

WSR 23-04-040

PERMANENT RULES

BELLEVUE COLLEGE

[Filed January 25, 2023, 5:05 p.m., effective February 25, 2023]

Effective Date of Rule: Thirty-one days after filing.

Purpose: Chapter 132H-126 WAC, Student code of conduct, policy 2050, revisions to comply with federal and state changes. On August 10, 2021, a decision from a federal district vacated a portion of the 2020 amendments to the Title IX regulations related to cross-examination, 34 C.F.R. § 106.45 (b)(6)(i). This needs to be removed from the code. On March 15, 2022, President Biden signed the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA) into law. This changed the definition of domestic violence and added definitions for different aspects of domestic abuse. VAWA takes effect on October 1, 2022. On March 30, 2022, Governor Inslee signed Sam's Law (HB [2SHB] 1751) into law. This bill requires the college to update the definition of hazing and extend the prohibition to include off-campus hazing.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 132H-126-111; and amending WAC 132H-126-030, 132H-126-040, 132H-126-100, 132H-126-120, 132H-126-130, 132H-126-300, 132H-126-400, 132H-126-410, and 132H-126-460.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: Chapter 34.05 RCW; and RCW 28B.50.140.

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 22-20-105 on October 4, 2022.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 1 [0]; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 7, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.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: January 25, 2023.

Loreen M. Keller
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OTS-4125.2

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-01-082, filed 12/17/18, effective 1/17/19)

WAC 132H-126-030 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 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.

(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, training internships, cooperative and distance education, online education, internships, practicums, supervised work experiences, or any other college-sanctioned social or club activities and 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 that occurs off campus.

(4) 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.

(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.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140(13); P.L. 113-4, 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 19-01-082, § 132H-126-030, filed 12/17/18, effective 1/17/19.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

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 cer-

tain 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.
- (5) **"Conduct review officer"** is the provost for academic and student affairs or designee or other 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 responsibilities, 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.
- (7) **"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 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 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) **"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) **"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) **"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.
- (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) "**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."

(14) "**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) "**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.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140(13); P.L. 113-4, 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 21-01-008, § 132H-126-040, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21; WSR 19-01-082, § 132H-126-040, filed 12/17/18, effective 1/17/19.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

WAC 132H-126-100 Prohibited student conduct. The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student who commits or attempts to commit, or aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit the following acts 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.

~~((3))~~ (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 in completing an academic assignment. 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.

~~((4))~~ (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.

~~((5))~~ (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.

~~((6))~~ (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, 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).

~~((7))~~ **(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.

~~((8))~~ **(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.

~~((9))~~ **(10) Disorderly conduct.** Conduct that is disorderly, lewd, or indecent; disturbing the peace; or assisting or encouraging another person to disturb the peace.

~~((10))~~ **(11) 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.

~~((11))~~ **(12) 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))~~ 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, psycholog-

ical, 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.

~~((12))~~ (13) **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) **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.

~~((13))~~ (15) **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.

~~((14))~~ (16) **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 duration of the comments or actions.

~~((15))~~ (17) **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.

~~(16))~~ (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) 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.

~~((17) **Marijuana**)~~ **(19) Cannabis or other drugs.**

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

~~((18))~~ **(20) 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.

~~((19))~~ (21) **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.

~~((20))~~ (22) **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.

~~((21))~~ (23) **Safety violations.** Safety violations include committing any reckless or unsafe act 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 triggering false alarms or other emergency response systems.

~~((22))~~ (24) **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 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 ~~((13))~~ (18) of this section.

~~((23))~~ (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.

~~((24))~~ (26) **Sexual violence.** A type of sexual harassment that includes nonconsensual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, and sexual coercion.

(a) Consent is knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.

(i) 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) 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.

(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 ~~((eighteen))~~ 18.

(f) **Statutory rape.** Consensual sexual intercourse between someone who is (~~(eighteen)~~) 18 years of age or older and someone who is under the age of (~~(sixteen)~~) 16.

(~~((25))~~) (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.

(~~((26))~~) (28) **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) 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 (~~(twenty-five)~~) 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, waterpipes, hookahs, chewing tobacco, and snuff.

(~~((27))~~) (30) **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. Providing keys to an unauthorized person or providing access to an unauthorized person is also prohibited.

(~~((28))~~) (31) **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.

(~~((29))~~) (32) **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 housing policies and college traffic and parking rules.

(~~((30))~~) (33) **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, subject to the following exceptions:

(i) Commissioned law enforcement personnel; or

(ii) 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.

(d) Possession and/or use of disabling chemical sprays for purposes of self-defense is not prohibited.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140(13); P.L. 113-4, 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 21-01-008, § 132H-126-100, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21; WSR 19-01-082, § 132H-126-100, filed 12/17/18, effective 1/17/19.]

NEW SECTION

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) 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.

[]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

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.

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

~~((d))~~ (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) 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 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) 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) 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.

(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) 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.

(6) 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) At the disciplinary meeting, the student conduct officer will present the allegations to the respondent, and the respondent shall be afforded an opportunity to explain what occurred.

(c) If the respondent fails to attend the meeting, the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.

(7) Within (~~ten~~) 10 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 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.

(8) A 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 condition(s), as described in WAC 132H-126-110 and 132H-126-115.

(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.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140(13); P.L. 113-4, 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 21-01-008, § 132H-126-120, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21; WSR 19-01-082, § 132H-126-120, filed 12/17/18, effective 1/17/19.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

WAC 132H-126-130 Appeal from disciplinary action. (1) The respondent may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the conduct review officer within (~~twenty-one~~) 21 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 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 regarding:

(a) The imposition of disciplinary suspensions in excess of (~~ten~~) 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) 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) Residence hall dismissals;

(b) Residence hall suspensions;

(c) Suspensions of (~~ten~~) 10 instructional days or less;

(d) Disciplinary probation;

(e) Written reprimands;

(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

(~~(g)~~) (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.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140(13); P.L. 113-4, 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 21-01-008, § 132H-126-130, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21; WSR 19-01-082, § 132H-126-130, filed 12/17/18, effective 1/17/19.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

WAC 132H-126-400 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 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.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140(13); P.L. 113-4, 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 21-01-008, § 132H-126-400, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

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."

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)) 18.

(d) **Statutory rape.** Consensual sexual intercourse between someone who is ((eighteen)) 18 years of age or older and someone who is under the age of ((sixteen)) 16.

(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))~~ 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((, 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)) 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.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW; and RCW 28B.50.140(13); P.L. 113-4, 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 21-01-008, § 132H-126-410, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-01-008, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21)

WAC 132H-126-460 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 reported 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))~~ (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.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW; and RCW 28B.50.140(13); P.L. 113-4, 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 21-01-008, § 132H-126-460, filed 12/2/20, effective 1/2/21.]