnesses. This will be conducted by the student conduct appeal board with such questions directed to the chairperson, rather than to the witness directly. This method is used to preserve the educational tone of the hearing and to avoid creation of an adversarial environment. The chairperson of the student conduct appeal board will determine relevancy of the questions;

(i) Pertinent records, exhibits and written statements may be accepted as information for consideration by the student conduct appeal board at the sole discretion of the chairperson;

(j) All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the chairperson of the student conduct appeal board;

(k) After the portion of the student conduct appeal board hearing concludes in which all pertinent information has been received, the student conduct appeal board will determine which section(s) of the code of student conduct, if any, that the respondent has violated.

(6) The student conduct appeal board's determination will be made on the basis of whether it is more likely than not that the respondent violated the code. Formal rules of process, procedure, and/or rules of evidence, such as are applied in criminal or civil court, are not used in student conduct proceedings. There will be a single verbatim record, such as a tape recording, of all student conduct appeal board hearings before a student conduct appeal board (not including deliberations). Deliberations will not be recorded. The record will be the property of the college.

(7) If a respondent does not appear before a student conduct appeal board hearing, the information in support of the charges will be presented and considered even if the respondent is not present.

(8) The student conduct appeal board may accommodate concerns for the personal safety, well-being, and/or fears of confrontation of the complainant, respondent, or other witness during the hearing by providing separate facilities, by using a visual screen, or by permitting participation by telephone, videophone, closed circuit television, video conferencing, videotape, audio tape, written statement, or other means, where and as determined by the vice president for student services to be appropriate.

(9) In consultation and agreement with the vice president for student services, the student conduct appeal board will issue a final determination as follows:

(a) The board determines that the case has no merit, and the case is dismissed;

(b) The board upholds the determination of responsibility and consequences imposed by the student conduct administrator;

(c) The board upholds part or all of the determination of responsibility and modifies the consequences.

(10) Consequences.

(a) Any student found to have violated the code of student conduct will be subject to one or more of the following consequences:

(i) Warning. Written notice to a student that the student has been in violation of college policy or has otherwise failed to meet the college's standards of conduct. Such warnings will include the statement that continuation or repetition of the specific conduct involved or other misconduct may result in one of the more serious consequences;

(ii) Reprimand. Written action censuring a student for violation of college policy or otherwise failing to meet the college's standards of conduct. The written reprimand will be filed in the office of the

~~vice president for student services for the duration of the student's attendance at the college. A reprimand will include the statement that continuation or repetition of the specific conduct involved or other misconduct may result in one of the more serious consequences;~~

~~(iii) Probation. Conditions placed upon the student's continued attendance for violation of this chapter. Notice will be made in writing and specify the period of probation and the conditions to be met by the student. Disciplinary probation may be for a specific term or for an indefinite period which may extend to graduation. Violation of the terms of the probation or violation of any college policy during the probation period may be grounds for additional consequences;~~

~~(iv) Loss of privileges. Denial of specified privileges for a designated period of time;~~

~~(v) Restitution. Compensation for loss, damage, or injury. This may take the form of appropriate service and/or monetary or material replacement;~~

~~(vi) Withholding admission or degree. Admission to or a degree awarded from the college may be withheld for a specified amount of time;~~

~~(vii) Revocation of admission or degree. Admission to or a degree awarded from the college is revoked and noted on the transcript. In general this action is reserved for conduct that includes, but is not limited to, acts of dishonesty;~~

~~(viii) Discretionary consequences. Work assignments, essays, service to the college, or other related discretionary assignments;~~

~~(ix) No contact. The student may have no contact with other student members of the college community;~~

~~(x) Suspension. Temporary dismissal from the college and termination of the person's student status;~~

~~(xi) Expulsion. Permanent dismissal from the college and termination of the person's student status.~~

~~(b) More than one of the consequences listed in (a) (i) through (xi) of this subsection may be imposed for any single violation.~~

~~(c) Consequences for conduct in class.~~

~~(i) Each faculty member is responsible for conduct in class and is authorized to take such steps as are necessary when behavior of a student interrupts the normal class procedure. When behavior is disruptive, the faculty member may dismiss the student from class for that one class period and make reasonable effort to resolve the situation. This includes electronically removing a disruptive student from online class situations. However, if the matter becomes so serious as to result in removing the student from the class for two consecutive class periods or when a pattern of periodic misconduct occurs, the faculty member will report the incident to the student conduct administrator in order to seek resolution to the situation and allow for due process.~~

~~(ii) 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 of their faculty's course syllabus.~~

~~(d) Disciplinary consequences will be made part of both the complainant's and the respondent's education record. The records may be expunged of disciplinary consequences, other than expulsion, seven years after the quarter in which the incident occurred.~~

~~(11) Emergency suspension.~~

~~(a) In certain circumstances, the vice president for student services, or designee, may impose an emergency suspension. Emergency suspension may be imposed only:~~

~~(i) To ensure the student's own physical or emotional safety and well-being; or~~

~~(ii) To ensure the safety and well-being of members of the college community or preservation of college property; or~~

~~(iii) If the student poses an ongoing threat of disruption or interference with the normal operations of the college.~~

~~(b) During the emergency suspension, a student will be denied access to the campus (including classes) and/or all other college activities or privileges for which the student might otherwise be eligible, as the vice president for student services or the student conduct administrator may determine to be appropriate.~~

~~(c) The student will be notified in writing of this action and the reasons for the emergency suspension. The student will also be informed in writing of the time, date and place of an initial meeting.~~

~~(d) An initial meeting will take place within five instructional days of the emergency suspension. At the initial meeting the student may show cause why his or her continued presence on the campus does not constitute a threat and may contest whether a campus policy was violated.~~

~~(e) At the initial meeting the student conduct administrator, in consultation and agreement with the vice president for student services, will decide to uphold the emergency suspension, dismiss it, or impose other consequences. The student will be informed in writing of this decision.~~

~~(f) The emergency suspension does not replace the code of student conduct procedures, which will proceed on the normal schedule, up to and through a student conduct appeal board hearing, if required.~~

~~(g) Appeals.~~

~~(i) A decision reached or a consequence imposed by the student conduct administrator may be appealed by the respondent within five instructional days of the decision. Such appeals must be in writing and delivered to the student conduct administrator who will convene a student conduct appeal board hearing as outlined in subsection (5) of this section.~~

~~(ii) The decision of the student conduct appeal board will be final.)~~

(1) One or more of the following corrective actions or disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon a student or upon college-sponsored student organizations, athletic teams, or living groups found responsible for violating 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 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 student status for a stated period of time. There will be no refund of tuition or fees for the quarter in which the suspension is imposed.

(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 dismissal is imposed.

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

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

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

(c) **Not in good standing.** A student deemed "not in good standing" with the college 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 directive.** 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) **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.

(f) **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.

(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) More than one of the disciplinary terms and conditions listed above may be imposed for any single violation.

(4) If a student withdraws from the college or fails to reenroll before completing a disciplinary sanction or condition, the discipli-

nary 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-24-031, filed 12/1/11, effective 1/1/12)

**WAC 132V-121-080 ((Interpretation and revision.)) Hazing sanctions.** ~~((1) Any question of interpretation or application of the code of student conduct will be referred to the vice president for student services or his or her designee for final determination.~~

~~(2) The code of student conduct will be reviewed every five years under the direction of the student conduct administrator.))~~ (1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) Any student group 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.

(4) Any student group 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.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132V-121-090 Initiation of disciplinary action.** (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) **Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment.** The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. Allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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) Informal dispute resolution shall not be used to resolve sex-based harassment complaints without written permission from both the complainant and the respondent.

(b) 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 sex discrimination 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, the president shall, upon request and when feasible, designate another person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities relative to the complaint.

(8) The student conduct officer shall initiate disciplinary action by serving the respondent with written notice directing him or her 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 after proper service of notice, the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.

(10) Within 10 calendar 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. This pe-

riod 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 132V-121-070; or
- (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 sex discrimination, the student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) In cases involving sex discrimination, the student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing before the matter can be dismissed.

(g) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation.

(h) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written

direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(i) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132V-121-100 Appeal from disciplinary action.** (1) Except as specified for cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, as set forth in WAC 132V-121-090(12) (Initiation of disciplinary action), the respondent may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the student conduct officer within 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) A conduct review officer shall conduct a brief adjudicative proceeding for appeals of:

(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.

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

(a) Disciplinary suspensions in excess of 10 instructional days;

(b) Dismissals;

(c) Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment cases; and

(d) Disciplinary cases referred to the committee by the student conduct officer, a conduct review officer, or the president.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132V-121-110 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 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.

(2) The parties to a brief adjudicative proceeding are the respondent and the student conduct officer. 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 calendar 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) 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 expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132V-121-120 Brief adjudicative proceedings—Review of an initial decision.** (1) An initial decision is subject to review by the president, provided a party 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 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.

(3) During the review, the president shall give all parties 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 expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

NEW SECTION

- WAC 132V-121-130 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;
  - (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 the committee for disqualification of a committee member.
- (5) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination 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, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.
- (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.
- (7) In sex discrimination cases, the college may, in its sole and exclusive 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.

NEW SECTION

- WAC 132V-121-140 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 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 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 chair may provide to the committee members in advance of the hearing copies of:

- (a) The student 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 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 advisor of their choice, which may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(10) For any matters involving a disciplinary sanction of suspension of more than one quarter, dismissal, or sex-based harassment, the college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if they have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist them during the hearing. The committee will ordinarily be advised by an as-

sistant 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.

(12) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) **Notice.** The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in subsection (2) of this section, and a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) **Advisors.** The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (13)(b) of this section.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(13) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) **Notice.** In addition to all information required in subsection (2) of this section, the notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the

hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) **Advisors.** The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) **Separate locations.** The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) **Withdrawal of complaint.** If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132V-121-150 Student conduct committee—Presentation 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 ensure 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 college's case.

(6) All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. Except as otherwise provided in this section, evidence shall be admitted or excluded in accordance with RCW 34.05.452.

(7) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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 or advisor. 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:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client communications and attorney work product privilege;

(iii) Clergy privileges;

(iv) Medical or mental health providers and counselor privileges;

(v) Sexual assault and domestic violence advocate privileges; and

(vi) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

(8) Except in cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132V-121-160 Student conduct committee—Initial decision.**

(1) At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee chair shall permit the parties to make closing arguments in whatever form, written or verbal, the committee 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 a decision in accordance with RCW 34.05.461 and WAC 10-08-210. The 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 and explained.

(3) The committee's decision shall also include a determination of appropriate sanctions, 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 its decision to be served on the parties and their attorney, 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 sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132V-121-170 Student conduct committee—Review of initial decision.** (1) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's decision to the president by filing a written 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, decision maker, 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 nonappealing 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 sex-based harassment, the president's decision must be served simultaneously on the complainant, respondent, and Title IX coordinator.

(7) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132V-121-180 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(s) 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 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 offices who may be bound or protected by it.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, 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.

**WSR 24-16-071**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

[Order 24-144—Filed July 31, 2024, 1:58 p.m., effective July 31, 2024, 1:58 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: This emergency rule:

- (1) Closes Subarea 23A-C and Marine Fish-Shellfish (MFSF) Catch Area 23B to commercial spot shrimp harvest effective August 2, 2024.
- (2) Opens Region 2E, Subregion 1B, the Discovery Bay Shrimp District, and Subareas 26B-1 and 26B-2 to commercial harvest effective July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024.
- (3) Closes all areas open to commercial spot shrimp harvest on August 20 through 22, 2024, to allow staff to assess catch data to ensure consistency with comanager agreements and coordinate remaining fisheries with the industry.
- (4) Designates the commercial spot shrimp catch accounting periods and catch limits.
- (5) Implements a reduced pot limit in Region 5 congruent with RCW 77.50.100.
- (6) Closes Subregion 1B to commercial nonspot shrimp harvest effective one hour after official sunset on July 31, 2024.
- (7) Designates the commercial nonspot shrimp catch accounting periods and biweekly catch limit for harvest from Subregions 1B and 1C and Region 2E.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-340-52000X; and amending WAC 220-340-520.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: This rule closes Subarea 23A-C and MFSF Catch Area 23B to commercial harvest following the projected attainment of the available harvest share.

Permanent rules regulating state commercial shrimp harvest in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca require the adoption of harvest seasons contained in this emergency rule. This emergency rule is necessary to prosecute state commercial shrimp pot fisheries in Puget Sound. It is responsive to dynamic changes in market conditions and promotes full utilization of both the commercial spot and nonspot shares.

These rules are in congruence with comanager agreements. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 31, 2024.

Kelly Susewind  
Director

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-340-52000Y Commercial shrimp pot fishery—Puget Sound.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-340-520, effective immediately, until further notice, it is unlawful to fish for shrimp for commercial purposes using pot gear in Puget Sound except as provided for in this section:

(1) Spot Shrimp Pot Harvest:

(a) Spot shrimp harvest is permitted as indicated in the following table opening one hour before official sunrise on the first day of the open period. Any closures take effect one hour after official sunset on the closing day of the open period.

<b>Geographical Management Unit (WAC 220-320-140; WAC 220-320-120)</b>	<b>Open Period</b>
Subregion 1A	Closed.
Subregion 1B	July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Subregion 1C	Closed.
Region 2E	July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Region 2W	Immediately, until further notice.
Subarea 23A-E	Closed.
Subarea 23A-W	Immediately, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Subarea 23A-C and MSFS Catch Area 23B	Immediately, through August 2, 2024.
Subarea 23A-S and MSFS Catch Area 23D	Immediately, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
MFSF Catch Area 23C	Immediately, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
MFSF Catch Area 25A, excluding the Discovery Bay Shrimp District	Closed; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Discovery Bay Shrimp District	July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
MFSF 29 (Straits - Neah Bay)	Immediately, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Subarea 26B-1 and MFSF Catch Area 26C	July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Subarea 26B-2	July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
Region 5	July 31, 2024, through August 20, 2024; August 22, 2024, until further notice.
MFSF Catch Area 26D	Closed.

<b>Geographical Management Unit (WAC 220-320-140; WAC 220-320-120)</b>	<b>Open Period</b>
MFSF Catch Areas 28A, 28B, 28C, and 28D	Closed.

(b) The first spot shrimp catch accounting period starts one hour before official sunrise on May 1, 2024, through one hour after official sunset on July 30, 2024.

(c) It is unlawful for the combined total harvest during the first spot shrimp accounting period to have exceeded 4,800 pounds of spot shrimp per license from all Puget Sound shrimp management regions combined.

(d) The second spot shrimp catch accounting period starts one hour before official sunrise on July 31, 2024, through one hour after official sunset on August 20, 2024.

(e) It is unlawful for the combined total harvest during the first and second spot shrimp accounting periods to have exceeded 5,300 pounds of spot shrimp per license from all Puget Sound shrimp management regions combined.

(f) Harvesters may deploy no more than 50 spot shrimp pots per license in Shrimp Management Region 5.

(g) It is lawful to possess deactivated non-spot shrimp pots on-board a commercial vessel that is listed on a Puget Sound shrimp pot license while fishing for spot shrimp.

A deactivated pot is un-baited, has the drawstring or door fastened open, and/or is unable to be readily fished.

(2) Non-spot shrimp pot harvests:

(a) Non-spot shrimp pot harvest is permitted as indicated in the following table opening one hour before official sunrise on the first day of the open period. Any closures take effect one hour after official sunset on the closing day of the open period.

<b>Geographical Management Unit (WAC 220-320-140; WAC 220-320-120)</b>	<b>Open Period</b>
Subregion 1A	Immediately, until further notice.
Subregion 1B	Immediately, through July 31, 2024.
Subregion 1C	Closed.
Region 2E	Immediately, until further notice.
Region 2W	Immediately, until further notice.
Region 3, not including Discovery Bay Shrimp District	Immediately, until further notice.
Discovery Bay Shrimp District	Immediately, until further notice.
Region 4	Closed
Region 5	Closed
Region 6	Closed

(b) The non-spot shrimp catch accounting periods begin one hour before official sunrise and end one hour after official sunset on the date listed in the following table:

<b>Period Number</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
1	5/1/2024	5/14/2024
2	5/15/2024	5/28/2024
3	5/29/2024	6/11/2024
4	6/12/2024	6/25/2024
5	6/26/2024	7/9/2024
6	7/10/2024	7/23/2024
7	7/24/2024	8/6/2024

Period Number	Start Date	End Date
8	8/7/2024	8/20/2024
9	8/21/2024	9/3/2024
10	9/4/2024	9/17/2024
11	9/18/2024	10/1/2024
12	10/2/2024	10/15/2024

(c) It is unlawful for total harvest of non-spot shrimp to exceed 1,400 pounds per non-spot shrimp catch accounting period from subregions 1B, 1C, and Region 2E combined during catch accounting periods 1 through 12.

(d) There is no weekly harvest limit of non-spot shrimp from subregion 1A, Region 2W, Region 3, or the Discovery Bay Shrimp District.

(e) Harvest of non-spot shrimp is not permitted deeper than 175 feet in Catch Area 23A and all of its subareas (23AE, 23AW, 23AC, 23AS).

(f) Harvest of non-spot shrimp is not permitted deeper than 175 feet in subregion 1A.

(g) It is unlawful to harvest non-spot shrimp in more than one geographical management unit listed in subsection 3(a) in a single day with the following exceptions:

(i) Non-spot shrimp may be harvested from more than one subregion of Region 1 on the same day.

(ii) Non-spot shrimp may be harvested from Discovery Bay Shrimp District and Region 3 on the same day.

(h) It is lawful to possess deactivated spot shrimp pots on-board of a commercial vessel that is listed on a Puget Sound shrimp pot license while fishing for non-spot shrimp.

A deactivated pot is un-baited, has the drawstring or door fastened open, and/or is unable to be readily fished.

**Reviser's note:** The typographical errors in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appear in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed, effective immediately:

WAC 220-340-52000X Commercial shrimp pot fishery—Puget Sound. (24-140)

## WSR 24-16-074

## EMERGENCY RULES

## BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE

[Filed July 31, 2024, 2:24 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring Bates Technical College's (college) student conduct code (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedures recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New chapter 495A-119 WAC; and repealing chapters 495A-115, 495A-121, and 495A-300 WAC.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

In addition to complying with the new final rule, the college is updating its student conduct code to address inconsistencies and clarity issues created by the revisions necessary to comply with the final rule as well as recently enacted state law. These new definitions of prohibited behavior and updated procedures are necessary to address conduct that may pose a threat to the general welfare of the college community and/or college operations and to protect the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 10, Amended 0, Repealed 10; Federal Rules or Standards: New 10, Amended 0, Repealed 10; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 3, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 21, Amended 0, Repealed 30.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: August 1, 2024.

Hannah Herber  
Executive Assistant to the President

OTS-5646.1

**Chapter 495A-119 WAC**  
**STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-010 Authority.** The Bates Technical College board of trustees, acting pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(14), delegates to the president of the college the authority to administer student disciplinary action. The president is authorized to delegate or reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary. Administration of the disciplinary procedures is the responsibility of the vice president of student services or their designee. Except in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the student conduct officer, or delegate, shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-020 Statement of jurisdiction.** (1) The student conduct code shall apply to conduct by students or student groups that occurs:

- (a) On college premises;
- (b) At or in connection with college programs or activities; or
- (c) Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, 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 locations in which students are engaged in college programs or activities including, but not limited to, college-sponsored housing, foreign or domestic travel, activities funded by the students, student government, student clubs or organizations, athletic events, training internships, cooperative and distance education, online education, practicums, supervised work experiences or any other college-sanctioned social or club activities.

(3) Students are responsible for their conduct from the time they gain admission to the college through the last day of enrollment or award of any degree or certificate, 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 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 college 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 disciplinary 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.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-030 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 student affairs, subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.50.090 (3)(b).

(c) Students shall be protected from academic evaluation that 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 that is free from unlawful discrimination, inappropriate and disrespectful conduct, and any and all harassment, including sex discrimination.

(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.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-040 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) "**Complainant**" means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee; or

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(4) "**Conduct review officer**" is a college administrator designated by the president who is responsible for reviewing or referring appeals of student disciplinary actions as specified in 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 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 10 instructional days or a dismissal from the college are heard by the student conduct committee. Appeals of all other disciplinary action shall be reviewed by a conduct review officer 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) "**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.

(10) "**Program**" or "**programs and activities**" means all operations of the college.

(11) "**Relevant**" means related to the allegations of sex discrimination under investigation. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred.

(12) "**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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to

educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

(13) "**Respondent**" is a student who is alleged to have violated student conduct code.

(14) "**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) By 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 that the document is emailed and deposited in the mail, whichever is first.

(15) "**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 particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the college, or who have been notified of their acceptance for admission are considered a "student" for purposes of this chapter.

(16) "**Student conduct officer**" is a college administrator designated by the president to be responsible for implementing and enforcing the student conduct code.

(17) "**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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(18) "**Student group**" is a student organization, athletic team, including, but not limited to, student clubs and organizations, members of a class or student cohort, and student performance groups.

(19) "**Supportive measures**" means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(20) "**Title IX coordinator**" is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-050 Prohibited student conduct.** The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student or a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team or living 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:

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

(b) Plagiarism - Taking and using as one's own, without proper attribution, the ideas, writings, 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 - 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.

(4) **Acts of dishonesty.** Acts of dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

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

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

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

(5) **Alcohol.** Use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of alcoholic beverages or paraphernalia (except as expressly permitted by college policies, and federal, state, and local laws), or public intoxication on college premises or at college-sponsored events. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used by, possessed by, or distributed to any person not of legal age.

(6) **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.

(7) **Cyber misconduct.** 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.

(8) **Disruption or obstruction.** Disruption or obstruction of instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding, or other college activity, including the obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular movement on college premises or at a college activity, or any activity that is authorized to occur on college premises, whether or not actually conducted or sponsored by the college.

(9) **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.

(10) **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.

(11) **Failure to comply with directive.** Failure to comply with the direction of a college officer (campus safety) 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.

(12) **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.

(13) **Hazing.** Hazing is any act committed as part of a person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team, or living group, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization, athletic team, or living group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student, including 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, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions. Consent is not a valid defense against hazing. Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to:

(a) 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;

(b) Humiliation by ritual act;

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

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

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

(14) **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.

(15) **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.

(16) **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.

(17) **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.

(18) **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.

(19) **Sex discrimination.** The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis (insignificant) harm on the basis of sex.

(a) **Sex-based harassment.** "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) **Quid pro quo harassment.** A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or

impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) **Sexual violence.** "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, dating violence, and stalking.

(A) **Nonconsensual sexual intercourse** is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling)** is 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** is 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.

(D) **Statutory rape (rape of a child)** is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) **Domestic violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) **Dating violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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.

(G) **Stalking** means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) **Consent**. For purposes of this code "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) **Title IX retaliation** means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing, including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

(20) **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.

(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) **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 official duties.

(b) Students with legally issued weapons permits may store their weapons 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.

(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) Possession and/or use of disabling chemical sprays for purposes of self-defense is not prohibited, thus is allowed.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-060 Corrective action, disciplinary sanctions, terms and conditions.** (1) One or more of the following corrective actions or disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon a student or upon college-sponsored student organizations, athletic teams, or living groups found responsible for violating 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 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 student status for a stated period of time. There will be no refund of tuition or fees for the quarter in which the suspension is imposed.

(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 dismissal is imposed.

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

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

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

(c) **Not in good standing.** A student deemed "not in good standing" with the college 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 directive.** 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) **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.

(f) **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.

(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) More than one of the disciplinary terms and conditions listed above may be imposed for any single violation.

(4) 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.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-070 Hazing sanctions.** (1) 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 non-profit, the individual directors of the corporation may be held individually liable for damages.

(2) 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.

(3) Any student group 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.

(4) Any student group 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.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-080 Initiation of disciplinary action.** (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) **Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment.** The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. Allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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) Informal dispute resolution shall not be used to resolve sex-based harassment complaints without written permission from both the complainant and the respondent.

(b) 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 complainant in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination 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, the president shall, upon request and when feasible, designate another

person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities relative to the complaint.

(8) The student conduct officer shall initiate disciplinary action by serving the respondent with written notice directing him or her 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 after proper service of notice, the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.

(10) Within 10 calendar 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. 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 495A-119-060; or

(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 sex discrimination, the student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) In cases involving sex discrimination, the student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing before the matter can be dismissed.

(g) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation.

(h) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(i) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-090 Appeal from disciplinary action.** (1) Except as specified for cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, as set forth in WAC 495A-119-080(12), the respondent may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the student conduct officer within 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) A conduct review officer shall conduct a brief adjudicative proceeding for appeals of:

- (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.

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

- (a) Disciplinary suspensions in excess of 10 instructional days;
- (b) Dismissals;
- (c) Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment cases; and
- (d) Disciplinary cases referred to the committee by the student conduct officer, a conduct review officer, or the president.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-100 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 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.

(2) The parties to a brief adjudicative proceeding are the respondent and the student conduct officer. 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 calendar 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) 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 expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-110 Brief adjudicative proceedings—Review of an initial decision.** (1) An initial decision is subject to review by the president or designee, provided a party 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 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.

(3) During the review, the president shall give all parties 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 expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-120 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;  
(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 the committee for disqualification of a committee member.

(5) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination cases, as well as the meaning and application of the term "relevant" in relation to questions and evidence, and the types of evidence that are impermissible, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

(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. In sex discrimination cases, the college may, in its sole and exclusive 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.

#### NEW SECTION

##### **WAC 495A-119-130 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 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 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 chair may provide to the committee members in advance of the hearing copies of the student conduct officer's notification of imposition of discipline (or referral to the committee) and 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 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 advisor 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.

(12) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) **Notice.** The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in subsection (2) of this section, and a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) **Advisors.** The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (13)(b) of this section.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(13) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) **Notice.** In addition to all information required in subsection (2) of this section, the notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) **Advisors.** The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) **Separate locations.** The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) **Withdrawal of complaint.** If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-140 Student conduct committee—Presentation 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 ensure 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 college's case.

(6) All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. Except as otherwise provided in this section, evidence shall be admitted or excluded in accordance with RCW 34.05.452.

(7) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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 or advisor. 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:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client communications and attorney work product privilege;

(iii) Clergy privileges;

(iv) Medical or mental health providers and counselor privileges;

(v) Sexual assault and domestic violence advocate privileges; and

(vi) 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

sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

(8) Except in cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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.

#### NEW SECTION

##### **WAC 495A-119-150 Student conduct committee—Initial decision.**

(1) At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee chair shall permit the parties to make closing arguments in whatever form, written or verbal, the committee 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 21 calendar days following the later of the conclusion of the hearing or the committee's receipt of closing arguments, the committee shall issue a decision in accordance with RCW 34.05.461 and WAC 10-08-210. The 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 and explained.

(3) The committee's decision shall also include a determination of appropriate sanctions, 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 its decision to be served on the parties and their attorney, 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 sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-160 Student conduct committee—Review of initial decision.** (1) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's decision to the president by filing a written 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, decision maker, 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 nonappealing 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 sex-based harassment, the president's decision must be served simultaneously on the complainant, respondent, and Title IX coordinator.

(7) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-170 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(s) 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 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 offices who may be bound or protected by it.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, 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.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-180 Classroom conduct.** The student code of conduct shall not be construed as preventing an instructor from taking immediate disciplinary action when the instructor is required to act upon such breach of performance dishonesty in order to preserve order and prevent disruptive conduct in the classroom. This section shall also not be construed as preventing an instructor from adjusting the student's grade on a particular project, paper, test, or class grade for performance dishonesty.

(1) Faculty members have the authority to take appropriate action to maintain order and proper conduct in their classroom and maintain the effective cooperation of students in fulfilling the objectives of the course.

(2) Bringing any person, thing, or object to a teaching and learning environment that may disrupt the environment or cause a safety or health hazard without the expressed approval of the faculty member is prohibited.

(3) Faculty members have the right to temporarily suspend any student(s) from their classroom/course/lab/clinical/activity for up to three days if the student's misconduct creates disruption to the point that it is difficult or impossible to maintain the decorum of the class, related activity, or the learning and teaching environment. The faculty member's syllabus shall outline how an absence of this type will impact the student's responsibilities in completing assignments, other coursework, or activities. The faculty member shall report this temporary suspension to the student conduct officer or designee on the same day. In consultation with the faculty member, the student conduct officer may set conditions for the student that must be followed upon returning to the class or activity.

(4) The suspension of up to three days discussed in subsection (3) of this section shall not be subject to any further appeal or review. However, any further discipline imposed by the student conduct officer or designee shall be processed in accordance with this chapter.

(5) Any suspension initiated by a faculty member or instructional administrator under this section will not affect any student grading that is based directly on attendance.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-190 Student grievances.** (1) Grievances should be filed as soon as possible and no more than 30 days after the incident occurs. For matters relating to Title IX violations, the college shall follow the process previously outlined in this chapter.

(a) Step one. The student shall first schedule an informal meeting with the instructor or staff member to resolve the concern(s).

If an informal meeting does not resolve the concern(s), within 10 working days from the time of the informal meeting, the student may present the grievance in writing to the instructor or staff member involved with a copy sent to the area administrator of student services. Within 10 working days after receiving the grievance, the instructor or staff member shall respond to the grievance in writing.

(b) Step two. If the grievance is not resolved at step one, the student may within 10 working days of the receipt of the written re-

sponse, appeal to the area administrator by submitting the appropriate copy of the grievance form and all documents from step one to the area administrator.

(i) The area administrator shall hear the grievance within 10 working days after receipt of the grievance form and shall render a decision in writing within 10 working days after such hearing.

(ii) The student will be afforded an adequate and fair opportunity to fully present their position and the relevant facts as they relate to the issues raised by the grievance.

(c) Step three. If the grievance is not resolved at step two, the student may within 10 working days of receipt of the written response, provide the appropriate copy of the student grievance form and a written appeal, accompanied by documents and correspondence, to the senior administrator of student services.

(i) The senior administrator of student services shall hear the grievance within 10 working days after receipt of the written appeal and shall render a decision in writing within 10 working days after such hearing concludes.

(ii) The student will be afforded an adequate and fair opportunity to fully present their position and the relevant facts and issues to be addressed in the grievance.

(iii) The decision of the senior administrator of student services shall be final and binding on all parties involved in the grievance.

(iv) Any settlement of the grievance shall be applicable to that grievance only and shall not be a precedent or have binding effect or disposition on any other grievances of similar nature.

(2) Complaints should be filed as soon as possible and no more than 30 days after the incident occurs.

(a) Step one. The student shall first schedule an informal meeting with the instructor or staff member to resolve the concern(s).

If an informal meeting does not resolve the concern(s), within 10 working days from the time of the informal meeting, the student may present the grievance in writing to the instructor or staff member involved with a copy sent to the area administrator of student services. Within 10 working days after receiving the grievance, the instructor or staff member shall respond to the grievance in writing.

(b) Step two. If the grievance is not resolved at step one, the student may within 10 working days of the receipt of the written response, appeal to the area administrator by submitting the appropriate copy of the grievance form and all documents from step one to the area administrator.

(i) The area administrator shall hear the grievance within 10 working days after receipt of the grievance form and shall render a decision in writing within 10 working days after such hearing.

(ii) The student will be afforded an adequate and fair opportunity to fully present their position and the relevant facts as they relate to the issues raised by the grievance.

(c) Step three. If the grievance is not resolved at step two, the student may within 10 working days of receipt of the written response, provide the appropriate copy of the student grievance form and a written appeal, accompanied by documents and correspondence, to the senior administrator of student services.

(i) The senior administrator of student services shall hear the grievance within 10 working days after receipt of the written appeal and shall render a decision in writing within 10 working days after such hearing concludes.

(ii) The student will be afforded an adequate and fair opportunity to fully present their position and the relevant facts and issues to be addressed in the grievance.

(iii) The decision of the senior administrator of student services shall be final and binding on all parties involved in the grievance.

(iv) Any settlement of the grievance shall be applicable to that grievance only and shall not be a precedent or have binding effect or disposition on any other grievances of similar nature.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-200 Time limits on filing a grievance.** The student must file a grievance within one quarter of the event, which caused the grievance to be filed. The senior administrator of student services may suspend this rule under exceptional circumstances such as extended illness or a leave of absence. No complaints will be considered after two quarters of the occurrence of the source of the grievance. When either party to the grievance is no longer present at the college and does not expect to return, the senior administrator of student services will give the absent party reasonable opportunity to reply to the grievance before making a decision.

The student must file a complaint within one quarter of the event, which caused the grievance to be filed. The senior administrator of student services may suspend this rule under exceptional circumstances such as extended illness, or a leave of absence. No complaints will be considered after two quarters of the occurrence of the source of the grievance. When either party to the complaint is no longer present at the college and does not expect to return, the senior administrator of student services will give the absent party reasonable opportunity to reply to the complaint before making a decision.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 495A-119-210 Grievances excluded.** (1) The student grievance procedure described in this section is not intended to cover complaints of discrimination or sexual discrimination. The college has separate, specific procedures for such complaints. See the senior administrator of human resources for information on those specific procedures.

(2) A student may not use the provisions of these sections as the basis for filing a grievance based on the outcome of summary or other disciplinary proceedings described in earlier sections of this student rights and responsibilities code or for resolution of specific categories of student complaints where other procedures are required.

(3) Federal and state laws, rules and regulations, in addition to policies, regulations and procedures adopted by the state board for community and technical colleges or the board of trustees of Bates Technical College, District No. 28 are excluded from being grieved.

**OTS-5645.1**REPEALER

The following chapter of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

WAC 495A-115-005	Authority.
WAC 495A-115-010	Order of precedence.
WAC 495A-115-020	Prohibited conduct under Title IX.
WAC 495A-115-030	Title IX jurisdiction.
WAC 495A-115-040	Initiation of discipline.
WAC 495A-115-050	Prehearing procedure.
WAC 495A-115-060	Rights of parties.
WAC 495A-115-070	Evidence.
WAC 495A-115-080	Initial order.
WAC 495A-115-090	Appeals.

## WSR 24-16-075

## EMERGENCY RULES

## LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE

[Filed July 31, 2024, 2:31 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring Lower Columbia College's (college) student conduct code (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedures recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 132M-126-037; repealing WAC 132M-126-050, 132M-126-110, 132M-126-115, 132M-126-120, 132M-126-125, 132M-126-130, 132M-126-135, 132M-126-140, 132M-126-145, 132M-126-150 and 132M-126-155; and amending WAC 132M-126-005, 132M-126-010, 132M-126-015, 132M-126-020, 132M-126-025, 132M-126-030, 132M-126-035, 132M-126-036, 132M-126-040, 132M-126-045, 132M-126-055, 132M-126-060, 132M-126-070, 132M-126-075, 132M-126-080, 132M-126-085, 132M-126-090, and 132M-126-100.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

In addition to complying with the new final rule, the college is updating its student conduct code to address the extent of the college's jurisdiction, abuse of others, abuse in later life, plagiarism with the use of artificial intelligence, deliberate damage to another's academic work, discriminatory harassment, harassment or bullying, hazing, a warning as a corrective action, expanding disciplinary terms and conditions to include campus housing suspension or termination, and procedures in student conduct matters. These new definitions of prohibited behavior and updated procedures are necessary to address conduct that may pose a threat to the general welfare of the college community and/or college operations and to protect the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 1, Amended 18, Repealed 11; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 31, 2024.

Kendra Sprague  
Vice President of Foundation  
Human Resources and Legal Affairs

## OTS-5633.2

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-005 Preamble.** Lower Columbia College is a diverse and dynamic learning community. As such, the college maintains a strong commitment to providing a learning environment that is civil and free from disruptive behavior. All members of the college community share in the responsibility to promote a positive learning environment, demonstrate mutual respect and dignity, and avoid adversarial relationships. Thus, students are expected to act as responsible members of this community, maintain a high degree of honesty and integrity, comply with the rules and regulations of the college, and respect the rights, privileges, and property of the college community. For allegations of sexual harassment occurring prior to August 1, 2024, the archived rules apply and can be found here: <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/law/WACArchive/2023/WAC%20132M-126%20%20CHAPTER.htm>

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-010 Authority.** The board of trustees of Washington State Community College District No. 13, acting pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(~~(13)~~) (14), delegates to the president of the college the authority to administer disciplinary action. The president is authorized to delegate or reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary. Administration of the disciplinary procedures is the responsibility of the vice president of student services or their designee. (~~Unless otherwise specified~~) Except in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the student conduct officer, or delegate, shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-23-113, filed 11/17/22, effective 12/18/22)

**WAC 132M-126-015 Definitions.** The following definitions shall apply for purposes of this student conduct code:

- (1) "ASLCC" means the associated students of Lower Columbia College as defined in the constitution of that body.
- (2) "Assembly" means any overt activity engaged in by one or more persons, the object of which is to gain publicity, advocate a view, petition for a cause, or disseminate information to any person, persons, or group of persons.
- (3) "Business day" means a weekday, excluding weekends, college holidays, and college closure days.
- (4) "College" means Lower Columbia College and any other college centers or premises established within Washington State Community College District No. 13.
- (5) "College community" means trustees, students, staff, faculty, and visitors in college facilities and college premises.
- (6) "College official" includes any person employed by the college performing assigned duties.
- (7) "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.
- (8) ~~((A "complainant" is an alleged victim of sexual misconduct.))~~ "Complainant" means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:
  - (a) A student or employee; or
  - (b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.
- (9) "Conduct review officer" is the vice president of student services or other college administrator designated by the president ~~((to be))~~ who is responsible for receiving ~~((and for reviewing))~~ or referring appeals of student disciplinary actions ~~((in accordance with the procedures of))~~ as specified in this code.
- (10) "Controlled substance" means and includes any drug or substance as defined in chapter 69.50 RCW as now law or hereafter amended.
- (11) "Disciplinary action" is the process by which the student conduct officer imposes discipline against a student for a violation of the student code of conduct.
- (12) "Disciplinary appeal" is the process by which an aggrieved student can appeal the discipline imposed by the student conduct officer. Disciplinary appeals from a suspension in excess of 10 instructional days or an expulsion are heard by the student conduct committee. Appeals of all other appealable disciplinary action shall be reviewed through brief adjudicative proceedings.
- (13) "Faculty member" and "instructor" mean any employee of Washington State Community College District No. 13 who is employed on a full-time or part-time basis as a teacher, instructor, counselor or librarian.
- (14) "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.

(15) "Pregnancy or related conditions" means:

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

(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.

(16) ~~((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.

~~((16))~~ (17) "Program" or "programs and activities" means all operations of the college.

(18) "RCW" means Revised Code of Washington which can be accessed at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/>.

~~((17))~~ (19) "Relevant" means related to the allegations of sex discrimination under investigation. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred.

(20) "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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

(21) "Respondent" is ((the)) a student ((against whom disciplinary action is initiated.

~~(18))~~ who is alleged to have violated the student conduct code.

(22) "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) By 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.

~~((19) "Sexual misconduct" has the meaning ascribed to this term in WAC 132M-126-030(13).~~

~~(20))~~ (23) "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.

~~((21))~~ (24) "Student conduct officer" is a college administrator designated by the president to be responsible for implementing and enforcing the student conduct code.

~~((22))~~ (25) "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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(26) "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.

~~((23))~~ (27) "Student organization" means any number of students who have met the formal requirements of clubs and organizations.

(28) "Supportive measures" means reasonable available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(29) "Title IX coordinator" is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-23-113, filed 11/17/22, effective 12/18/22)

**WAC 132M-126-020 Statement of jurisdiction.** (1) The student conduct code shall apply to ~~((student))~~ conduct by students or student groups that occurs:

(a) On college premises;

(b) At or in connection with ~~((college-sponsored))~~ college programs or activities; or

(c) Off-campus ~~((conduct that))~~ premises, if in the judgment of the college ~~((adversely affects)),~~ the conduct has an adverse impact on 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 programs or activities including, but not limited to, college-sponsored housing, foreign or domestic travel, activities funded by the ~~((associated students))~~ students, student government, student clubs or organizations, athletic events, training internships, cooperative and distance education, online education, practicums, supervised work experiences or any other college-sanctioned social or club activities.

(3) Students are responsible for their conduct from notification of admission to the college through 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))~~ college 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 disciplinary proceedings for violations of the student 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-025 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.))~~ Academic freedom.

(a) Students are guaranteed the rights of free inquiry, expression, and assembly upon and within college premises 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.)~~) 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-23-113, filed 11/17/22, effective 12/18/22)

**WAC 132M-126-030 Prohibited student conduct.** The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student 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 as 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 includes 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 of their faculty's course syllabus and program

handbook. Further academic consequences may follow consistent with the provisions in any program handbook including, but not limited to, dismissal from an academic program. 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.

~~((2) **Other dishonesty.** Any other acts of dishonesty. Such acts))~~

(4) **Acts of dishonesty.** Acts of dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

(a) Forgery, alteration, and/or 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 ~~((or))~~; or

~~((3) **Obstruction or disruptive conduct.** Conduct, not otherwise protected by law, that interferes with, impedes, or otherwise unreasonably hinders:~~

~~(a) Instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding(s), 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.~~

~~(4) **Assault, intimidation, harassment.** Unwanted touching, physical abuse, verbal abuse, threat(s), intimidation, harassment, bullying, or other conduct which harms, threatens, or is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of another person or another person's property. For purposes of this code, "bullying" is defined as repeated or aggressive unwanted behavior, not otherwise protected by law that intentionally humiliates, harms, or intimidates the victim.~~

~~(5) **Cyber misconduct.** Cyberstalking, cyberbullying or online harassment. Use of electronic communications including, but not limited to, electronic mail, instant messaging, electronic bulletin boards, 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.~~

~~(6)) (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) **Alcohol.** The use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of alcoholic beverages or paraphernalia (except as expressly permitted by college policies, and federal, state, and local laws), or public intoxication on college premises or at college-sponsored events. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used by, possessed by, or distributed to any person not of legal age.

(6) **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 marijuana, 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. This includes all college sidewalks, parking lots, landscaped areas, sports fields and college buildings. Use of tobacco is also prohibited at events on college premises, or in college-owned, rented or leased vehicles. "Related products" include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, bidi, clove cigarettes, waterpipes, hookahs, chewing tobacco, vaporizers, and snuff.

(7) **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.

(8) **Disruption or obstruction.** Disruption or obstruction of instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding, or other college activity, including the obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular movement on college premises or at a college activity, or any activity that is authorized to occur on college premises, whether or not actually conducted or sponsored by the college.

(9) **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.

(10) **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.

(11) **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.

(12) **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.

(13) **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;

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

(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.

(14) **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.

(15) **Lewd conduct.** Conduct which is lewd or obscene that is not otherwise protected under the law.

(16) **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.

(17) **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.

~~((7) **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.~~

~~(8) **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, 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.~~

~~(9) **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.~~

~~(10) **Alcohol, drug, and tobacco violations.**~~

~~(a) **Alcohol.** The use, possession, delivery, sale, or being observably under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, except as permitted by law and applicable college policies.~~

~~(b) **Marijuana.** The use, possession, delivery, or sale of marijuana or the psychoactive compounds found in marijuana intended for human consumption, regardless of form, or being observably under the influence of marijuana or the psychoactive compounds found in marijuana. While state law permits the recreational use of marijuana, federal law prohibits such use on college premises or in connection with college activities.~~

~~(c) **Drugs.** The use, possession, 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.~~

~~(d) **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. This includes all college sidewalks, parking lots, landscaped areas, sports fields and college buildings. Use of tobacco is also prohibited at events on college premises, or in college-owned, rented or leased vehicles. "Related products" include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, bidi, clove cigarettes, waterpipes, hookahs, chewing tobacco, vaporizers, and snuff.~~

~~(11) **Lewd conduct.** Conduct which is lewd or obscene that is not otherwise protected under the law.~~

~~(12) **Discriminatory conduct.** Conduct which harms or adversely affects any member of the college community because of their race; color; national origin; sensory, mental or physical disability; use of a service animal; gender, including pregnancy; marital status; age; religion; creed; sexual orientation; gender identity; veteran's status; or any other legally protected classification.~~

~~(13) **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 in this code. See WAC 132M-126-115 through 132M-126-155.~~

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

~~(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)) (18) **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.~~

~~(19) **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.~~

~~(20) **Sex discrimination.** The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotype, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Except as permitted by 20 U.S.C. 1681 (a) (1) through (9) and the corresponding regulations §§ 106.12 through 106.15, 20 U.S.C. 1686 and its corresponding regulation § 106.32(b) (1), or § 106.41(b), preventing a person from participating in an education program or activity consistent with their gender identity constitutes more than de minimis harm and is prohibited.~~

~~(a) **Sex-based harassment.** "Sex-based harassment" is a form of discrimination and means of sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:~~

~~(i) **Quid pro quo harassment.** A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.~~

~~(ii) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:~~

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) Sexual violence. "Sexual violence" (~~(is a type of sexual discrimination and harassment.)~~) includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, dating violence, and stalking (~~(are all types of sexual violence)~~).

~~((i))~~ (A) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse (~~(. Any actual or attempted)~~) is any 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))~~ (B) Nonconsensual sexual contact (~~(.)~~) (fondling) is 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))~~ (C) Incest (~~(.)~~) is 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))~~ (D) Statutory rape (~~(. Consensual)~~) (rape of a child) is nonforcible sexual intercourse (between) with a person who is (18 years of age or older, and a person who is under the age of 16) under the statutory age of consent.

~~((v))~~ (E) Domestic violence (~~(.)~~) is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, (or) coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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 26.50.010).

~~((vi))~~ (F) Dating violence (~~(.)~~) is 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 interactions between the persons involved in the relationship.

~~((vii))~~ (G) Stalking ~~((-))~~ means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to ~~((-~~

~~(A))~~ fear for their safety or the safety of others ~~((-))~~ or ~~((B))~~ to suffer substantial emotional distress.

~~((d))~~ (b) Consent. For purposes of this code, "consent" means knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) For consent to be valid, there must be at the time of the act of sexual intercourse or sexual contact actual word or conduct indicating freely given agreement to have sexual intercourse or sexual contact.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

~~((14) Harassment.~~ Unwelcome and offensive conduct, including verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct, that is directed at a person because of such person's protected status and that is sufficiently serious as to deny or limit, and that does deny or limit, the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational program, that changes the terms or conditions of employment for a college employee, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members. Protected status includes a person's race; color; national origin; sensory, mental or physical disability; use of a service animal; gender, including pregnancy; marital status; age; religion; creed; sexual orientation; gender identity; veteran's status; or any other legally protected classification. See "sexual misconduct" for the definition of "sexual harassment." Harassing conduct may include, but is not limited to, physical conduct, verbal, written, social media and electronic communications.

~~(15) Retaliation.~~ Harming, threatening, intimidating, coercing, or taking adverse action of any kind against a person because such person reported an alleged violation of this code or college policy, provided information about an alleged violation, or participated as a witness or in any other capacity in a college investigation or disciplinary proceedings.

~~(16) 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.~~

~~(17) **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.~~

~~(18) **Safety violations.** Nonaccidental 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.~~

~~(19) **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 traffic and parking rules.~~

~~(20) **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.~~

~~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.) (c) **Title IX retaliation** means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing, including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceedings involving allegations of sex discrimination.~~

~~(21) **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.~~

~~(22) **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.~~

~~(23) **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 or activities, subject to the following exceptions:~~

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

~~(b) Students with legally issued weapons permits may store their weapons 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) Possession and/or use of disabling chemical sprays for purpose of self-defense is not prohibited.

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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-035 Corrective action, disciplinary sanctions and terms and conditions.** (1) One or more of the following corrective actions or disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon ((students found to have violated)) a student or upon college-sponsored student organizations, athletic teams, or living groups found responsible for violating the student conduct code.

(a) **((Disciplinary)) 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 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 ~~((premises))~~ facilities without any possibility of return. There will be no refund of tuition or fees for the quarter in which the action is taken.

(2) Disciplinary terms and conditions that may be imposed alone or 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-)) **Educational ((sanction)).** ((The college may require the student to complete)) Participation in or successful completion of an educational activity ((or experience directly related to the violation committed, at the student's expense.~~

~~(c) **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.~~

~~(d-)) designed to create an awareness of the student's misconduct.~~

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

~~(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.~~

~~((e) **No trespass order.**) (d) **No contact directive.** 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) **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.~~

~~(f) **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.~~

(g) **Trespass or restriction.** A student may be restricted from (college property based on their misconduct.

~~(f) **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.)) any or all college premises and/or college-sponsored activities based on the violation.~~

(h) **Campus housing suspension or termination.** Removal from a campus housing for a specified period or permanently. Conditions may be imposed before a student is permitted to return to a campus housing.

(3) More than one of the disciplinary terms and conditions listed above may be imposed for any single violation.

(4) 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-23-113, filed 11/17/22, effective 12/18/22)

**WAC 132M-126-036 Hazing prohibited—Sanctions.** (1) ~~((Hazing by a student or a student group is prohibited pursuant to WAC 132M-126-030(9).~~

~~(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 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.~~

(2) 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.

~~((e)) (3) Any student group((s)) that knowingly permit 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)) (4) Any student group((s)) found responsible for violating the code of student conduct, college anti-hazing 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 inci-~~

dent(s) giving rise to the finding, and the details of the sanction(s) imposed.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132M-126-037 Amnesty policy.** (1) Lower Columbia College values the health, safety, and wellness of those in our college community. Students are encouraged to report crimes, share concerns, and seek medical attention for themselves or others in need.

(2) A student conduct officer may elect not to initiate disciplinary action against a student who, while in the course of helping another person seek medical or other emergency assistance, admits to a possible policy violation under this student conduct code, provided that any such violations did not and do not place the health or safety of any other person at risk.

(3) A student conduct officer may elect not to initiate disciplinary action against a student who, while in the course of reporting violence, sexual misconduct, or a crime in progress, admits to personal consumption of alcohol or drugs at or near the time of the incident, provided that any such use did not place the health or safety of any other person at risk.

(4) While policy violations cannot be overlooked, the college may elect to offer educational options or referrals, rather than initiating disciplinary action against students who report crimes, serve as witnesses, or seek medical attention as described in this section.

(5) This amnesty policy may not apply to students who repeatedly violate college policies in regards to alcohol, drugs, or other prohibited conduct.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-040 Initiation of disciplinary action.** (1) ~~((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.))~~ 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) **Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment.** The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. Allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 haz-

ing 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) Informal dispute resolution shall not be used to resolve sex-based harassment complaints without written permission from both the complainant and the respondent.

(b) 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 allegation of sex discrimination 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 after proper service of notice, the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.

~~((3) The student conduct officer, prior to taking disciplinary action in a case involving allegations of sexual misconduct, will make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to discuss the results of the investigation and possible disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions, if any, that may be imposed upon the respondent if the allegations of sexual misconduct are found to have merit.~~

~~(4))~~ (10) Within ((ten)) 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. 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.

~~((5))~~ (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), as described in WAC 132M-126-035 ~~((-))~~; or

(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.

~~((6))~~ (12) In cases involving allegations of ~~((sexual misconduct))~~ sex discrimination, 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 complainant's protection, including disciplinary suspension or dismissal of the respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights. If protective sanctions and/or conditions are imposed, the student conduct officer shall make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to ensure that prompt notice of the protective disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions occurs.))~~ shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and the respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before the student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) In cases involving sex discrimination, the student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complainant if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside of the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing before the matter can be dismissed.

(g) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation.

(h) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(i) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's program and activities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-045 Appeal from disciplinary action.** (1) Except as specified for cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, as set forth by WAC 132M-126-040(12), the respondent may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the conduct review officer within (~~ten~~) 21 calendar days of the student conduct officer's decision. Failure to file a notice of appeal timely 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 (~~review~~) 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) A conduct review officer shall conduct a brief adjudicative proceeding for appeals of:

(a) Suspensions of 10 instructional days or less;  
(b) Disciplinary probation;  
(c) Written reprimands; and  
(d) Any condition or terms imposed in conjunction with one of the foregoing disciplinary actions.

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

(a) ~~((The imposition of))~~ Disciplinary suspensions in excess of ~~((ten))~~ 10 instructional days;

(b) Dismissals; ~~((and))~~

(c) ~~((Discipline))~~ Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment cases; and

(d) Disciplinary 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 ten 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, disciplinary warnings and dismissals of disciplinary actions are final and are not subject to appeal.~~

~~(10) In cases involving allegations of 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 sexual misconduct complaint; or~~

~~(b) Any disciplinary sanction(s) and conditions imposed against a respondent for a sexual misconduct violation, including a disciplinary 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 afforded the respondent.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-055 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 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.

(2) The parties to a brief adjudicative proceeding are the respondent, the student conduct officer ~~((, and in cases involving sexual misconduct, the complainant))~~. 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 ~~((ten))~~ 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 ~~((ten))~~ 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 ~~((more than ten))~~ 10 instructional days or expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-060 Brief adjudicative proceedings—Review of an initial decision.** (1) An initial decision is subject to review by the president or designee, provided the party files a written request for review with the conduct review officer within ~~((ten))~~ 21 calendar days of service of the initial decision.

(2) The president or designee 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 or designee shall give all parties 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 ~~((twenty))~~ 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 or designee does not make a disposition of the matter within ~~((twenty))~~ 20 calendar days after the request is submitted.

(5) If the president or designee upon review determines that the respondent's conduct may warrant imposition of a disciplinary suspension of more than ~~((ten))~~ 10 instructional days or expulsion, the mat-

ter 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.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-070 Student conduct committee.** (1) The student conduct committee shall consist of five members:

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

(b) Two faculty members appointed by the faculty association;

(c) One administrative staff member (other than an administrator serving as a student conduct or conduct review officer), or other impartial hearing chair, appointed by the president.

(2) The administrative staff member or other impartial hearing officer shall serve as the chair of the committee and may take action on preliminary hearing matters prior to convening the committee. ~~((The chair shall receive annual training on protecting victims and promoting accountability in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct.))~~

(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 the committee for disqualification of a committee member.

(5) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 in the student conduct process for sex discrimination cases, as well as the meaning and application of the term "relevant" in relation to questions and evidence, and the types of evidence that are impermissible, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

(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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-075 ((Appeal—))Student conduct committee—Prehear-**  
**ing.** (1) Proceedings of the student conduct committee shall be gov-  
erned by the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW ((and by  
the model rules of procedure, chapter 10-08 WAC. To the extent there  
is a conflict between these rules and chapter 10-08 WAC, these rules  
shall control)).

(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 at 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 simi-  
lar 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 hear-  
ing, 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 dis-  
closed, 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 student conduct officer's  
notification of imposition of discipline (or referral to the commit-  
tee) 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 specif-  
ic exhibits as admissible without objection and, if they do so, wheth-  
er the committee chair may provide copies of these admissible exhibits  
to the committee members before the hearing.

(7) The student conduct officer((, upon request,)) shall provide  
reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in ((obtaining  
relevant and admissible evidence that is within the college's con-  
trol)) 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 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 ~~((a nonattorney assistant))~~ an advisor of their choice ~~((The respondent in all appeals before the committee, or a complainant in an appeal involving allegations of sexual misconduct before the committee, may elect to be represented by an attorney at their own cost, but will be deemed to have waived that right unless, at least four business days before the hearing, written notice of the attorney's identity and participation is filed with the committee chair with a copy to the student conduct officer.))~~, which may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(10) The committee will ordinarily be advised by an assistant attorney general. If the respondent and/or complainant is represented by an attorney, the student conduct officer may also be represented by ~~((a second, appropriately screened))~~ 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 will still serve as an advisor to the student.

(12) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) **Notice.** The college must provide notice that includes all information required in subsection (2) of this section, and a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) **Advisors.** The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) **Extension of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (13)(b) of this section.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(13) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) **Notice.** In addition to all information required in subsection (2) of this section, the notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) **Advisors.** The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) **Separate locations.** The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) **Withdrawal of complaint.** If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-080 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 college's 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 ((sexual misconduct, no party shall directly question or cross-examine one another. Attorneys for the parties are also prohibited from questioning the opposing party absent express permission from the committee chair. Subject to this exception, all cross-examination questions shall be directed to the committee chair who, in their discretion, shall pose the questions on the party's behalf.))~~ sex discrimination, 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 or advisor. 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:

- (i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client communications and attorney work product privilege;

(iii) Clergy privileges;

(iv) Medical or mental health providers and counselor privileges;

(v) Sexual assault and domestic violence advocate privileges; and

(vi) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

(8) Except in cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-085 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 (~~twenty~~) 20 calendar days following 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 and explained.

(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 legal counsel of record.

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 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 the 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))~~ sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-090 ((Appeal from)) Student conduct committee—Review of initial decision.** (1) ~~((A party who is aggrieved by the findings or conclusions issued by the student conduct committee))~~ Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's ((initial)) decision to the president or designee by filing a ((notice of)) written appeal with the president's office within ((ten)) 21 calendar days of service of the committee's ((initial)) decision. Failure to file a timely appeal constitutes a waiver of the right and the initial decision shall be deemed final.

(2) The notice of appeal must identify the specific findings of fact and/or conclusions of law in the initial 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, decision maker, 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 nonappealing 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 or designee may ask for additional briefing from the parties on issues raised on appeal. The president's or designee'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 notice of appeal.

~~((3))~~ (5) The president or designee shall ((provide)) serve a written decision ((to the party and the student conduct officer)) on all parties and their attorneys, if any, within ((twenty)) 20 calendar

days after receipt of the notice of appeal. The president's or designee's decision shall be final and ~~((shall include a notice of any rights to request reconsideration and/or judicial review))~~ subject to judicial review pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, Part V.

~~((4))~~ (6) In cases involving allegations of ~~((sexual misconduct, the president or designee, on the same date that the final decision is served upon the respondent, shall serve a written notice informing the complainant of the final decision. This notice shall inform 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.~~

~~(5))~~ sex-based harassment, the president's decision must be served simultaneously on the complainant, respondent, and Title IX coordinator.

(7) The president or designee shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-145, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21)

**WAC 132M-126-100 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 business 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) (a) The conduct review officer shall conduct a hearing on the summary suspension as soon as practicable after imposition of the summary suspension.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) 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.

(e) 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.

(f) 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.))~~

#### REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

WAC 132M-126-050	Brief adjudicative proceedings authorization.
WAC 132M-126-110	Sexual misconduct procedures.
WAC 132M-126-115	Order of precedence.
WAC 132M-126-120	Prohibited conduct under Title IX.
WAC 132M-126-125	Title IX jurisdiction.
WAC 132M-126-130	Initiation of discipline.
WAC 132M-126-135	Prehearing procedure.
WAC 132M-126-140	Rights of parties.
WAC 132M-126-145	Evidence.
WAC 132M-126-150	Initial order.
WAC 132M-126-155	Appeals.

**WSR 24-16-076**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

[Order 24-145—Filed July 31, 2024, 4:02 p.m., effective August 4, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 4, 2024.

Purpose: This emergency rule opens one day of recreational salmon fishing in Catch Record Card Area 7, Area 9, and Area 10.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 220-313-060.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: This emergency rule is necessary to open one day of recreational fishing in Catch Record Card Areas 7, 9, and 10.

Catch estimates for the Marine Area 7 summer Chinook fishery indicate that through July 28, 86 percent of the harvest quota (1,885 of 2,181), 36 percent of unmarked encounters (1,370 of 3,845) and 37 percent of sublegal encounters (783 of 2,141) have been reached.

Catch estimates for the Marine Area 9 summer Chinook fishery indicate that through July 20, 78 percent of the harvest quota (3,049 of 3,900) has been reached.

Catch estimates for the Marine Area 10 summer Chinook fishery indicate that through July 28, 65 percent (2,070 of 3,166) of the harvest quota, and 61 percent of sublegal encounters (3,920 of 6,477) have been reached.

Based on daily catch rates, sufficient quota remains to allow for this additional opening of the 2024 summer Chinook season in Areas 7, 9, and 10.

There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 31, 2024.

Kelly Susewind  
Director

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-313-06000C Puget Sound salmon—Saltwater seasons and daily limits.** Effective only the day of August 4, 2024, salmon rules for Catch Record Card Area 7, Area 9, and Area 10 shall be modified as described herein. All other provisions of WAC 220-313-060 not addressed herein, or unless otherwise amended by emergency rule, remain in effect:

**(1) Catch Record Card Area 7, except waters listed as closed to salmon fishing in WAC 220-313-020 during the effective time period (Bellingham Bay, Samish Bay, and Southern Rosario Strait and eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca); and waters of Lummi Bay east of a line from Gooseberry Point to Sandy Point:**

Salmon: Effective August 4, 2024 (one day): Daily limit 2 including no more than 1 Chinook. Release chum, sockeye, wild Chinook, and wild coho.

**(2) Catch Record Card Area 9, except waters of Area 9 south of a line from Foulweather Bluff to Olele Point:**

Salmon: Effective August 4, 2024 (one day): Daily limit 2 including no more than 1 Chinook. Release chum, sockeye, wild Chinook, and wild coho.

**(3) Catch Record Card Area 10, except waters of Shilshole Bay southeast of a line from Meadow Point to West Point; waters of Elliot Bay east of a line from West Point to Alki Point up to a line from Duwamish Head to Pier 91; waters of Sinclair Inlet and Port Orchard south of the Manette Bridge in Bremerton, south of a line true west from Battle Point, and west of a line drawn true south from Point White; and year-round piers (Bremerton Boardwalk, Illahee State Park, Seacrest Pier, and Waterman Pier):**

Salmon: Effective August 4, 2024 (one day): Daily limit 2 including no more than 1 Chinook. Release chum, sockeye, and wild Chinook.

**WSR 24-16-077**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**LAKE WASHINGTON**  
**INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

[Filed July 31, 2024, 4:11 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring Lake Washington Institute of Technology's (college) student conduct code (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedures recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 495D-121-405; repealing WAC 495D-121-460, 495D-121-680, 495D-121-690, 495D-121-700, 495D-121-710, 495D-121-720, 495D-121-730, 495D-121-740, 495D-121-750 and 495D-121-760; and amending WAC 495D-121-320, 495D-121-330, 495D-121-340, 495D-121-350, 495D-121-380, 495D-121-390, 495D-121-400, 495D-121-420, 495D-121-430, 495D-121-440, 495D-121-450, 495D-121-570, 495D-121-580, 495D-121-590, and 495D-121-600.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

In addition to complying with the new final rule, the college is updating its student conduct code to address recommended language around Title IX. These new definitions of prohibited behavior and updated procedures are necessary to address conduct that may pose a threat to the general welfare of the college community and/or college operations and to protect the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 1, Amended 15, Repealed 10; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 16, 2024.

Elsa J. Gossett  
Director of Planning and Operations

**OTS-5714.1**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 24-07-022, filed 3/9/24, effective 4/9/24)

- WAC 495D-121-320 Student conduct code—Jurisdiction.** (1) The student conduct code shall apply to student conduct that occurs:
- (a) On college premises;
  - (b) At or in connection with college-sponsored activities;
  - (c) ~~((Off-campus when,))~~ Off college premises, if, in the judgment of the college, ((it adversely affects the college community or the pursuit of its objectives)) the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, 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 ~~((engage in official))~~ are engaged in college programs or activities including, but not limited to:
- (a) College-sponsored housing;
  - (b) Foreign or domestic travel;
  - ~~((b))~~ (c) Activities funded by the ((associated)) students;
  - ~~((c))~~ (d) Student government;
  - (e) Student clubs or organizations;
  - (f) Athletic events;
  - ~~((d))~~ (g) Training internships;
  - ~~((e))~~ (h) Cooperative and distance education;
  - ~~((f))~~ (i) Online education;
  - ~~((g))~~ (j) Practicums;
  - ~~((h))~~ (k) Supervised work experiences; or
  - ~~((i))~~ (l) Any other college-sanctioned social or club activities.
- (3) Students are responsible for their conduct from the time of application for admission through the actual receipt of a 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 college has sole discretion, on a case-by-case basis, to determine whether the student conduct code will be applied to conduct ~~((to))~~ by students or student groups that occurs off campus.
- (6) In addition to initiating disciplinary 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 24-07-022, filed 3/9/24, effective 4/9/24)

**WAC 495D-121-330 Student conduct code—Definitions.** The following definitions apply for the purposes of this student conduct code:

(1) "Business day" means a weekday, excluding weekends and official 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 the college owns, uses, or controls.

(3) "Complainant" means ~~((an alleged victim of sexual misconduct))~~ the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee; or

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(4) "Conduct review officer" means the vice president of student services or other college administrator the president designates to have responsibility to receive and review or refer appeals of student disciplinary actions consistent with the procedures of this code. The president can reassign any and all of the conduct review officer's duties or responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as reasonably necessary.

(5) "Disciplinary action" means the process by which the student conduct officer imposes discipline against a student for a violation of the student conduct code.

(6) "Disciplinary appeal" means the process by which an aggrieved student can appeal the discipline imposed by the student conduct officer. The student conduct committee hears disciplinary appeals for a suspension in excess of 10 instructional days or a dismissal. The college will review appeals of all other appealable disciplinary action through brief adjudicative proceedings.

(7) "Filing" means the process by which a document is officially delivered to a college official responsible to facilitate 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) Sending the document by email or first class mail to the specified college official's office and college email address.

Papers required for filing are considered filed when the specified college official actually receives the papers during office hours.

(8) "Hazing" means any act committed as part of a person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with a student organization, athletic team, or living group, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization, athletic team, or living group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student or other person attending a public institution of higher education in this state, including 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, regardless

of the person's willingness to participate. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions.

(9) "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.

(10) "President" means 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.

~~((10))~~ (11) "Program" or "programs and activities" means all operations of the college.

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

(13) "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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

(14) "Respondent" ((means the student against whom the college initiates disciplinary action)) is a student who is alleged to have violated the student conduct code.

~~((11))~~ (15) "Service" means 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 (~~or~~) 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 or deposited in the mail.

~~((12)) "Sexual misconduct" has the meaning ascribed to this term in WAC 495D-121-590(18).~~

~~(13))~~ (16) "Student" includes all persons who take classes at or through the college, whether on a full-time or part-time basis, and whether such classes are credit courses, noncredit courses, online courses, or otherwise. People 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 were notified of their acceptance for admission are considered students for purposes of this chapter.

~~((14))~~ (17) "Student conduct committee" means a college committee as described in WAC 495D-121-400.

~~((15))~~ (18) "Student conduct officer" means a college administrator to whom the president or vice president of student services designates responsibility to implement and enforce the student conduct code. The president or vice president can reassign any and all of the student conduct officer's duties or responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as reasonably necessary.

~~((16))~~ (19) "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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(20) "Student group" is a student organization, athletic ~~((or intramural 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))~~ 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.

~~((17))~~ (21) "Supportive measures" means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(22) "Title IX coordinator" ~~((means a college administrator to whom the president designates responsibility to implement and enforce the guidelines of federal Title IX legislation))~~ is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-18-041, filed 8/24/21, effective 9/24/21)

**WAC 495D-121-340 Student conduct code—Initiation of discipline.**

~~((1) The student conduct officer initiates all disciplinary actions. If that officer is the subject of a complaint the respondent initiates, the president will, upon request and when feasible, designate another person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities that relate to the complainant.~~

~~(2) The student conduct officer initiates disciplinary action by personally informing the student of the allegations or serving the respondent with written notice directing them to attend a disciplinary meeting. The notice will briefly describe the:~~

- ~~(a) Factual allegations;~~
- ~~(b) Provision(s) of the conduct code the respondent allegedly violated;~~
- ~~(c) Range of possible sanctions for the alleged violation(s);~~
- ~~(d) Time and location of the meeting.~~

~~At the meeting, the student conduct officer will present the allegations to the respondent and the respondent will be afforded an opportunity to explain what took place. If the respondent fails or refuses to attend the meeting after proper service of notice, the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.~~

~~(3) The student conduct officer, prior to taking disciplinary action in a case involving allegations of sexual misconduct, will make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to discuss the results of the investigation and possible disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions, if any, that may be imposed upon the respondent if the allegations of sexual misconduct are found to have merit.~~

~~(4) Within ten calendar 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 will give the respondent a written decision that states:~~

- ~~(a) The facts and conclusions that support the decision;~~
- ~~(b) The specific student conduct code provisions that were violated;~~
- ~~(c) The discipline imposed, if any;~~
- ~~(d) A notice of any appeal rights with an explanation of the consequences of not filing a timely appeal.~~

~~(5) 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) as described in WAC 495D-121-290;~~

~~(c) Refer the matter directly to the student conduct committee for such disciplinary action as the committee deems appropriate. The student conduct officer will make this referral in writing, to the attention of the student conduct committee's chair with a copy served on the respondent.~~

~~(6) 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 complainant's protection, including disciplinary suspension or dismissal of the respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights. If protective sanctions and/or conditions are imposed, the student conduct officer shall make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to ensure prompt notice of the protective disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions.)~~ (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) Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimina-

tion, including sex-based harassment. Allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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) Informal dispute resolution shall not be used to resolve sex-based harassment complaints without written permission from both the complainant and the respondent.

(b) 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 sex discrimination 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, the president shall, upon request and when feasible, designate another person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities relative to the complaint.

(8) The student conduct officer shall initiate disciplinary action by serving the respondent with written notice directing him or her 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 after proper service of notice, the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.

(10) Within 10 calendar 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. 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 495D-121-600; or

(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 sex discrimination, the student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) In cases involving sex discrimination, the student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing before the matter can be dismissed.

(g) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation

shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation.

(h) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(i) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-18-041, filed 8/24/21, effective 9/24/21)

**WAC 495D-121-350 Student conduct code—Appeal from disciplinary action.** (1) Except as specified for cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, as set forth in WAC 495D-121-340(12), the respondent may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the conduct review officer within (~~ten~~) 21 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 conduct review 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) A conduct review officer shall conduct a brief adjudicative proceeding for appeals of:

(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.

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

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

(b) Dismissals; (~~and~~)

(c) Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment cases; and

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

~~((8))~~ (9) Student conduct appeals from the imposition of the following disciplinary sanctions shall be reviewed through a brief adjudicative proceeding:

(a) Suspensions of ~~((ten))~~ 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, disciplinary warnings and dismissals of disciplinary actions are final action and are not subject to appeal.~~

~~(10) In cases involving allegations of 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 sexual misconduct complaint; or~~

~~(b) Any disciplinary sanction(s) and conditions imposed against a respondent for a sexual misconduct violation, including a disciplinary 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.)~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-18-041, filed 8/24/21, effective 9/24/21)

**WAC 495D-121-380 Student conduct code—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 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.

(2) 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 ~~((both the parties within ten))~~ respondent and the student conduct officer within 10 calendar 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 ~~((ten))~~ 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 ~~((of more than ten))~~ in excess of 10 instructional days or dismissal, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-18-041, filed 8/24/21, effective 9/24/21)

**WAC 495D-121-390 Student conduct code—Brief adjudicative proceedings—Review of an initial decision.** (1) An initial decision is subject to review by the president, provided a party files a written request for review with the conduct review officer within ~~((ten))~~ 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 all parties 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 ~~((twenty))~~ 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 ~~((twenty))~~ 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 ~~((ten))~~ 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.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-14-047, filed 6/25/14, effective 7/26/14)

- WAC 495D-121-400 Student conduct code—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;
  - (c) One administrative staff member, 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 administrative staff member 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. (~~The chair shall receive annual training on protecting victims and promoting accountability in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct.~~)
- (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 (~~pursuant to RCW 34.05.425(4)~~).
- (5) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination 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, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.
- (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.

NEW SECTION

- WAC 495D-121-405 Student conduct code—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 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 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 chair may provide to the committee members in advance of the hearing copies of:

(a) The student 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) 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.

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

(9) 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.

(10) 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.

(11) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) Notice. The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in subsection (2) of this section, and a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) Advisors. The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure

of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (12)(b) of this section.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(12) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) Notice. In addition to all information required in subsection (2) of this section, the notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) Advisors. The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair is-

suing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) Separate locations. The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) Withdrawal of complaint. If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-18-041, filed 8/24/21, effective 9/24/21)

**WAC 495D-121-420 Student conduct code—Student conduct appeals committee hearings—Presentation 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 he/she selects, 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 ((sexual misconduct, no party shall directly question or cross examine one another. Attorneys for the parties are also prohibited from questioning the opposing party absent express permission from the committee chair. Subject to this exception, all cross-examination questions shall be directed to the committee chair, who in their discretion shall pose the questions on the party's behalf.)) sex-based harassment, 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 witness by a party's attorney or advisor. 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:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client communications and attorney work product privilege;

(iii) Clergy privileges;

(iv) Medical or mental health providers and counselor privileges;

(v) Sexual assault and domestic violence advocate privileges; and

(vi) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

(8) Except in cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-18-041, filed 8/24/21, effective 9/24/21)

**WAC 495D-121-430 Student conduct code—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 (~~twenty~~) 20 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 legal counsel of record. 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 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. 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))~~ sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-18-041, filed 8/24/21, effective 9/24/21)

**WAC 495D-121-440 Student conduct code—((Appeal from)) Student conduct committee—Review of initial decision.** ~~((1) A respondent who is aggrieved by the findings or conclusions issued by the student conduct committee may appeal the committee's initial decision to the president by filing a notice of appeal with the president's office within ten days of service of the committee's initial decision. Failure to file a timely appeal constitutes a waiver of the right and the initial decision shall be deemed final.~~

~~(2) The notice of appeal must identify the specific findings of fact and/or conclusions of law in the initial decision that are challenged and must contain argument why the appeal should be granted. 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 notice of appeal.~~

~~(3) The president shall provide a written decision to all parties within twenty days after receipt of the notice of appeal. The presi-~~

~~dent's decision shall be final and shall include a notice of any rights to request reconsideration and/or judicial review.~~

~~(4) In cases involving allegations of 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 of the final decision. This notice shall inform 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.~~

~~(5) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.)~~ (1) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's decision to the president by filing a written 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, decision maker, 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 nonappealing 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 sex-based harassment, the president's decision must be served simultaneously on the complainant, respondent, and Title IX coordinator.

(7) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-18-041, filed 8/24/21, effective 9/24/21)

**WAC 495D-121-450 Student conduct code—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 (~~business~~) 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(s) 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 (~~that warns the student~~) warning the respondent that their privilege to enter into or remain on college premises has been withdrawn, that the respondent shall be considered trespassing and subject to arrest for criminal trespass if the respondent enters the college campus other than to meet with the student conduct officer or conduct review officer, or to attend a disciplinary hearing.

(5) (~~Hearing procedures:~~

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

~~(b) 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.~~

~~(c) 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.~~

~~(d) If the student 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.~~

~~(e) 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.~~

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

In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-18-041, filed 8/24/21, effective 9/24/21)

**WAC 495D-121-570 Student conduct code—Authority.** The Lake Washington Institute of Technology board of trustees, acting pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(~~(+13)~~) (14), delegates to the president of the college the authority to administer student disciplinary action. The president is authorized to delegate or reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary. Administration of the disciplinary procedures is the responsibility of the vice president of student services or their designee. Except in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the student conduct officer, or their delegate, shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-14-047, filed 6/25/14, effective 7/26/14)

**WAC 495D-121-580 Student conduct code—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~~) sex discrimination.

(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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 24-07-022, filed 3/9/24, effective 4/9/24)

**WAC 495D-121-590 Student conduct code—Prohibited student conduct.** The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student or a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team, or living group, who commits, (~~or~~) 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 as 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.

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 of their faculty's 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.

~~((2) Other))~~ (4) Acts of 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; or

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

~~((3))~~ (5) Obstructive or disruptive conduct. Conduct, not otherwise protected by law, that interferes with, impedes, or otherwise unreasonably hinders:

(a) Any instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding, or other college activity;

(b) The free flow of pedestrian or vehicular movement on college property or at a college activity;

(c) Any student's ability to profit from the instructional program; or

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

~~((4))~~ (6) Assault, intimidation, and/or harassment. Unwanted touching, physical abuse, verbal abuse, threat(s), intimidation, harassment, bullying, or other conduct which harms, threatens, or is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of another person or another person's property. For purposes of this code, "bullying" is defined as repeated or aggressive unwanted behavior, not otherwise protected by law that intentionally humiliates, harms, or intimidates the victim.

~~((5))~~ (7) Imminent danger. Where the student presents an imminent danger to college property, or to themselves, or other students or persons in college facilities on or off campus, or to the education processes of the college.

~~((6))~~ (8) Alcohol. The use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of alcoholic beverages or paraphernalia (except as expressly permitted by college policies, and federal, state, and local laws), or public intoxication on college premises or at college-sponsored events. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used by, possessed by, or distributed to any person not of legal age.

(9) Cannabis, drug, and tobacco violations.

(a) Cannabis. The use, possession, growing, delivery, sale, or being observably 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.

(10) Cyber misconduct. Cyberstalking, cyberbullying, or online harassment. Use of electronic communications including, but not limited to, electronic mail, instant messaging, electronic bulletin boards, 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))~~ (11) 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))~~ (12) Noncompliance. Failure to comply with:

(a) The direction 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;

(b) A college rule or policy as set forth in the *Lake Washington Institute of Technology Policies and Procedures Manual* which may be found in the library or online.

~~((9))~~ (13) Weapons. Possession, holding, wearing, transporting, storage, or presence of any firearm, dagger, sword, knife or other cutting or stabbing instrument, club, martial arts weapons, explosive device, dangerous chemicals, or any other weapon apparently capable of producing bodily harm is prohibited on the college campus and during college programs and activities, subject to the following exceptions:

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

(b) A student with a valid concealed weapons permit may store a firearm in their vehicle parked on campus in accordance with RCW 9.41.050, provided the vehicle is locked and the weapon is concealed from view; ~~((10))~~

(c) The president or designee may authorize possession of a weapon on campus upon a showing that the weapon is reasonably related to a legitimate pedagogical purpose. Such permission shall be in advance to bringing weapons to the college, in writing, and shall be subject to such terms or conditions incorporated therein; or

(d) Possession and/or use of disabling chemical sprays for purposes of self-defense is not prohibited.

~~((10))~~ (14) 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) Any act 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)) Hazing is any act committed as part of a person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team, or living group, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization, athletic team, or living group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student, including 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, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions. Consent is not a valid defense against hazing. Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to:

(a) 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))~~ (b) Humiliation by ritual act;

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

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

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

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

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

~~(11) **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. "Related products" include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, bidi, clove cigarettes, water-pipes, hookahs, chewing tobacco, and snuff.~~

~~(12) **Alcohol.** Being observably under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, or otherwise using, possessing, selling, or delivering any alcoholic beverage, except as permitted by law and authorized by the college president.~~

~~(13) **Marijuana.** The use, possession, delivery, sale, or being observably under the influence of marijuana or the psychoactive compounds found in marijuana and intended for human consumption, regardless of form. While state law permits the recreational use of marijuana, federal law prohibits such use on college premises or in connection with college activities.~~

~~(14) **Drugs.** The use, possession, 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. Being observably under the influence of any lawfully prescribed drug when enrolled in classes that require operation of heavy equipment or other dangerous equipment.)~~

~~(15) **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.~~

~~(16) **Disorderly conduct.** Conduct which is disorderly, lewd, obscene, or a breach of peace on college premises or at college sponsored activities that is not otherwise protected under the law.~~

~~((16) **Discriminatory conduct.** Conduct which harms or adversely affects any member of the college community because of their race; color; national origin; sensory, mental or physical disability; use of a service animal; gender, including pregnancy; marital status; age; religion; creed; sexual orientation; gender identity; veteran's status; or any other legally protected classification.~~

~~(17) **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. See WAC 495D-121-680 (supplemental Title IX student conduct procedures).~~

~~(a) **Sexual harassment.** The term "sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual or gender-based conduct, including unwelcome sexual advan-~~

ees, 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) Create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members.~~

~~(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.~~

~~(d) **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.~~

~~(e) **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.~~

~~(f) **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.~~

~~(g) **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.~~

~~(h) **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 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 26.50.010.~~

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

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

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

~~(A) The length of the relationship;~~

~~(B) The type of relationship; and~~

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

~~(j) For purposes of this code, "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. Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.~~

~~(18) **Harassment.** Unwelcome and offensive conduct, including verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct, that is directed at a person because of such person's protected status and that is sufficiently serious as to deny or limit, and that does deny or limit, the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational program or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members. Protected status includes a person's race; color; national origin; sensory, mental, or physical disability; age; religion; creed; genetic information; sexual orientation; gender identity; veteran's status; or any other legally protected classification. See "Sexual misconduct" for the definition of "sexual harassment." Harassing conduct may include, but is not limited to, physical conduct, verbal, written, social media and electronic communications.~~

~~(19) **Retaliation.** Harming, threatening, intimidating, coercing, or taking adverse action of any kind against a person because such person reported an alleged violation of this code or college policy, provided information about an alleged violation, or participated as a witness or in any other capacity in a college investigation or disciplinary proceeding.~~

~~(20)) (17) **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.~~

(18) Sex discrimination. The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis (insignificant) harm on the basis of sex.

(a) Sex-based harassment. "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) Quid pro quo harassment. A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) Hostile environment. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) Sexual violence. "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(A) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling) is 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 is 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.

(D) Statutory rape (rape of a child) is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) Domestic violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) Dating violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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.

(G) Stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) Consent. For purposes of this code, "consent" means knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) Title IX retaliation means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part, including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

(19) **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 perform-

ance, 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.

(20) **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.

(21) **Misuse of information 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;

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

~~((21))~~ (22) **Breach of campus safety.** Safety violation includes any nonaccidental conduct that interferes with or otherwise compromises any college policy, equipment, or procedure relating to the safety and security of the campus community. Breaching campus safety or security includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Unauthorized access to college facilities; intentionally damaging door locks; unauthorized possession of college keys or access cards; duplicating college keys or access cards; propping open of exterior doors; or unauthorized entry onto or into college property;

(b) Tampering with fire safety equipment, such as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, alarm pull stations or emergency exits or triggering false alarms or other emergency response systems;

(c) Placement of equipment or vehicles, including bicycles, so as to obstruct the means of access to/from college buildings;

(d) Entering or remaining in any closed college facility or entering after the closing time of the college facility without permission of a college official;

(e) Operation of any motor vehicle on college property in an unsafe manner or in a manner which is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of another person.

~~((22))~~ **(23) Abuse of procedures.** Abuse or misuse of any of the procedures relating to student complaints or misconduct including, but not limited to:

(a) Failure to obey a subpoena;

(b) Falsification or misrepresentation of information;

(c) Disruption or interference with the orderly conduct of a proceeding;

(d) Interfering with someone else's proper participation in a proceeding;

(e) Destroying or altering potential evidence or attempting to intimidate or otherwise improperly pressure a witness or potential witness;

(f) Attempting to influence the impartiality of, or harassing or intimidating, a student conduct committee member;

(g) Failure to comply with any disciplinary sanction(s) imposed under this student conduct code.

~~((23))~~ **(24) 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 traffic and parking rules.

~~((24))~~ **(25) 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.

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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-18-041, filed 8/24/21, effective 9/24/21)

**WAC 495D-121-600 Student conduct code—Corrective action, disciplinary sanctions, terms and conditions.** (1) ~~((The following primary disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon students found to have violated the student conduct code.))~~ One or more of the following corrective actions or disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon a student or upon college-sponsored student organizations, athletic teams, or living groups found responsible for violating the student conduct code.

(a) **Disciplinary 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 continua-

tion 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))~~ suspension is imposed. The student is not guaranteed readmission at the end of such period of time, but is guaranteed a review of the case and a decision regarding eligibility for readmission.

(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))~~ dismissal is imposed.

(2) 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 including, but not limited to, drug and alcohol education, anger management coursework, or ongoing treatment. 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 orders and other summary relief.** The college may require a student to refrain from any form of contact with another student or college employee. Other forms of relief include, but are not limited to: Switching to alternate sections of individual classes or programs, delaying admission to an instructional program, assigned seating during a class, or behavioral contracts.~~

~~(3) **Secondary sanctions.** No order of severity is established for secondary sanctions:~~

~~(a) **Community/college service.** A student may be offered an opportunity to complete a specified number of hours of community/college service in lieu of other sanctions. The type of community/college service must be approved by the hearing officer.~~

~~(b) **Educational requirements.** A provision to complete a specific educational requirement directly related to the violation committed. The provision will be clearly defined. Such educational requirements may include, but are not limited to, completion of an alcohol education workshop, a diversity awareness workshop, an anger management class, essays, or reports.~~

~~(c) **Restrictions.** The withdrawal of specified privileges for a definite period of time, but without the additional stipulations contained in the imposition of conduct probation. The restrictions involved will be clearly defined.~~

~~(d) **Loss of parking privileges on campus.** Revocation of parking privileges.) Education. Participation in or successful completion of an educational assignment designed to create an awareness of the student's misconduct. The provision will be clearly defined. Such educational requirements may include, but are not limited to, completion of an alcohol education workshop, a diversity awareness workshop, an anger management class, essays, or reports.~~

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

~~(c) **Not in good standing.** A student deemed "not in good standing" with the college 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 directive.** 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) **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.~~

~~(f) **Restitution.** Reimbursement for damage to or misappropriation of property, or for injury to persons, or for reasonable costs incur-~~

red by the college in pursuing an investigation or disciplinary proceeding. This may take the form of monetary reimbursement, appropriate service, or other compensation.

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

(h) **Community/college service.** A student may be offered an opportunity to complete a specified number of hours of community/college service in lieu of other sanctions. The type of community/college service must be approved by the hearing officer.

(3) More than one of the disciplinary terms and conditions listed above may be imposed for any single violation.

(4) 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.

#### REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

WAC 495D-121-460	Student conduct code—Discipline procedures for cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct—Supplemental sexual misconduct procedures.
WAC 495D-121-680	Student conduct code—Order of precedence.
WAC 495D-121-690	Student conduct code—Prohibited conduct under Title IX.
WAC 495D-121-700	Student conduct code—Prohibited conduct under Title IX jurisdiction.
WAC 495D-121-710	Student conduct code—Initiation of discipline.
WAC 495D-121-720	Student conduct code—Prehearing procedure.
WAC 495D-121-730	Student conduct code—Rights of parties.
WAC 495D-121-740	Student conduct code—Evidence.
WAC 495D-121-750	Student conduct code—Initial order.
WAC 495D-121-760	Student conduct code—Appeals.

**WSR 24-16-078**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

[Order 24-146—Filed July 31, 2024, 4:20 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to amend the coastal commercial troll fishery.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-354-30000D; and amending WAC 220-354-300.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: A harvestable quota of salmon is available for the troll fleet, but the remaining quota necessitates lower landing and possession limits for Chinook. This regulation is necessary to both meet conservation limits and to provide fishing opportunity and its corresponding economic benefit. These rules are adopted at the recommendation of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, in accordance with preseason fishing plans, and have been adopted for federal waters by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 31, 2024.

Kelly Susewind  
Director

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-354-30000E Coastal salmon troll seasons—Commercial.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-354-300, WAC 220-353-050, and WAC 220-354-010, effective August 1, 2024, until further notice, it is unlawful to fish for salmon with troll gear or to land salmon taken with troll gear into a Washington port except during the seasons and under conditions provided below:

(1) Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Area 1 open: Immediately through September 30, 2024.

(2) Salmon Management and Catch Reporting areas 2, 3, and that portion of Area 4 west of 125°05'00"W longitude and south of 48°23'00"N latitude open: Immediately through September 15, 2024.

(3) Grays Harbor Control Zone, defined by a line drawn from the Westport Lighthouse (46°53'18"N. lat., 124°07'01"W. long.); thence to Buoy #2 (46°52'42"N. lat., 124°12'42"W. long.); thence to Buoy #3 (46°55'00"N. lat., 124°14'48"W. long.); thence to the Grays Harbor north jetty (46°55'36"N. lat., 124°10'51"W. long.), open: Immediately through August 11, 2023.

(4) Landing and possession limits:

(a) From August 1 until further notice, landing and possession limit of 20 Chinook and 100 marked coho per vessel per landing week, defined as Thursday through Wednesday.

(5) The Cape Flattery and Columbia River Control Zones are closed. The Salmon Troll Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area is closed.

(6) All retained coho must be marked with a healed adipose fin clip.

(7) No chum retention north of Cape Alava, WA in August and September.

(8) Minimum size for Chinook salmon is 27 inches in length (20 1/2 inches frozen dressed). Minimum size for coho salmon is 16 inches in length (12 inches frozen dressed). No minimum size for pink, sock-eye or chum salmon.

(9) It is unlawful to fish in Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas 1, 2, 3 or 4 with fish on board taken south of Cape Falcon, Oregon and all fish taken from Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4 must be landed before fishing south of Cape Falcon, Oregon.

(10) It is unlawful for wholesale dealers and trollers retailing their fish to fail to report their landing by 10:00 a.m. the day following landing. Ticket information can be telephoned in by calling 1-866-791-1279, faxing the information to (360) 902-2949, or e-mailing to trollfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov. Report the dealer name, the dealer license number, the purchasing location, the date of purchase, the fish ticket numbers, the gear used, the catch area, the species, the total number for each species, and the total weight for each species, including halibut.

(11) During any single trip, only one side of the Leadbetter Point line (46°38'10"N. lat.) may be fished.

(a) Vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing south of Leadbetter Point must land and deliver all species of fish within the area south of Leadbetter Point.

(b) For delivery to Washington ports south of Leadbetter Point, vessels must notify WDFW at 360-249-1215 or by email at Danielle.Williams@dfw.wa.gov prior to crossing the Leadbetter Point line with area fished, total Chinook, coho, and halibut catch aboard, and destination with approximate time of delivery.

(c) Vessels may not land fish east of Tongue Point, Oregon.

(12) Vessels fishing or in possession of salmon north of Leadbetter Point must land and deliver all species of fish in a Washington port and must possess a Washington troll and/or salmon delivery license.

(a) Vessels in possession of salmon south of the Queets River may not cross the Queets River line (47°31'42"N. lat.) without first noti-

fyng WDFW at 360-249-1215 or by email at Danielle.Williams@dfw.wa.gov with area fished, total Chinook, coho, and halibut catch aboard and destination.

(b) Vessels in possession of salmon north of the Queets River may not cross the Queets River line without first notifying WDFW at 360-249-1215 or by email at Danielle.Williams@dfw.wa.gov with area fished, total Chinook, coho, and halibut catch aboard and destination.

(c) Vessels may not land fish east of the Sekiu River.

#### REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed effective August 1, 2024:

WAC 220-354-30000D Coastal salmon troll seasons—  
Commercial. (24-109)

**WSR 24-16-079**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**OLYMPIC COLLEGE**

[Filed July 31, 2024, 4:25 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring Olympic College's (college) student conduct code (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedure recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 132C-120-022, 132C-120-065, 132C-120-100, 132C-120-101, 132C-120-120, 132C-120-200, 132C-120-300, 132C-120-305, 132C-120-310, 132C-120-315, 132C-120-320, 132C-120-325, 132C-120-330, 132C-120-335, 132C-120-340, 132C-120-350, 132C-120-355, and 132C-120-360.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

In addition to complying with the new final rule, the college is updating its student conduct code to align with the new definitions and procedures. These new definitions of prohibited behavior and updated procedures are necessary to address conduct that may pose a threat to the general welfare of the college community and/or college operations and to protect the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 18, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 29, 2024.

Renee Lafreniere  
Chief of Staff, President's Office  
Rules Coordinator

OTS-5708.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-03-078, filed 1/16/15, effective 2/16/15)

**WAC 132C-120-022 Statement of student rights.** (1) 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.

(2) 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:

(a) Academic freedom.

(i) 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.

(ii) 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).

(iii) 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.

(iv) Students have the right to a learning environment which is free from unlawful discrimination, inappropriate conduct, and harassment, including (~~sexual harassment~~) sex discrimination.

(b) Due process.

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

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

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

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-03-078, filed 1/16/15, effective 2/16/15)

**WAC 132C-120-065 Prohibited student conduct.** The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student who commits, or 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) **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 as one's own, without proper attribution, the ideas, writings, or work of another person 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.

(2) **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.

(3) **Obstruction or disruption.** Obstruction or disruption of:

(a) Any instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding, or other college activity, 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.

(4) **Assault, abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment and stalking.** Assault, physical abuse, verbal abuse, threat(s), intimidation, harassment, bullying, stalking, or other conduct which harms, threatens, or is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of another person or another person's property. For purposes of this subsection:

(a) Bullying is severe, persistent, or pervasive physical or verbal abuse and involving a power imbalance between the aggressor and victim.

(b) Stalking is intentional and repeated following of another person, which places that person in reasonable fear that the perpetrator intends to injure, intimidate or harass that person. Stalking also includes instances where the perpetrator knows or reasonably should know that the person is frightened, intimidated or harassed, even if the perpetrator lacks such an intent.

(5) **Cyber misconduct.** Cyberstalking, cyberbullying or online harassment. Use of electronic communications, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, instant messaging, electronic bulletin boards, 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.

(6) **Property violation.** Damage to, or theft or misuse of, real or personal property or money of:

(a) The college or state;

(b) Any student or college officer, employee, or organization;

(c) Any other member of the college community or organization; or  
(d) Possession of such property or money after it has been stolen.

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

(8) **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, 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 firearm in his or her vehicle parked on campus in accordance with RCW 9.41.050, provided the vehicle is locked and the weapon is concealed from view; or

(c) The president or his delegee may authorize possession of a weapon on campus upon a showing 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 therein.

(9) **Hazing.** Hazing includes, but is not limited to, any initiation into a student organization or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious mental or emotional harm, to any student.

(10) **Alcohol, drug, and tobacco violations.**

(a) **Alcohol.** The use, possession, delivery, or sale of any alcoholic beverage, except as permitted by law and applicable college policies.

(b) **Marijuana.** The use, possession, delivery, or sale of marijuana or the psychoactive compounds found in marijuana and intended for human consumption, regardless of form. While state law permits the recreational use of marijuana, federal law prohibits such use on college premises or in connection with college activities.

(c) **Drugs.** The use, possession, delivery, or sale of any legend drug (any drug that requires a prescription including both controlled substances and nonnarcotic drugs), 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.

(d) **Tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products.** Use of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products is prohibited in all buildings owned or controlled by the college, in all college vehicles, and on all college property, except in designated areas. All smoking materials are to be lit, smoked and extinguished in designated areas only. "Related products" include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, bidi, clove cigarettes, waterpipes, hookahs, chewing tobacco, and snuff.

(11) **Lewd conduct.** Conduct which is lewd or obscene.

(12) **Discriminatory conduct.** Discriminatory conduct which harms or adversely affects any member of the college community because of her/his: Race; color; national origin; sensory, mental, or physical disability; use of a service animal; gender, including pregnancy/family status; marital status; age (40+); religion; creed; genetic infor-

mation; sexual orientation; gender identity; veteran's status; or any other legally protected classification.

(13) ~~((**Sexual misconduct.** The term "sexual misconduct" includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment, sexual intimidation, and sexual violence. Use of alcohol or other drugs will not function as a defense to a violation of college policies regarding sexual misconduct. Cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct are subject to special discipline procedures; see WAC 132C-120-300 through 132C-120-315.~~

~~(a) **Sexual harassment.** The term "sexual harassment" means unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently serious as to deny or limit, and that does deny or limit, based on sex, the ability of a person to participate in or benefit from the college's educational programs/activities or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members.~~

~~(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.** The term "sexual violence" incorporates the definition of "sexual harassment" and means a physical sexual act perpetrated without clear, knowing, and voluntary consent, such as committing a sexual act against a person's will, exceeding the scope of consent, or where the person is incapable of giving consent, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual coercion, sexual exploitation, or gender or sex-based stalking. The term further includes acts of dating or domestic violence. A person may be incapable of giving consent by reason of age, threat or intimidation, lack of opportunity to object, disability, drug or alcohol consumption, or other cause.) **Sex discrimination**, as defined in WAC 132C-120-325.~~

(14) **Harassment.** Unwelcome and offensive conduct, other than sex discrimination, including verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct, that is directed at a person because of such person's protected status and that is sufficiently serious as to deny or limit, and that does deny or limit, the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational program or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members. Protected status includes a person's race; color; national origin; sensory, mental or physical disability; use of a service animal; gender, including pregnancy; marital status; age (40+); religion; creed; genetic information; sexual orientation; gender identity; veteran's status; or any other legally protected classification. ((See "**Sexual misconduct**" for the definition of "**sexual harassment**.")) Harassing conduct may include, but is not limited to, physical conduct, verbal, written, social media and electronic communications.

(15) **Retaliation.** Retaliation against any individual for reporting, providing information, exercising one's rights or responsibilities, or otherwise being involved in the process of responding to, investigating, or addressing allegations or violations of federal, state or local law, or college policies including, but not limited to, student conduct code provisions prohibiting discrimination and harassment. Retaliation is considered a separate offense, regardless of the outcome of the original complaint.

(16) **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.

(17) **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.

(18) **Safety violations.** Safety violations include any nonaccidental 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.

(19) **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 traffic and parking rules.

(20) **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.

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 shall proceed with student disciplinary proceedings regardless of whether the underlying conduct is subject to civil or criminal prosecution.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-03-078, filed 1/16/15, effective 2/16/15)

**WAC 132C-120-100 Statement of jurisdiction.** The student conduct code shall apply to student conduct that occurs on college premises, to conduct that occurs at or in connection with college (~~sponsored~~) programs or activities, or to off-campus conduct that in the judgment of the college adversely affects the college community or the pursuit of its objectives. Jurisdiction extends to, but is not limited to, locations in which students are engaged in (~~official~~) college programs or activities including, but not limited to, foreign or domestic trav-

el, activities funded by the associated students, athletic events, training internships, campus housing, cooperative and distance education, online education, practicums, supervised work experiences or any other college-sanctioned social or club activities. Students are responsible for their conduct from the time of application for admission through the actual receipt of a 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. These standards shall apply to a student's conduct even if the student withdraws from college while a disciplinary matter is pending. The college has sole discretion, on a case-by-case basis, to determine whether the student conduct code will be applied to conduct that occurs off campus.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-03-078, filed 1/16/15, effective 2/16/15)

**WAC 132C-120-101 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 the student services area or designee. The student conduct officer, or a designee, shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-03-078, filed 1/16/15, effective 2/16/15)

**WAC 132C-120-120 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 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 administrator shall serve as the chair of the committee and may take action on preliminary hearing matters prior to convening the committee. The chair shall receive annual training on ~~((protecting victims and promoting accountability in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct))~~ servicing impartially, avoiding prejudgment of facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias. The chair must also receive training on the student conduct process for sex discrimination 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, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

(3) Hearings may be heard by a quorum of three members of the committee so long as 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 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 pursuant to RCW 34.05.425(4).

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-03-078, filed 1/16/15, effective 2/16/15)

**WAC 132C-120-200 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 (~~business~~) 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 respondent that (~~warns the student that his or her~~) 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 (~~the respondent enters~~) 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) (a) The conduct review officer shall conduct a hearing on the summary suspension as soon as practicable after imposition of the summary suspension.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) If the ((student)) 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.

(e) 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.

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

(6) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-03-078, filed 1/16/15, effective 2/16/15)

**WAC 132C-120-300 ((Supplemental sexual misconduct procedures.))**

**Reserved.** ((Both the respondent and the complainant in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct 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.

The college reserves the right to take whatever protective measures it deems necessary in response to an allegation of sexual misconduct in order to protect the rights and personal safety of our campus community members. Such measures include, but are not limited to, reasonable changes to academic/housing arrangements, no-contact orders, counseling, interim suspension from campus pending a proceeding, and reporting the matter to local police. The college will consider the concerns and rights of both the recipient of and the person accused of the sexual misconduct. Not all forms of sexual misconduct will be deemed to be equally serious offenses, and the college reserves the right to impose different sanctions, from warning to dismissal, depending on the severity of the offense.

Application of the following procedures is limited to student conduct code proceedings involving allegations of sexual misconduct by a student. In such cases, these procedures shall supplement the student disciplinary procedures in WAC 132C-120-010 through 132C-120-200. In the event of conflict between the sexual misconduct procedures and the student disciplinary procedures, the sexual misconduct procedures shall prevail.))

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-03-078, filed 1/16/15, effective 2/16/15)

**WAC 132C-120-305 ((Supplemental definitions.)) Reserved.** ((The following supplemental definitions shall apply for purposes of student

~~conduct code proceedings involving allegations of sexual misconduct by a student:~~

- ~~(1) "Complainant" is an alleged victim of sexual misconduct, as defined in subsection (2) of this section.~~
- ~~(2) "Sexual misconduct" is prohibited sexual or gender-based conduct by a student including, but not limited to:~~
  - ~~(a) Sexual activity for which clear and voluntary consent has not been given in advance;~~
  - ~~(b) Sexual activity with someone who is incapable of giving valid consent because, for example, she or he is underage, sleeping or otherwise incapacitated due to alcohol or drugs;~~
  - ~~(c) Sexual harassment;~~
  - ~~(d) Sexual violence, which includes, but is not limited to, sexual assault, domestic violence, intimate violence, and sexual or gender-based stalking;~~
  - ~~(e) Nonphysical conduct such as sexual or gender-based digital media stalking, sexual or gender-based online harassment, sexual or gender-based cyberbullying, nonconsensual recording of a sexual activity, and nonconsensual distribution of a recording of a sexual activity.)~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-03-078, filed 1/16/15, effective 2/16/15)

**WAC 132C-120-310 ((Supplemental complaint process.)) Reserved.**

~~((The following supplemental procedures shall apply with respect to complaints or other reports of alleged sexual misconduct by a student.~~

- ~~(1) The college's Title IX compliance officer or designee shall investigate complaints or other reports of alleged sexual misconduct by a student. Investigations will be completed in a timely manner and the results of the investigation shall be referred to the vice president for the student services area for disciplinary action.~~
- ~~(2) Informal dispute resolution shall not be used to resolve sexual misconduct complaints without written permission from both the complainant and the respondent. If the parties elect to mediate a dispute, either party shall be free to discontinue mediation at any time.~~
- ~~(3) In no event shall mediation be used to resolve complaints involving allegations of sexual violence.~~
- ~~(4) College personnel will honor requests to keep sexual misconduct complaints confidential to the extent this can be done without unreasonably risking the health, safety and welfare of the complainant or other members of the college community or compromising the college's duty to investigate and process sexual harassment and sexual violence complaints.~~
- ~~(5) The student conduct officer, prior to initiating disciplinary action, will make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to discuss the results of the investigation and possible disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions (if any) that may be imposed upon the respondent if the allegations of sexual misconduct are found to have merit.~~
- ~~(6) 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 complain-~~

~~nant's protection, including disciplinary suspension or dismissal of the respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of his or her appeal rights. If protective sanctions and/or conditions are imposed, the student conduct officer shall make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to ensure prompt notice of the protective disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-03-078, filed 1/16/15, effective 2/16/15)

**WAC 132C-120-315 ((Supplemental appeal rights.)) Reserved.**

~~((1) The following actions by the student conduct officer may be appealed by the complainant:~~

~~(a) The dismissal of a sexual misconduct complaint; or~~

~~(b) Any disciplinary sanction(s) and conditions imposed against a respondent for a sexual misconduct violation, including a disciplinary warning.~~

~~(2) A complainant may appeal a disciplinary decision by filing a notice of appeal with the conduct review officer within twenty-one days of service of the notice of the discipline decision provided for in WAC 132C-120-310(5). The notice of appeal may include a written statement setting forth the grounds of appeal. Failure to file a timely notice of appeal constitutes a waiver of this right and the disciplinary decision shall be deemed final.~~

~~(3) 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.~~

~~(4) Except as otherwise specified in this supplemental procedure, a complainant who timely appeals a disciplinary decision or who intervenes as a party to respondent's appeal of a disciplinary decision shall be afforded the same procedural rights as are afforded the respondent.~~

~~(5) An appeal by a complainant from the following disciplinary actions involving allegations of sexual misconduct against a student shall be handled as a brief adjudicative proceeding:~~

~~(a) Exoneration and dismissal of the proceedings;~~

~~(b) A disciplinary warning;~~

~~(c) A written reprimand;~~

~~(d) Disciplinary probation;~~

~~(e) Suspensions of ten instructional days or less; and/or~~

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

~~(6) An appeal by a complainant from disciplinary action imposing a suspension in excess of ten instructional days or an expulsion shall be reviewed by the student conduct committee.~~

~~(7) In proceedings before the student conduct committee, respondent and complainant shall have the right to be accompanied by a nonattorney assistant of their choosing during the appeal process. Complainant may choose to be represented at the hearing by an attorney at his or her own expense, but will be deemed to have waived that right unless, at least four business days before the hearing, he or she files a written notice of the attorney's identity and participation with the committee chair, and with copies to the respondent and the student conduct officer.~~

~~(8) In proceedings before the student conduct committee, complainant and respondent shall not directly question or cross examine one another. All questions shall be directed to the committee chair, who will act as an intermediary and pose questions on the parties' behalf.~~

~~(9) Student conduct hearings involving sexual misconduct allegations shall be closed to the public, unless respondent and complainant both waive this requirement in writing and request that the hearing be open to the public. Complainant, respondent and their respective non-attorney assistants and/or attorneys may attend portions of the hearing where argument, testimony and/or evidence are presented to the student conduct committee.~~

~~(10) 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 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 his or her appeal rights.~~

~~(11) Complainant may appeal the student conduct committee's initial decision to the president subject to the same procedures and deadlines applicable to other parties.~~

~~(12) The president, on the same date that the final decision is served upon the respondent, shall serve a written notice informing the complainant of the final decision. This notice shall inform 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.))~~

OTS-5701.1

**SUPPLEMENTAL ((TITLE IX)) SEX DISCRIMINATION STUDENT CONDUCT CODE AND PROCEDURES**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-07-094, filed 3/19/21, effective 4/19/21)

**WAC 132C-120-320 Sex discrimination—Supplemental student conduct code and procedures—Order of precedence.** ((These)) This supplemental ((procedures apply)) student conduct code and procedures applies to allegations of ((sexual harassment)) sex discrimination arising on or after August 1, 2024, subject to Title IX jurisdiction pursuant to regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education. See 34 C.F.R. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with ((Olympic)) the college's standard

((disciplinary)) student conduct code and procedures, WAC 132C-120-010 through 132C-120-315, these supplemental student conduct code and procedures shall take precedence.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-07-094, filed 3/19/21, effective 4/19/21)

**WAC 132C-120-325 Sex discrimination—Prohibited conduct ((under Title IX)) and definitions.** 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 or student group who commits, attempts to commit, or aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit, an act(s) of "~~((sexual harassment))~~ sex discrimination."

For purposes of these supplemental procedures, ("~~sexual harassment~~" ~~encompasses~~) the following (~~conduct~~) definitions apply:

(1) "Complainant" means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee;

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(2) "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.

(3) "Program" or "programs and activities" means all operations of the college.

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

(5) "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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

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

(7) "Sex discrimination." The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis (insignificant) harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis harm on the basis of sex.

(a) Sex-based harassment. "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) Quid pro quo harassment. A (college) student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service of the college on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

((2)) (ii) Hostile environment. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that (a reasonable person would find to be so severe, pervasive), based on the totality of the circumstances is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it (effectively) limits or denies a (person equal access to the college's educational programs or activities, or employment) person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

((3)) (iii) Sexual (assault. Sexual assault includes the following conduct:) violence. "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

((a)) (A) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse((-)) is 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)) (B) Nonconsensual sexual contact((-)) (fondling) is 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)) (C) Incest((-)) is 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) 18.

((d)) (D) Statutory rape((-Consensual)) (rape of a child) is nonforcible sexual intercourse ((between someone who is eighteen years of age or older and someone)) with a person who is under the statutory age of ((sixteen)) consent.

~~((4))~~ (E) Domestic violence((-)) is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, (~~(e)~~) coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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 26.50.010.

~~((5))~~ (F) Dating violence((-)) is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person(~~(f)~~

~~(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))~~ (I) The length of the relationship;

~~((ii))~~ (II) The type of relationship; and

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

~~((6))~~ (G) Stalking((-)) means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for (~~their~~) the person's safety or the safety of others, or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) "Consent." For purposes of this code, "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) "Title IX retaliation" means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part, including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

(8) "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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(9) "Student group" 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.

(10) "Supportive measures" means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(11) "Title IX coordinator" is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-07-094, filed 3/19/21, effective 4/19/21)

**WAC 132C-120-330 ((Title IX)) Sex discrimination—Jurisdiction.**

~~((1))~~ These supplemental procedures apply 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)) "sex discrimination" as that term is defined in ((these supplemental procedures.

~~(2) For purposes of these supplemental procedures, 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 132C-120-065.~~

~~(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.)~~ WAC 132C-120-325 and occurs:

- (1) On college premises;
- (2) At or in connection with college programs or activities; or
- (3) Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, the pursuit of its objectives, or the ability of a student or staff to participate in the college's programs and activities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-07-094, filed 3/19/21, effective 4/19/21)

**WAC 132C-120-335 Sex discrimination—Dismissal and initiation of discipline.** ~~(1) ((Upon receiving the 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);~~
- ~~(e) Explain that the complainant and the respondent 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 the party an advisor of the college's choosing at no cost to the party, if the party fails to do so.~~

~~(3) Explain that if a party fails to appear at the hearing, a decision of responsibility may be made in their absence.)~~ Any member of the college community may file a complaint against a student or student group for conduct which may constitute sex discrimination.

(2) The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The disciplinary process for allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, against a student shall be addressed through the student conduct code.

(3) Both the respondent and the complainant in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination 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.

(4) When a summary suspension is imposed pursuant to WAC 132C-120-200, 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.

(5) The student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended finding and disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) The student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) The respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint. In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the complainant must withdraw their complaint in writing;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the service of the written recommendation.

(g) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(h) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps

to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-07-094, filed 3/19/21, effective 4/19/21)

**WAC 132C-120-340 Sex discrimination—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 132C-120-122. 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.) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination 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, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.~~

~~(2) In sex discrimination cases, the college may, in its sole and exclusive 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.~~

~~(3) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:~~

~~(a) Notice. The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in WAC 132C-120-122(2), as well as a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.~~

~~(b) Advisors. The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.~~

~~(c) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (4) (b) of this section.~~

~~(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and com-~~

plainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(4) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) Notice. In addition to all information required to be provided in a prehearing notice pursuant to WAC 132C-120-122(2), the prehearing notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) Advisors. The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) Separate locations. The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in

separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) Withdrawal of complaint. If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-07-094, filed 3/19/21, effective 4/19/21)

**WAC 132C-120-350 Sex discrimination—Presentation of 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 of prior sexual behavior between the complainant and the respondent, which are asked or offered on the issue of consent.~~

~~(4) Cross-examination required: If a party or witness does not submit to cross-examination during the live hearing, the committee must not rely on any statement by that party or witness in reaching a determination of responsibility.~~

~~(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 members of the clergy and priests;~~

~~(d) 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.)~~ In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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 witness by a party's attorney or advisor. 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.

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

(5) 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-07-094, filed 3/19/21, effective 4/19/21)

**WAC 132C-120-355 Sex discrimination—Initial order.** ~~((1) In addition to complying with WAC 132C-120-122, the student conduct committee will be responsible for conferring and drafting an initial order that:~~

~~(a) Identifies the allegations of sexual harassment;~~

~~(b) Describes the grievance and disciplinary procedures, starting with filing of the formal complaint through the determination of responsibility, including notices to parties, interviews with witnesses and parties, site visits, methods used to gather evidence, and hearings held;~~

~~(c) Makes findings of fact supporting the determination of responsibility;~~

~~(d) Reaches conclusions as to whether the facts establish whether the respondent is responsible for engaging in sexual harassment in violation of Title IX;~~

~~(e) Contains a statement of, and rationale for, the committee's determination of responsibility for each allegation;~~

~~(f) Describes any disciplinary sanction or conditions imposed against the respondent, if any;~~

~~(g) Describes to what extent, if any, complainant is entitled to remedies designed to restore or preserve complainant's equal access to the college's education programs or activities; and~~

~~(h) Describes the process for appealing the initial order to the college president.~~

~~(2) The committee chair will serve the initial order on the parties simultaneously.) In cases involving sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-07-094, filed 3/19/21, effective 4/19/21)

**WAC 132C-120-360 Sex discrimination—Appeals.** ~~((1) The parties shall have the right to appeal from the initial order's determination of responsibility and/or dismissal of an allegation(s) of sexual harassment in a formal complaint. The right to appeal will be subject to the same procedures and time frames set forth in WAC 132C-120-139.~~

~~(2) The president or their delegate will determine whether the grounds for appeal have merit, provide the rationale for this conclusion, and state whether the disciplinary sanction and condition(s) imposed in the initial order are affirmed, vacated, or amended, and, if amended, set forth any new disciplinary sanction and/or condition(s).~~

~~(3) President's office shall serve the final decision on the parties simultaneously.)~~ (1) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's decision to the president by filing a written appeal with the appropriate vice president's office (appeal authority) 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, decision maker, 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 appeal authority will promptly serve a copy of the appeal on all nonappealing 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 appeal authority may ask for additional briefing from the parties on issues raised on appeal. The appeal authority'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 appeal authority shall serve a written decision on all parties and their attorneys, if any, within 20 calendar days after receipt of the appeal. This decision shall be final and subject to judicial review pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, Part V.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the appeal decision must be served simultaneously on all parties and the Title IX coordinator.

(7) The appeal authority shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

## WSR 24-16-081

## EMERGENCY RULES

## EVERETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[Filed July 31, 2024, 3:44 p.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: To bring the Everett Community College's (college) code of student rights and responsibilities (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedures recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 132E-122-170, 132E-122-180, 132E-122-190, 132E-122-250, 132E-122-260, 132E-122-370, 132E-122-380, 132E-122-410, 132E-122-420, 132E-122-430, 132E-122-440, 132E-122-450, 132E-122-460, 132E-122-470, 132E-122-480 and 132E-122-490; and amending WAC 132E-122-010, 132E-122-020, 132E-122-040, 132E-122-050, 132E-122-060, 132E-122-070, 132E-122-160, 132E-122-200, 132E-122-210, 132E-122-230, 132E-122-240, 132E-122-270, 132E-122-280, 132E-122-290, 132E-122-300, 132E-122-310, 132E-122-320, 132E-122-330, 132E-122-340, 132E-122-350, 132E-122-360, and 132E-122-400.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

In addition to complying with the new final rule, the college is updating its code to address the use of gendered language as petitioned by a resident. Further changes were made to reflect title and position changes, as well as further clarify processes to promote accountability and efficiency. These new definitions of prohibited behavior and updated procedures are necessary to address conduct that may pose a threat to the general welfare of the college community and/or college operations and to protect the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 18, Repealed 14; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 16, Repealed 2.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 30, 2024.

Joshua R. Ernst, Vice President  
HR and Compliance

**Reviser's note:** The material contained in this filing exceeded the page-count limitations of WAC 1-21-040 for appearance in this issue of the Register. It will appear in the [24-18](#) issue of the Register.

## WSR 24-16-085

## EMERGENCY RULES

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

(Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission)

[Filed August 1, 2024, 10:03 a.m., effective August 1, 2024, 10:03 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: Naloxone nasal spray as over-the-counter (OTC) status. In March 2023, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first 4 mg naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray as an OTC drug and has approved other naloxone nasal sprays since that time. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist used for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. Currently, WAC 246-945-030 incorporates the 39th edition of the Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations, or "Orange Book," which has naloxone listed as a prescription drug. The pharmacy quality assurance commission (commission) considers the ongoing opioid epidemic to be a public health emergency in Washington state. In order to combat this epidemic in Washington, the commission is amending WAC 246-945-030 and adding a new section, WAC 246-945-034, classifying the 3 mg and 4 mg naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray as approved by the FDA for OTC distribution as an OTC drug in Washington state.

The timeline for the availability of naloxone nasal spray is set by the manufacturers, although some are already available. This emergency rule prepares Washington state for the moment that the drug becomes available by manufacturers. The proposed new rule WAC 246-945-034, will also allow for expansion of different formularies if the FDA makes further changes. This preparation will allow for a faster release of the drug throughout the state, meaning this life saving drug would be in the hands of Washingtonians faster. Increasing patient access to the drug is critical to reduce opioid overdoses.

This emergency rule filing allows for the 3 mg and 4 mg dosage versions of naloxone spray to be prescribed as OTC products. This rule is unchanged from the previous emergency rule under WSR 24-09-013 filed on April 5, 2024. This emergency rule will be continued until the permanent rule making is effective.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 246-945-034; or amending WAC 246-945-030.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 18.64.005.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: The immediate adoption of this rule is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, and general welfare. The opioid epidemic is a public health emergency which requires the use of the emergency rule-making process. Observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest. This rule will increase access to this lifesaving drug faster, which will help relieve some stress on affected communities in Washington state and attempt to reduce opioid overdoses.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 1,

Amended 1, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 1, Amended 1, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: August 1, 2024.

Hawkins DeFrance, PharmD  
Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission

## OTS-4736.2

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-12-072, filed 6/1/20, effective 7/1/20)

**WAC 246-945-030 Identification of legend drugs for purposes of chapter 69.41 RCW.** (1) Those drugs determined by the FDA to require a prescription under federal law should be classified as legend drugs under state law because their toxicity, potential for harmful effect, methods of use, or collateral measures necessary to their use indicate they are only safe for use under the supervision of a practitioner.

(2) The commission finds that under state law, legend drugs are those drugs designated as legend drugs under federal law, as of the date of adoption of this rule, and listed in at least one of the following publications unless the drug is identified as an over-the-counter drug by the commission in WAC 246-945-034:

(a) The 39th Edition, including supplements, of the *Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations "Orange Book"* (available at <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-approvals-and-databases/approved-drug-products-therapeutic-equivalence-evaluations-orange-book>).

(b) The 2019 version, including monthly updates, of the *Approved Animal Drug Products "Green Book"* (available at <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/products/approved-animal-drug-products-green-book>).

(c) The 2019 *List of Licensed Biological Products with Reference Product Exclusivity and Biosimilarity or Interchangeability Evaluations "Purple Book"* (available at <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/therapeutic-biologics-applications-bla/purple-book-lists-licensed-biological-products-reference-product-exclusivity-and-biosimilarity-or>).

(3) Copies of the reference material listed in subsection (2) of this section are available for public inspection at the commission's office at Department of Health, Town Center 2, 111 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501.

(4) The commission also identifies those ephedrine products specified in WAC 246-945-031 as legend drugs under state law.

(5) There may be changes in the marketing status of drugs after the publication of the above references. Upon application of a manufacturer or distributor, the commission may grant authority for the over-the-counter distribution of certain drugs designated as legend drugs in these references. These determinations will be made after public hearing and will be published as an amendment to this chapter.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 246-945-034 Identification of the over-the-counter drugs.**

Although listed as a legend drug in publications that are incorporated by reference in WAC 246-945-030(2), the commission identifies the following as an over-the-counter drug in Washington:

- (1) 4 mg naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray, approved by the FDA for marketing as an OTC drug product.
- (2) 3 mg naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray, approved by the FDA for marketing as an OTC drug product.

**WSR 24-16-086**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**PIERCE COLLEGE**

[Filed August 1, 2024, 10:11 a.m., effective August 1, 2024, 10:11 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: Pierce College is utilizing the WAC emergency rule to update the student conduct code, chapter 132K-135 WAC, in order to be in compliance with the United States Department of Education federal rules regarding Title IX.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 132K-135-300 through 132K-135-380.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: The United States Department of Education requires institutions of higher education to be in compliance with Title IX and make appropriate policy and procedure changes.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 9, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: August 1, 2024

Julie A. White  
Chancellor

OTS-5630.1

**SUPPLEMENTAL ((TITLE IX)) SEX DISCRIMINATION STUDENT CONDUCT CODE AND PROCEDURES**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-11-045, filed 5/13/21, effective 6/13/21)

**WAC 132K-135-300 ((Order of precedence)) Sex discrimination—Supplemental student conduct code and procedures—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. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with Pierce College's standard disciplinary procedures, WAC 132K-135-020 through 132K-135-250, these supplemental procedures shall take precedence. The college may, at its discretion, contract with an administrative law judge or other person to act as presiding officer and assign such presiding officer to exercise any or all of the duties in lieu of the student conduct committee and committee chair.)) This supplemental student conduct code and procedure applies to allegations of sex discrimination arising on or after August 1, 2024, subject to Title IX jurisdiction pursuant to regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education. See 34 C.F.R. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with Pierce College's standard disciplinary procedure, WAC 132K-135-020 through 132K-135-250, these supplemental procedures shall take precedence.~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-11-045, filed 5/13/21, effective 6/13/21)

**WAC 132K-135-310 ((Prohibited conduct under Title IX.)) Sex discrimination—Prohibited conduct and definitions.** Pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140 ~~((13))~~ (14) 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 or student group who commits, attempts to commit, or aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit, an act(s) of "~~((sexual harassment))~~ sex discrimination."

For purposes of this supplemental procedure, ~~(("sexual harassment" encompasses the following conduct:~~

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

~~(2) Hostile environment. Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find 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 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. Consensual 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 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 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 26.50.010.~~

~~(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.) the following definitions apply:~~

(1) "Complainant" means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee; or

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(2) "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.

(3) "Program" or "programs and activities" means all operations of the college.

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

(5) "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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

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

(7) "Sex discrimination." The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis (insignificant) harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis harm on the basis of sex.

(a) Sex-based harassment. "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) Quid pro quo harassment. A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) Hostile environment. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) Sexual violence. "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(A) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling) is 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 is 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.

(D) Statutory rape (rape of a child) is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) Domestic violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) Dating violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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 the relationship; and

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

(G) Stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) Consent. For the purposes of this code "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) Title IX retaliation means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part, including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

(8) "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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(9) "Student group" 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.

(10) "Supportive measures" means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(11) "Title IX coordinator" is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-11-045, filed 5/13/21, effective 6/13/21)

**WAC 132K-135-320 Title IX jurisdiction.** ~~((1) The)~~ This supplemental procedure applies only if the alleged misconduct meets the definition of "sex discrimination" as that term is defined in WAC 132K-135-310 and occurs:

~~((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 alle-~~

gations that the respondent violated other provisions of the college's student conduct code, chapter 132K-135 WAC.

~~(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.)~~ (1) On college premises;

(2) At or in connection with college programs or activities; or

(3) Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, the pursuit of its objectives, or the ability of a student or staff to participate in the college's programs and activities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-11-045, filed 5/13/21, effective 6/13/21)

**WAC 132K-135-330 ((Initiation of discipline.)) Sex discrimination—Dismissal and initiation of discipline.** ~~((1) Upon receiving the 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);~~

~~(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 the party an advisor of the college's choosing at no cost to the party, if the party fails to do so.~~

~~(3) Explain that if a party fails to appear at the hearing, a decision of responsibility may be made in their absence.)~~ (1) Any member of the college community may file a complaint against a student or student group for conduct which may constitute sex discrimination.

(2) The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The disciplinary process for allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, against a student shall be addressed through the student conduct code.

(3) Both the respondent and the complainant in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination shall be provided the same procedur-

al rights to participate in student discipline matters, including the right to participate in the disciplinary process and to appeal any disciplinary decision.

(4) When a summary suspension is imposed pursuant to WAC 132K-135-190, 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.

(5) The student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) The student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint. In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the complainant must withdraw their complaint in writing;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the service of the written recommendation.

(g) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(h) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-11-045, filed 5/13/21, effective 6/13/21)

**WAC 132K-135-340 Sex discrimination—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 132K-135-150. 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.)~~ (1) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination 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, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

(2) In sex discrimination cases, the college may, in its sole and exclusive 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.

(3) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) Notice. The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in WAC 132K-135-150, as well as a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) Advisors. The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (4) (b) of this section.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(4) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) Notice. In addition to all information required to be provided in a prehearing notice pursuant to WAC 132K-135-150, the prehearing notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) Advisors. The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) Separate locations. The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must, conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) Withdrawal of complaint. If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-05-034, filed 2/7/23, effective 3/10/23)

**WAC 132K-135-360 Sex discrimination—Presentation of 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 of prior sexual behavior between the complainant and the respondent, which are asked or offered on the issue of consent.~~

~~(4) 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.~~

~~(5) 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 members of the clergy and priests;~~

~~(d) 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.)~~ In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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 or advisor. 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.

(1) 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 ques-

tion 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

(5) 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-11-045, filed 5/13/21, effective 6/13/21)

**WAC 132K-135-370 ~~Sex discrimination—Initial order.~~** ~~((1) In addition to complying with WAC 132K-135-170, the student conduct committee will be responsible for conferring and drafting an initial order that:~~

~~(a) Identifies the allegations of sexual harassment;~~

~~(b) Describes the grievance and disciplinary procedures, starting with filing of the formal complaint through the determination of responsibility, including notices to parties, interviews with witnesses and parties, site visits, methods used to gather evidence, and hearings held;~~

~~(c) Makes findings of fact supporting the determination of responsibility;~~

~~(d) Reaches conclusions as to whether the facts establish whether the respondent is responsible for engaging in sexual harassment in violation of Title IX;~~

~~(e) Contains a statement of, and rationale for, the committee's determination of responsibility for each allegation;~~

~~(f) Describes any disciplinary sanction or conditions imposed against the respondent, if any;~~

~~(g) Describes to what extent, if any, complainant is entitled to remedies designed to restore or preserve complainant's equal access to the college's education programs or activities; and~~

~~(h) Describes the process for appealing the initial order to the college president.~~

~~(2) The committee chair will serve the initial order on the parties simultaneously.)) In cases involving sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-05-034, filed 2/7/23, effective 3/10/23)

**WAC 132K-135-380 Sex discrimination—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 in 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 days of service of the initial order or notice of dismissal. Appeals must identify the specific findings of fact and/or conclusions of law in the initial order or 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 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 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 five 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) The president's office shall serve the final decision on the parties simultaneously.~~

~~(6) All administrative decisions reached through this process are and may be judicially appealed pursuant to applicable provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW including, but not limited to, the timelines set forth in RCW 34.05.542. No decisions or recommendations arising from this disciplinary procedure will be subject to grievance pursuant to any collective bargaining agreement.)) (1) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's de-~~

cision to the president by filing a written appeal with the appropriate vice president's office (appeal authority) 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, decision maker, 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 appeal authority will promptly serve a copy of the appeal on all nonappealing 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 appeal authority may ask for additional briefing from the parties on issues raised on appeal. The appeal authority'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 appeal authority shall serve a written decision on all parties and their attorneys, if any, within 20 calendar days after receipt of the appeal. This decision shall be final and subject to judicial review pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, Part V.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the appeal decision must be served simultaneously on all parties and the Title IX coordinator.

(7) The appeal authority shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

#### REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

WAC 132K-135-350      Rights of parties.

**WSR 24-16-094**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**GREEN RIVER COLLEGE**

[Filed August 1, 2024, 11:45 a.m., effective August 1, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 1, 2024.

Purpose: Adoption of this emergency rule is necessary to bring Green River College's (college) student conduct code and student disciplinary procedures into compliance with new definitions and procedures governing sex discrimination set forth in a new rule issued by the United States Department of Education implementing the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The effective date of this new rule is August 1, 2024.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972; RCW 28B.50.140.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: Emergency rules supplementing to chapter 132J-126 WAC, student conduct rules, are necessary for compliance with the Department of Education updated Title IX rules issued on April 19, 2024, and requiring implementation of updated student conduct code requirements related to Title IX no later than August 1, 2024. The new supplemental section will be titled "Supplemental Sex Discrimination Student Conduct Code and Procedures for Alleged Conduct That Occurred on or after August 1, 2024." The supplement sections will be WAC 132J-126-500 - 132J-126-570. The college has started the permanent rule making on these subjects.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 7, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 29, 2024.

Shawn Percell  
Director of Judicial Affairs and Compliance

**OTS-5722.1**

**SUPPLEMENTAL SEX DISCRIMINATION STUDENT CONDUCT CODE AND PROCEDURES  
FOR ALLEGED CONDUCT THAT OCCURRED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 1, 2024**

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132J-126-500 Supplemental student conduct code and procedures—Order of precedence.** This supplemental student conduct code and procedure applies to allegations of sex discrimination arising on or after August 1, 2024, subject to Title IX jurisdiction pursuant to regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education. See 34 C.F.R. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with the college's standard student conduct code and procedure, WAC 132J-126-010 through 132J-126-480, this supplemental student conduct code and procedure shall take precedence.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132J-126-510 Prohibited conduct and definitions.** 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 or student group who commits, attempts to commit, or aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit, an act(s) of "sex discrimination."

For purposes of this supplemental procedure, the following definitions apply:

(1) **"Complainant"** means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee; or

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(2) **"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.

(3) **"Program"** or **"programs and activities"** means all operations of the college.

(4) **"Relevant"** means related to the allegations of sex discrimination under investigation. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred.

(5) **"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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

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

(7) **"Sex discrimination."** The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis (insignificant) harm to an individual by treating them differently from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis harm on the basis of sex.

(a) **Sex-based harassment.** "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) **Quid pro quo harassment.** A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) **Sexual violence.** "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(A) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling) is 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 is 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.

(D) Statutory rape (rape of a child) is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) Domestic violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) Dating violence is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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.

(G) Stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) **"Consent."** For purposes of this code, "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) **"Title IX retaliation"** means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part, including during an informal resolution process, during

a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

(8) **"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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(9) **"Student group"** 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.

(10) **"Supportive measures"** means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(11) **"Title IX coordinator"** is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132J-126-520 Jurisdiction.** This supplemental procedure applies only if the alleged misconduct meets the definition of "sex discrimination" as that term is defined in WAC 132J-126-510 and occurs:

- (1) On college premises;
- (2) At or in connection with college programs or activities; or
- (3) Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, the pursuit of its objectives, or the ability of a student or staff to participate in the college's programs and activities.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132J-126-530 Dismissal and initiation of discipline.** (1) Any member of the college community may file a complaint against a

student or student group for conduct which may constitute sex discrimination.

(2) The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The disciplinary process for allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, against a student shall be addressed through the student conduct code.

(3) Both the respondent and the complainant in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination 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.

(4) When a summary suspension is imposed pursuant to WAC 132J-126-230, 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.

(5) The student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended finding and disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) The student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint. In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the complainant must withdraw their complaint in writing;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing before the matter can be dismissed.

(g) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the service of the written recommendation.

(h) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(i) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132J-126-540 Prehearing procedure.** (1) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination 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, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

(2) In sex discrimination cases, the college may, in its sole and exclusive 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.

(3) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) Notice. The college must provide a notice the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) Advisors. The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (4)(b) of this section.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(4) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) Notice. The prehearing notice must inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) Extensions of time. The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) Advisors. The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) Evidence. In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) Confidentiality. The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) Separate locations. The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) Withdrawal of complaint. If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132J-126-550 Presentation of evidence.** In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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 witness by a party's attorney or advisor. 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.

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

(5) 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132J-126-560 Initial order.** In cases involving sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132J-126-570 Appeals.** (1) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's decision to the president by filing a written appeal with the appropriate vice president's office (appeal authority) 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, decision maker, 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 appeal authority will promptly serve a copy of the appeal on all nonappealing 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 appeal authority may ask for additional briefing from the parties on issues raised on appeal. The appeal authority'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 appeal authority shall serve a written decision on all parties and their attorneys, if any, within 20 calendar days after receipt of the appeal. This decision shall be final and subject to judicial review pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, Part V.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the appeal decision must be served simultaneously on all parties and the Title IX coordinator.

(7) The appeal authority shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

**WSR 24-16-127**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**PENINSULA COLLEGE**

[Filed August 6, 2024, 11:30 a.m., effective August 6, 2024, 11:30 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: To bring Peninsula College's student conduct code (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedures recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New chapter 132A-127 WAC; and repealing chapter 132A-126 WAC.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

These new definitions of prohibited behavior and updated procedures are necessary to address conduct that may pose a threat to the general welfare of the college community and/or college operations and to protect the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 17, Amended 0, Repealed 29; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: August 6, 2024.

Trisha Haggerty  
Rules Coordinator

**OTS-5713.2**

**Chapter 132A-127 WAC**  
**PENINSULA COLLEGE STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132A-127-005 Authority.** The Peninsula College board of trustees, acting pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(14), delegates to the president of the college the authority to administer student disciplinary action. The president is authorized to delegate or reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in the chapter as may be reasonably necessary. Administration of the disciplinary procedures is the responsibility of the vice president of student services or their designee. Except in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the student conduct officer, or delegate, shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132A-127-010 Statement of jurisdiction.** (1) The Peninsula College student rights and responsibilities shall apply to conduct by students or student groups that occurs:

- (a) On college premises;
- (b) At or in connection with college programs or activities; or
- (c) Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, 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 locations in which students are engaged in college programs or activities including, but not limited to, college-sponsored housing, foreign or domestic travel, activities funded by the students, student government, student clubs or organizations, athletic events, training internships, cooperative and distance education, online education, practicums, supervised work experiences or any other college-sanctioned social or club activities.

(3) Students are responsible for their conduct from the time they gain admission to the college through the last day of enrollment or award of any degree or certificate, 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 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 college 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 disciplinary 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.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132A-127-015 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 student affairs, subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.50.090 (3)(b).

(c) Students shall be protected from academic evaluation that 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 that is free from unlawful discrimination, inappropriate and disrespectful conduct, and any and all harassment, including sex discrimination.

(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.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132A-127-020 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) "**Complainant**" means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute discrimination:

(a) A student or employee; or

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(4) "**Conduct review officer**" is the vice president of student services or other college administrator designated by the president who is responsible for reviewing or referring appeals of student disciplinary actions as specified in 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 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 10 instructional days or a dismissal from the college are heard by the student conduct appeals committee. Appeals of all other disciplinary action shall be reviewed by a conduct review officer 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) Sending the document by email or first class mail to the specified college official's office or 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) "**Instructional day**" is a day identified in the academic calendar and quarterly schedule as a classroom instruction day.

(9) "**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.

(10) "**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.

(11) "**Program**" or "**programs and activities**" means all operations of the college.

(12) "**Relevant**" means related to the allegations of sex discrimination under investigation. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred.

(13) "**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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

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

(15) **"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 that the document is emailed and deposited in the mail, whichever is first.

(16) **"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 particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the college, or who have been notified of their acceptance for admission are considered a "student" for purposes of this chapter.

(17) **"Student conduct officer"** is a college administrator designated by the president to be responsible for implementing and enforcing the student conduct code.

(18) **"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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(19) **"Student group"** 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.

(20) **"Supportive measures"** means measures reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(21) **"Title IX coordinator"** is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132A-127-025 Prohibited student conduct.** The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student or a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team or living 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:

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

(b) Plagiarism - Taking and using as one's own, without proper attribution, the ideas, writings, 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 - 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.

(4) **Acts of dishonesty.** Acts of dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

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

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

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

(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) **Alcohol.** Use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of alcoholic beverages or paraphernalia (except as expressly permitted by college policies, and federal, state, and local laws), or public intoxication on college premises or at college-sponsored events. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used by, possessed by, or distributed to any person not of legal age.

(6) **Cannabis, drug, and tobacco violations.**

(a) Cannabis. The use, possession, growing, delivery, sale, or being visibly under the influence of cannabis or the psychoactive com-

pounds 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.

(7) **Cyber misconduct.** 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.

(8) **Disruption or obstruction.** Disruption or obstruction of instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding, or other college activity, including the obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular movement on college premises or at a college activity, or any activity that is authorized to occur on college premises, whether or not actually conducted or sponsored by the college.

(9) **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.

(10) **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.

(11) **Failure to comply with directive.** Failure to comply with the direction 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.

(12) **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.

(13) **Hazing.** Hazing is any act committed as part of a person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with a college sponsored student organization, athletic team, or living group, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization, athletic team, or living group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student, including 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, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions. Consent is not a valid defense against hazing.

(14) **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.

(15) **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.

(16) **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.

(17) **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.

(18) **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.

(19) **Sex discrimination.** The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis (insignificant) harm on the basis of sex.

(a) **Sex-based harassment.** "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) **Quid pro quo harassment.** A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) **Sexual violence.** "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(A) **Nonconsensual sexual intercourse** is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling)** is 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** is 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.

(D) **Statutory rape (rape of a child)** is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) **Domestic violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) **Dating violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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.

(G) **Stalking** means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) **Consent.** For purposes of this code "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) **Title IX retaliation** means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX investigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

(20) **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.

(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) **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 official duties.

(b) Students with legally issued weapons permits may store their weapons 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.

(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) Possession and/or use of disabling chemical sprays for purposes of self-defense is not prohibited.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132A-127-030 Corrective action, disciplinary sanctions, terms and conditions.** (1) One or more of the following corrective actions or disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon a student or upon

college sponsored student organizations, athletic teams, or living groups found responsible for violating 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 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 student status for a stated period of time. There will be no refund of tuition or fees for the quarter in which the suspension is imposed.

(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 dismissal is imposed.

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

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

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

(c) **Not in good standing.** A student deemed "not in good standing" with the college 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 directive.** 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) **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.

(f) **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.

(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) More than one of the disciplinary terms and conditions listed above may be imposed for any single violation.

(4) 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.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132A-127-035 Hazing sanctions.** (1) 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 non-profit, the individual directors of the corporation may be held individually liable for damages.

(2) 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.

(3) Any student group 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.

(4) Any student group 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.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132A-127-040 Initiation of disciplinary action.** (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) **Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment.** The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. Allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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) Informal dispute resolution shall not be used to resolve sex-based harassment complaints without written permission from both the complainant and the respondent.

(b) 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 sex discrimination 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, the president shall, upon request and when feasible, designate another person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities relative to the complaint.

(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 at-

tend the meeting after proper service of notice the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.

(10) Within 10 calendar 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. 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 132A-127-030; or

(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 sex discrimination, the student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) In cases involving sex discrimination, the student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing before the matter can be dismissed.

(g) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation.

(h) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(i) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132A-127-045 Appeal from disciplinary action.** (1) Except as specified for cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, as set forth in WAC 132A-127-040(12), the respondent may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the student conduct officer within 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) A conduct review officer shall conduct a brief adjudicative proceeding for appeals of:

(a) Suspensions of 10 instructional days or less;

(b) Disciplinary probation; and

(c) Written reprimands; and

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

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

- (a) Disciplinary suspensions in excess of 10 instructional days;
- (b) Dismissals;
- (c) Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment cases; and
- (d) Disciplinary cases referred to the committee by the student conduct officer, a conduct review officer, or the president.

#### NEW SECTION

- WAC 132A-127-050 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 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.
- (2) The parties to a brief adjudicative proceeding are the respondent and the student conduct officer. 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 calendar 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) 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 expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

#### NEW SECTION

- WAC 132A-127-055 Brief adjudicative proceedings—Review of an initial decision.** (1) An initial decision is subject to review by the president, provided a party 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 all parties 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 expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132A-127-060 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 or designee;  
(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 the committee for disqualification of a committee member.

(5) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination cases, as well as the meaning and application of the term "relevant" in relation to questions and evidence, and the types of evidence that are impermissible, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.

(6) The college may, in its sole and exclusive discretion, for sex discrimination or other conduct cases, 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.

NEW SECTION**WAC 132A-127-065 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 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 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 chair may provide to the committee members in advance of the hearing copies of:

- (a) The student 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 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 advisor 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.

(12) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the disciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) **Notice.** The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in subsection (2) of this section, and a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) **Advisors.** The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (13)(b) of this section.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(13) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) **Notice.** In addition to all information required in subsection (2) of this section, the notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing; and

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) **Advisors.** The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) **Separate locations.** The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must, conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) **Withdrawal of complaint.** If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132A-127-070 Student conduct committee—Presentation 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 ensure 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 college's case.

(6) All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. Except as otherwise provided in this section, evidence shall be admitted or excluded in accordance with RCW 34.05.452.

(7) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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 or advisor. 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:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client communications and attorney work product privilege;

(iii) Clergy privileges;

(iv) Medical or mental health providers and counselor privileges;

(v) Sexual assault and domestic violence advocate privileges; and

(vi) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

(8) Except in cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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.

#### NEW SECTION

##### **WAC 132A-127-075 Student conduct committee—Initial decision.**

(1) At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee chair shall permit the parties to make closing arguments in whatever form, written or verbal, the committee 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 a decision in accordance with RCW 34.05.461 and WAC 10-08-210. The 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 and explained.

(3) The committee's decision shall also include a determination of appropriate sanctions, 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 its decision to be served on the parties and their attorney, 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 sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132A-127-080 Student conduct committee—Review of initial decision.** (1) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's decision to the president by filing a written 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, decision maker, 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 nonappealing 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 sex-based harassment, the president's decision must be served simultaneously on the complainant, respondent, and Title IX coordinator.

(7) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132A-127-085 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 business 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(s) 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 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 offices who may be bound or protected by it.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, 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.

## OTS-5712.1

### REPEALER

The following chapter of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

WAC 132A-126-005 Preamble.

WAC 132A-126-010 Authority.

WAC 132A-126-015	Definitions.
WAC 132A-126-020	Statement of jurisdiction.
WAC 132A-126-025	Statement of student rights.
WAC 132A-126-030	Prohibited student conduct.
WAC 132A-126-035	Disciplinary sanctions—Terms— Conditions.
WAC 132A-126-040	Initiation of disciplinary action.
WAC 132A-126-045	Appeal of disciplinary action.
WAC 132A-126-050	Brief adjudicative proceedings authorized.
WAC 132A-126-055	Brief adjudicative proceedings—Initial hearing.
WAC 132A-126-060	Brief adjudicative proceedings—Review of an initial decision.
WAC 132A-126-065	Brief adjudicative proceedings—Agency record.
WAC 132A-126-070	Student conduct committee proceedings.
WAC 132A-126-075	Appeal—Student conduct committee.
WAC 132A-126-080	Student conduct committee hearings— Presentations of evidence.
WAC 132A-126-085	Student conduct committee—Initial decision.
WAC 132A-126-090	Appeal from student conduct committee initial decision.
WAC 132A-126-095	Summary suspension.
WAC 132A-126-100	Sexual misconduct proceedings.
WAC 132A-126-200	Supplemental Title IX student conduct procedures—Order of precedence.
WAC 132A-126-205	Prohibited conduct under Title IX.
WAC 132A-126-210	Title IX jurisdiction.
WAC 132A-126-215	Initiation of discipline.
WAC 132A-126-220	Prehearing procedure.
WAC 132A-126-225	Rights of parties.
WAC 132A-126-230	Evidence.
WAC 132A-126-235	Initial order.
WAC 132A-126-240	Appeals.

## WSR 24-16-136

## EMERGENCY RULES

## YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE

[Filed August 6, 2024, 3:48 p.m., effective August 6, 2024, 3:48 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: To bring Yakima Valley College's (college) student conduct code (code) into compliance with a new final rule governing sex discrimination grievance procedures recently adopted by the United States Department of Education and to update the code to ensure its prohibited conduct and procedures adequately protect the interests of the college community and the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New supplemental Title IX student conduct procedures: WAC 132P-121-010, 132P-121-020, 132P-121-030, 132P-121-065, 132P-121-440, 132P-121-445, 132P-121-448, 132P-121-460, 132P-121-462, 132P-121-465, 132P-121-470, 132P-121-480, 132P-121-490, 132P-121-500, 132P-121-510, 132P-121-520 and 132P-121-540; and repealing WAC 132P-33-010, 132P-33-020, 132P-33-030, 132P-33-065, 132P-33-400, 132P-33-410, 132P-33-420, 132P-33-430, 132P-33-440, 132P-33-445, 132P-33-460, 132P-33-470, 132P-33-480, 132P-33-490, 132P-33-500, 132P-33-510, 132P-33-520, and 132P-33-540.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: On April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX. This rule requires institutions of higher education to adopt student disciplinary procedures addressing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. The deadline for implementing this new rule is August 1, 2024.

In addition to complying with the new final rule, the college is updating its student conduct code to address [no further information supplied by agency]. These new definitions of prohibited behavior and updated procedures are necessary to address conduct that may pose a threat to the general welfare of the college community and/or college operations and to protect the constitutional and procedural rights of individual students.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 17, Amended 0, Repealed 18; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 17, Amended 0, Repealed 18.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: August 1, 2024.

Jocelyn Sheehan  
Rules Coordinator

OTS-5719.1

## STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-010 Authority.** The Yakima Valley College board of trustees, acting pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(14), delegates to the president of the college the authority to administer student disciplinary action. The president is authorized to delegate or reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary. Administration of the disciplinary procedures is the responsibility of the vice president of instruction and student services or their designee. Except in cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the student conduct officer, or delegate, shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code.

### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-020 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) "**Complainant**" means the following individuals who are alleged to have been subjected to conduct that would constitute sex discrimination:

(a) A student or employee; or

(b) A person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the college's education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

(4) "**Conduct review officer**" is a college administrator designated by the president who is responsible for reviewing or referring appeals of student disciplinary actions as specified in 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 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 10 instructional days or a dismissal from the college are heard by the student conduct committee. Appeals of all other disciplinary action shall be reviewed by a conduct review officer 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) "**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.

(10) "**Program**" or "**programs and activities**" means all operations of the college.

(11) "**Relevant**" means related to the allegations of sex discrimination under investigation. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred.

(12) "**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 sex discrimination. These measures are intended to restore or preserve that person's access to educational programs and activities after a determination that sex discrimination has occurred.

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

(14) "**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) By 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 that the document is emailed and deposited in the mail, whichever is first.

(15) **"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 particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the college, or who have been notified of their acceptance for admission are considered a "student" for purposes of this chapter.

(16) **"Student conduct officer"** is a college administrator designated by the president to be responsible for implementing and enforcing the student conduct code.

(17) **"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, sex-based harassment, occurred while the individual was performing employment-related work.

(18) **"Student group"** 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.

(19) **"Supportive measures"** means reasonably available, individualized and appropriate, nonpunitive and nondisciplinary 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 extra-curricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment.

(20) **"Title IX coordinator"** is the administrator responsible for processing complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, overseeing investigations and informal resolution processes, and coordinating supportive measures, in accordance with college policy.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-030 Statement of jurisdiction.** (1) The student conduct code shall apply to conduct by students or student groups that occurs:

- (a) On college premises;
- (b) At or in connection with college programs or activities; or
- (c) Off college premises, if in the judgment of the college, the conduct has an adverse impact on the college community, 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 locations in which students are engaged in college programs or activities including, but not limited to, college-sponsored housing, foreign or domestic travel, activities funded by the students, student government, student clubs or organizations, athletic events, training internships, cooperative and distance education, online education, practicums, supervised work experiences or any other college-sanctioned social or club activities.

(3) Students are responsible for their conduct from the time they gain admission to the college through the last day of enrollment or award of any degree or certificate, 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 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 college 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 disciplinary 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.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-065 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 student affairs, subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.50.090 (3)(b).

(c) Students shall be protected from academic evaluation that 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 that is free from unlawful discrimination, inappropriate and disrespectful conduct, and any and all harassment, including sex discrimination.

(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.

### STUDENT CONDUCT CODE PROCEDURES

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-440 Prohibited student conduct.** The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student or a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team or living 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:

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

(b) Plagiarism - Taking and using as one's own, without proper attribution, the ideas, writings, 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 - 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.

(4) **Acts of dishonesty.** Acts of dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

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

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

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

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

(6) **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.

(7) **Cyber misconduct.** 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.

(8) **Disruption or obstruction.** Disruption or obstruction of instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding, or other college activity, including the obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular movement on college premises or at a college activity, or any activity that is authorized to occur on college premises, whether or not actually conducted or sponsored by the college.

(9) **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.

(10) **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.

(11) **Failure to comply with directive.** Failure to comply with the direction 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.

(12) **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.

(13) **Hazing.** Hazing is any act committed as part of a person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with

a college-sponsored student organization, athletic team, or living group, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization, athletic team, or living group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student, including 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, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions. Consent is not a valid defense against hazing. Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to:

(a) 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;

(b) Humiliation by ritual act;

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

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

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

(14) **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.

(15) **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.

(16) **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.

(17) **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 respond-

ing to, investigating, or addressing allegations or violations of federal, state, or local law, or college policies.

(18) **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.

(19) **Sex discrimination.** The term "sex discrimination" includes sex-based harassment, and may occur when a respondent causes more than de minimis harm to an individual by treating them different from a similarly situated individual on the basis of: Sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that prevents an individual from participating in an education program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity subjects a person to more than de minimis (insignificant) harm on the basis of sex.

(a) **Sex-based harassment.** "Sex-based harassment" is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including the following conduct:

(i) **Quid pro quo harassment.** A student, employee, agent, or other person authorized by the college to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the college's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(A) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the college's education program or activity;

(B) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(C) The parties' ages, roles within the college's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(D) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(E) Other sex-based harassment in the college's education program or activity.

(iii) **Sexual violence.** "Sexual violence" includes nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(A) **Nonconsensual sexual intercourse** is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, 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 (fondling)** is 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** is 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.

(D) **Statutory rape (rape of a child)** is nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

(E) **Domestic violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, coercive control, damage or destruction of personal property, stalking or any other conduct prohibited under RCW 10.99.020, 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 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.

(F) **Dating violence** is physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and 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.

(G) **Stalking** means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

(b) **Consent**. For purposes of this code, "consent" means knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(c) **Title IX retaliation** means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by a student, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a sex discrimination investigation, proceeding, or hearing including during an informal resolution process, during a Title IX in-

vestigation, or during any disciplinary proceeding involving allegations of sex discrimination.

(20) **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.

(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) **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 in a manner, under circumstances, and at a time and place that either manifests an intent to intimidate another or that warrants alarm for the safety of other persons during college programming and activities, subject to the following:

(a) Commissioned law enforcement personnel or legally authorized military personnel are permitted to weapons while in performance of their official duties.

(b) Students with legally issued weapons permits may store their weapons 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.

(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) Possession and/or use of disabling chemical sprays for purposes of self-defense is not prohibited.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-445 Corrective action, disciplinary sanctions, terms and conditions.** (1) One or more of the following corrective actions or disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon a student or upon college-sponsored student organizations, athletic teams, or living groups found responsible for violating 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 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 student status for a stated period of time. There will be no refund of tuition or fees for the quarter in which the suspension is imposed.

(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 dismissal is imposed.

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

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

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

(c) **Not in good standing.** A student deemed "not in good standing" with the college 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 directive.** 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) **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.

(f) **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.

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

(h) **Residence hall suspension or termination.** Removal from a residence hall for a specified period or permanently. Conditions may be imposed before a student is permitted to return to a residence hall.

(3) More than one of the disciplinary terms and conditions listed above may be imposed for any single violation.

(4) If a student withdraws from the college or fails to reenroll before completing a disciplinary sanction or condition, the discipli-

nary 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.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-448 Hazing sanctions.** (1) 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 non-profit, the individual directors of the corporation may be held individually liable for damages.

(2) 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.

(3) Any student group 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.

(4) Any student group 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.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-460 Initiation of disciplinary action.** (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) **Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment.** The college's Title IX coordinator or designee shall review, process, and, if applicable, investigate complaints or other reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. Allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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) Informal dispute resolution shall not be used to resolve sex-based harassment complaints without written permission from both the complainant and the respondent.

(b) 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 sex discrimination 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, the president shall, upon request and when feasible, designate another person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities relative to the complaint.

(8) The student conduct officer shall initiate disciplinary action by serving the respondent with written notice directing him or her 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 after proper service of notice the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.

(10) Within 10 calendar 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. 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 132P-121-445; or

(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 sex discrimination, the student conduct officer shall review the investigation report provided by the Title IX coordinator, and determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, there was a violation of the student conduct code; and if so, what disciplinary sanction(s) and/or remedies will be recommended. The student conduct officer shall, within five business days of receiving the investigation report, serve respondent, complainant, and the Title IX coordinator with a written recommendation, setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting their recommendation. The time for serving a written recommendation may be extended by the student conduct officer for good cause.

(a) The complainant and respondent may either accept the student conduct officer's recommended disciplinary sanction(s) or request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(b) The complainant and respondent shall have 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation to request a hearing before a student conduct committee.

(c) The request for a hearing may be verbal or written, but must be clearly communicated to the student conduct officer.

(d) The student conduct officer shall promptly notify the other party of the request.

(e) In cases involving sex discrimination, the student conduct officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint if:

(i) The college is unable to identify respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;

(ii) Respondent is not participating in the college's educational programs or activities;

(iii) The complainant has voluntarily withdrawn any or all of the allegations in the complaint, and the Title IX coordinator has declined to initiate their own complaint;

(iv) The college determines that, even if proven, the conduct alleged by the complainant would not constitute sex discrimination; or

(v) The conduct alleged by the complainant falls outside the college's disciplinary jurisdiction.

(f) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the college must obtain the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing before the matter can be dismissed.

(g) If no request for a full hearing is provided to the student conduct officer, the student conduct officer's written recommendation shall be final and implemented immediately following the expiration of 21 calendar days from the date of the written recommendation.

(h) Upon receipt of the student conduct officer's written recommendation, the Title IX coordinator or their designee shall review all supportive measures and, within five business days, provide written direction to the complainant and respondent as to any supportive measures that will be implemented, continued, modified, or terminated. If either party is dissatisfied with the supportive measures, the party may seek review in accordance with the college's Title IX investigation procedure.

(i) If the respondent is found responsible for engaging in sex discrimination, the Title IX coordinator shall also take prompt steps

to coordinate and implement any necessary remedies to ensure that sex discrimination does not recur and that complainant has equal access to the college's programs and activities.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-462 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 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.

(2) The parties to a brief adjudicative proceeding are the respondent and the student conduct officer. 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 calendar 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) 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 expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-465 Brief adjudicative proceedings—Review of an initial decision.** (1) An initial decision is subject to review by the president, provided a party 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 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.

(3) During the review, the president shall give all parties 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 expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-470 Appeal from disciplinary action.** (1) Except as specified for cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, as set forth in WAC 132P-121-460(12), the respondent may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the student conduct officer within 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) A conduct review officer shall conduct a brief adjudicative proceeding for appeals of:

(a) Suspensions of 10 instructional days or less;

(b) Disciplinary probation; and

(c) Written reprimands; and

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

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

(a) Disciplinary suspensions in excess of 10 instructional days;

(b) Dismissals;

(c) Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment cases; and

(d) Disciplinary cases referred to the committee by the student conduct officer, a conduct review officer, or the president.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-480 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;
  - (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 the committee for disqualification of a committee member.
- (5) For cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based 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 sex discrimination cases, as well as the meaning and application of the term "relevant" in relation to questions and evidence, and the types of evidence that are impermissible, regardless of relevance in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.45 and 106.46.
- (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. In sex discrimination cases, the college may, in its sole and exclusive 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.

#### NEW SECTION

- WAC 132P-121-490 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 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 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 chair may provide to the committee members in advance of the hearing copies of:

(a) The student 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 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 advisor of their choice, which may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(10) For any matters involving a disciplinary sanction of suspension of more than one quarter, dismissal, or sex-based harassment, the college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if they have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist them during the hearing. 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.

(12) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, the complainant has a right to participate equally in any part of the dis-

ciplinary process, including appeals. Respondent and complainant both have the following rights:

(a) **Notice.** The college must provide a notice that includes all information required in subsection (2) of this section, and a statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and permissible evidence, or a description of the evidence upon request.

(b) **Advisors.** The complainant and respondent are both entitled to have an advisor present, who may be an attorney retained at the party's expense.

(c) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (13)(b) of this section.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(13) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, the following additional procedures apply:

(a) **Notice.** In addition to all information required in subsection (2) of this section, the notice must also inform the parties that:

(i) The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment;

(ii) The parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;

(iii) They may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, to assist them during the hearing;

(iv) They are entitled to an equal opportunity to access relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence in advance of the hearing; and

(v) The student conduct code prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a student conduct proceeding.

(b) **Extensions of time.** The chair may, upon written request of any party and a showing of good cause, extend the time for disclosure of witness and exhibit lists, accessing and reviewing evidence, or the hearing date. The party requesting an extension must do so no later than 48 hours before any date specified in the notice of hearing or by the chair in any prehearing conference. The written request must be served simultaneously by email to all parties and the chair. Any party may respond and object to the request for an extension of time no later than 24 hours after service of the request for an extension. The chair will serve a written decision upon all parties, to include the reasons for granting or denying any request. The chair's decision shall be final. In exceptional circumstances, for good cause shown, the chair may, in their sole discretion, grant extensions of time that are made less than 48 hours before any deadline.

(c) **Advisors.** The college shall provide an advisor to the respondent and any complainant, if the respondent or complainant have not otherwise identified an advisor to assist during the hearing.

(d) **Evidence.** In advance of the hearing, the student conduct officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent and complainant in accessing and reviewing the investigative report and relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(e) **Confidentiality.** The college shall take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information obtained by a party solely through the disciplinary process, which may include, but are not limited to, directives by the student conduct officer or chair issuing directives pertaining to the dissemination, disclosure, or access to evidence outside the context of the disciplinary hearing.

(f) **Separate locations.** The chair may, or upon the request of any party, must conduct the hearing with the parties physically present in separate locations, with technology enabling the committee and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness while that person is speaking.

(g) **Withdrawal of complaint.** If a complainant wants to voluntarily withdraw a complaint, they must provide notice to the college in writing before a case can be dismissed.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-500 Student conduct committee—Presentation 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 ensure 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 college's case.

(6) All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. Except as otherwise provided in this section, evidence shall be admitted or excluded in accordance with RCW 34.05.452.

(7) In cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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 witness by a party's attorney or advisor. 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:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client communications and attorney work product privilege;

(iii) Clergy privileges;

(iv) Medical or mental health providers and counselor privileges;

(v) Sexual assault and domestic violence advocate privileges; and

(vi) 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 sex-based 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 sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based 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 sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

(8) Except in cases involving allegations of sex-based harassment, 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.

#### NEW SECTION

##### **WAC 132P-121-510 Student conduct committee—Initial decision.**

(1) At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee chair shall permit the parties to make closing arguments in whatever form, written or verbal, the committee 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 a decision in accordance with RCW 34.05.461 and WAC 10-08-210. The 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 and explained.

(3) The committee's decision shall also include a determination of appropriate sanctions, 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 its decision to be served on the parties and their attorney, 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 sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-520 Student conduct committee—Review of initial decision.** (1) Any party, including a complainant in sex-based harassment cases, may appeal the committee's decision to the president by filing a written 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, decision maker, 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 nonappealing 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 sex-based harassment, the president's decision must be served simultaneously on the complainant, respondent, and Title IX coordinator.

(7) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 132P-121-540 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 vice president of instruction and student services 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(s) 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 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 offices who may be bound or protected by it.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sex discrimination, 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.

## WSR 24-16-139

## EMERGENCY RULES

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[Filed August 6, 2024, 8:25 p.m., effective August 6, 2024, 8:25 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: Washington's health care and emergency and logistics tracking hub (WA HEALTH) reporting for acute care hospitals; new WAC 246-320-700 Reporting of health system readiness data. The department of health (department) is extending this emergency rule to continue to require acute care hospitals in Washington state, licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, to report hospital maintenance and operation data to the department through WA HEALTH in accordance with the WA HEALTH User Guide. This emergency rule continues, without change, the emergency rule originally filed on August 31, 2022, as WSR 22-18-060, and extended on December 29, 2022, as WSR 23-02-036; April 28, 2023, as WSR 23-10-047; August 25, 2023, as WSR 23-18-015; December 22, 2023, as WSR 24-02-023; and April 19, 2024, as WSR 24-10-015.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 246-320-700.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 70.41.030.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: WA HEALTH was created to provide decision-makers and leaders across the state with timely data and information to understand and respond to health care system impacts from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). WA HEALTH continues to be used daily for state and local public health and medical preparedness planning to inform planned patient movement, communicable respiratory hospitalizations, and disease trends such as COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and the ability of the system to absorb another health care surge.

WA HEALTH reporting data is critical to keeping good situational awareness of the system's current status and overall capacity. It also allows for coordinated preparedness planning and more timely action in the event of future man-made, natural, and public health threats. Without the WA HEALTH system, we lose critical visibility over our health care systems and the ability to prepare for these key data sets and sectors.

The adoption of this rule as an emergency rule is necessary to allow for the continuation of critical public health reporting. It continues to be essential to have state level awareness, monitoring and memorization of timely and accurate data pertaining to hospital patient volumes, capacities, and resource constraints as there continues to be a lack of surge capacity on Washington's health care system. The WA HEALTH system helps to ensure continued health system readiness, promote safe and adequate care of individuals in hospitals, and mitigate the impact of current and emerging public health threats and associated surges.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: August 6, 2024.

Kristin Peterson, JD  
Chief of Policy  
for Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH  
Secretary

## OTS-3921.2

### NEW SECTION

**WAC 246-320-700 Reporting of health system readiness data.** The purpose of this section is to outline each hospital's responsibility for reporting to the department data pertaining to the maintenance and operation of the hospital in support of health system readiness.

(1) For the purposes of this section:

"WA HEALTH User Guide" means the written instructions issued by the department for reporting to the department hospital maintenance and operation data pertaining to health system readiness.

(2) Hospitals must report data to the department in accordance with the WA HEALTH User Guide, including any amended versions thereof issued by the department. Copies of the WA HEALTH User Guide may be obtained on the department's website or by contacting the department.

(3) Any person who receives data reported under this section must maintain confidentiality of the data as required by applicable law.

**WSR 24-16-141**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

[Order 24-147—Filed August 7, 2024, 8:21 a.m., effective August 11, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 11, 2024.

Purpose: This emergency rule is needed to adjust the open period for commercial gillnets in Management Areas 7B and 7C, to run from 7 p.m. to 10 a.m. for each opening in August.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 220-354-160.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: This emergency rule is needed to adjust the daily open period to conform with seasons and times agreed to with comanagers during the 2024 North of Falcon season setting process. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: August 7, 2024.

Kelly Susewind  
Director

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-354-16000R Puget Sound salmon—Gillnet—Open periods.**

Effective August 11 through August 28, 2024, the following provisions of WAC 220-354-160 regarding commercial gillnet open periods for Puget Sound Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas 7B and 7C shall be as described below. All other provisions of WAC 220-354-160 not addressed herein, or unless otherwise amended by emergency rule, remain in effect:

Area(s)	Date(s)	Open/Closed	Daily open period	Minimum mesh size
7B, 7C	Nightly; 8/11, 8/12, 8/13, 8/18, 8/19, 8/20, 8/21, 8/25, 8/26, 8/27, 8/28	Open	7 PM - 10 AM	7"

**WSR 24-16-143**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**

**WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

[Filed August 7, 2024, 9:38 a.m., effective August 7, 2024, 9:38 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: Washington State University (WSU) is updating the rules regarding the standards of conduct for students to comply with new Title IX requirements effective August 1, 2024.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 504-26-403.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.30.150.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: The United States Department of Education (DOE) promulgated regulations updating the requirements regarding university hearings related to students that went into effect on August 1, 2024. The new rules codified in 34 C.F.R. § 106.46 (f) (3) changes how complainants, respondents, and universities are allowed to question all witnesses in cases that involve sexual harassment and discrimination. Specifically, all parties to a case must provide the question to the decision maker who must make a determination regarding its relevance and permissibility under the new regulations before that question is posed to the witness. WSU can lose federal funding from DOE if it does not comply with the new regulation.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: August 7, 2024.

Deborah L. Bartlett, Director  
Policies, Records, and Forms  
and University Rules Coordinator

**OTS-5716.1**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-23-142, filed 11/21/22, effective 1/1/23)

**WAC 504-26-403 Conduct board hearings (full adjudications).** (1) Conduct board hearings are used in matters in which the respondent faces possible sanctions of suspension for more than 10 instructional days, expulsion, or revocation of degree and matters in which a recog-

nized or registered student organization faces possible loss of recognition. In addition, conduct board hearings are generally used to adjudicate matters in which the respondent faces allegations of sexual misconduct, as that term is defined in WAC 504-26-221. Other matters may be referred to a conduct board at the discretion of CCS.

(2) Adoption of model rules of procedure. Conduct board hearings are full adjudications governed by the Administrative Procedure Act, RCW 34.05.413 through 34.05.476, and chapter 10-08 WAC, Model rules of procedure, except as otherwise provided in this chapter. In the event of a conflict between the rules in this chapter and the model rules, this chapter governs.

(3) Notice of hearing. Notice to the parties of a conduct board hearing must comply with model rule WAC 10-08-040 and standards of conduct rule WAC 504-26-035. In addition, information regarding the student conduct process and student rights, as required by WAC 504-26-401 must be provided.

(4) Time for conduct board hearings. The conduct board hearing is scheduled not less than seven calendar days after the parties have been sent notice of the hearing.

In accordance with WAC 10-08-090, requests to extend the time and/or date for hearing must be addressed to the presiding officer. A request for extension of time is granted only upon a showing of good cause.

(5) Subpoenas. Subpoenas may be issued and enforced in accordance with model rule WAC 10-08-120. In determining whether to issue, quash, or modify a subpoena, the presiding officer must give due consideration to state and federal legal requirements including, but not limited to, Title IX, its implementing regulations, and guidance issued by the federal Office for Civil Rights. The party requesting the subpoena has the burden of showing that a subpoena is necessary for full disclosure of all the relevant facts and issues.

(6) Discovery. Depositions, interrogatories, and physical or medical examinations of parties are not permitted in adjudications of student conduct matters. Other forms of discovery may be permitted at the discretion of the presiding officer; however, discovery should be limited to help ensure the prompt completion of the adjudication process.

(7) Direct questioning and cross-examination. As required by RCW 34.05.449, direct and cross-examination of witnesses is permitted to the extent necessary for full disclosure of all relevant facts and issues.

(a) For hearings involving allegations where EP15 is implicated, parties and/or their advisors or representatives may submit direct and cross-examination ((is conducted orally through the party's advisor or representative. If a party does not have an advisor or representative, an advisor is provided by the university free of charge to conduct cross-examination on that party's behalf. Advisors and representatives are required to engage in cross-examination questioning in a respectful manner. In no circumstance may the complainant or respondent be permitted to cross-examine each other directly. Before any witness or party may answer a)) questions to the presiding officer who asks relevant, permissible, clear, and nonharassing questions. Prior to asking any direct and cross-examination question, the presiding officer must first determine whether the question is relevant, permissible, clear, and nonharassing. If a presiding officer excludes a question, the presiding officer must explain the rationale for exclusion and provide

the party and/or advisor an opportunity to clarify or revise their question.

(b) For hearings involving allegations where EP15 is not implicated, cross-examination is conducted orally through the party's advisor or representative. If a party does not have an advisor or representative, an advisor is provided by the university free of charge to conduct cross-examination on that party's behalf. Advisors and representatives are required to engage in cross-examination questioning in a respectful manner. In no circumstance may the complainant or respondent be permitted to cross-examine each other directly. Before any witness or party may answer a cross-examination question, the presiding officer must first determine whether the question is relevant. The presiding officer must instruct parties or witnesses not to answer cross-examination questions that are irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious.

(8) Decision requirements. Decisions regarding responsibility and sanctions are made by a majority of the conduct board hearing the matter.

(9) Notice of decision and right to appeal. Within 10 calendar days of the completion of the hearing, the conduct board must issue a decision simultaneously to all parties, which is the initial order of the university and must contain the following:

(a) Description of the allegations that initiated the community standards process;

(b) Description of procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint up to and including the university conduct board hearing;

(c) Appropriately numbered findings of fact and conclusions;

(d) The sanction(s) and/or remedy(ies) to be assigned, if any, and the rationale for the sanction(s) and/or remedy(ies);

(e) Information regarding the parties' right to appeal according to WAC 504-26-420, including the time frame for seeking review; and

(f) Notice that the initial order becomes final unless an appeal is filed within 20 calendar days of the date the initial order is sent to the parties.