

College of Charleston Student Handbook

A Guide to Civil and Honorable Conduct

2007-2008



The College of Charleston reserves the right to make changes in its policies, regulations, and procedures as printed herein through normal channels. The Student Handbook is produced by the Office of Student Affairs.

The College of Charleston is committed to providing leadership of equal employment and equal educational opportunities for all qualified persons regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or other legally-protected classifications. This effort is in compliance with all federal and state laws, including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and all other laws and regulations as they pertain to equal opportunity. For further information, contact the Office of Human Relations and Minority Affairs, third floor, Randolph Hall, or call 953-5580.

An electronic version of the Student Handbook is currently available on the World Wide Web. You can access it through the College of Charleston home page at <http://www.cofc.edu/about/handbook.pdf>.

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The College of Charleston Core Values (adopted July 2004)

As members of the College of Charleston community, we affirm, embrace and hold ourselves accountable to the following core values:

Integrity

Adherence to the highest ethical standards in all our professional obligations and personal responsibilities.

Academic Excellence

Commitment to a dynamic intellectual community, high academic standards, strong academic programs and a high- quality faculty of engaged and engaging teacher-scholars.

Liberal Arts Education

Dedication to a Liberal Arts & Sciences education that encourages intellectual curiosity and fosters each student's ability to think creatively and analyze, synthesize, apply and communicate knowledge from many sources.

Respect for the Individual Student

Devotion to the intellectual, ethical and social development of each student.

Diversity

Commitment to a globally-oriented and diverse academic community.

Community

Commitment to compassion, mutual trust, respect, civility, collegial shared governance, teamwork and the general welfare of the institution and the individual.

Public Mission

Commitment to our social responsibilities and to serving the educational needs of the state of South Carolina and our community

Letter From The President

August 1, 2008

Dear Student,

It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you to the College of Charleston. You represent the best and brightest, and I congratulate you and your family on your fine academic record.

Today, you are beginning an exciting new chapter in your life — a chapter that will be defined by your hard work, your openness to new experiences and your willingness to learn.

Over the next few years, we expect to challenge you, but we also expect you to have the greatest time of your life. We have more than 150 student groups covering almost any interest you may have. We also have a great intramural program, a strong Greek life system, fantastic sports teams to cheer on, and fun events throughout the year.

I encourage you to take full advantage of all that the College offers — both inside and outside of the classroom. Remember, you're not a number here. The entire College family — faculty, staff and alumni — is committed to helping you grow and develop. You're a crucial part of the College's life.

I look forward to seeing you around campus and getting to know you better over the course of your academic career at the College.

Sincerely,

P. George Benson
President

Letter From The Executive Vice President For Student Affairs

August 1, 2006

Dear College of Charleston Student:

Welcome back from your summer jobs, vacations, travel and exchange experiences. I hope this letter finds you ready for a successful academic year. Your educational progress is always my primary concern.

Whether this year finds you living on or off campus, you play the major role of being a resident of a local neighborhood. Therefore, your social development and civic responsibility are no small part of our interests. As more of our students take rooms and apartments in the neighborhoods adjacent to campus, and others interact frequently with local residents, more problems between students and permanent residents are surfacing. If there are difficulties, they are typically a direct result of poor communication between neighbors or insensitivities to neighborhood rules and expectations. To help prevent such problems, I offer the following suggestions:

1. Upon moving in, take the time to meet your neighbors and share any concerns the two of you may have.
2. Since many local houses are very close to each other, be conscious of noise level, particularly during the week. Your neighbors may need to study or get to sleep in preparation for class or work the next day.
3. Tell your neighbors ahead of time if you are expecting more than just a few guests, let your guests know where they should properly park, and share neighborhood expectations that might apply to them as visitors.
4. Make sure that you or your landlord maintains the appearance of your house or apartment so that it meets neighborhood standards.
5. Know and obey local and state laws and ordinances. No matter your level of awareness of these mandates, you will be expected to abide by them.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please understand that to your neighbors, you are more than individuals; you are the College of Charleston. While it is my desire for you to have a great experience in college, please represent us well. If there are any ways in which I may be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. Have a fantastic and rewarding year.

Sincerely,

Victor K. Wilson
Executive Vice President for Student Affairs

Letter From The Honor Board

August 1, 2008

Dear Students,

Welcome to the College of Charleston! We are excited that you chose the College as the place to further your education.

As members of the Honor Board, we would like to remind you that the primary motive for attending college is to obtain an education that will aid you in your search of a successful future. The Honor Board is made up of students, just like you, with the same demands on our time, the same desire to have fun, and capable of making the same mistakes you make. We are not here just to adjudicate cases; we know that circumstances and poor judgment affect us all and we will help you. If you transgress these rules, we will treat you with fairness, respect, and understanding, but we will not allow you to harm yourself or our community. With over 150 hours per week outside of the classroom of your own free time, we ask you to be responsible adults and to make sound decisions. We invite you get to know the faculty and staff members that help make up this college community so that you not only learn from and with them, but feel able to seek their guidance and wisdom during trying times. Talk to them, they listen; ask them questions, they answer; give them respect, they deserve it; but most importantly, keep their trust.

Most of the academic cases that are presented before the Honor Board could have been avoided if the student had only communicated his or her troubles to the professor ahead of time. Faculty members are here to help you, do not be afraid of them. On the other hand, most of our non-academic cases occur because individuals do not know their tolerance for alcohol or understand that this campus and city take a serious stance against illegal substances. We understand that for many of the freshmen, this is your first year away from home and a time of experimentation. Be careful of your actions, because they have consequences. You are no longer in high school and will not be treated like you are. You will be held accountable for your actions like adults.

Whether you are beginning or continuing your studies here, we wish you a successful endeavor to gain knowledge, experience and friendships all surrounded by honest learning and civil behavior. Your time at the College of Charleston should be some of the best years of your lives; so remember to have fun, but responsibly.

Sincerely,
The Honor Board

Introduction

The College of Charleston, one of the country's few colleges that can trace its origins back to the colonial period, was founded in 1770 and chartered in 1785. It is the oldest institution of higher education in South Carolina and the first municipal college in the United States. Today's campus is a modern facility which supports a community of students, faculty, professionals, and staff striving to fulfill the college's mission as a liberal arts institution in a complex and changing world.

The College of Charleston is a liberal arts and sciences institution, which includes a School of Education, Health and Human Performance and a School of Business and Economics. Liberally educated men and women gain a broad acquaintance with the principal areas of human knowledge: the humanities (literature, languages, history, and philosophy), mathematics, logic, the fine arts, the natural sciences, and the social sciences. They have mastered the basic intellectual skills: how to reason logically, how to think critically, how to communicate effectively, and how to perceive the wide implications of what they have learned.

At the core of the College of Charleston community are individuals from diverse backgrounds whose lives are intertwined in support of the uplifting of the human condition through comprehensive studies. As with all communities, there is a moral code of ethical behavior that binds participants together, and a body of official rules and regulations that defines personal freedoms and responsibilities. The former is codified in the College of Charleston Honor Code and Code of Conduct. It applies to all members of the college community and is intended to promote an atmosphere of trust and fairness in the classroom and in the conduct of daily campus life. The codes and the judicial process for reporting and hearing violations are addressed in greater detail later in this publication. The latter refers to official College of Charleston academic/administrative rules and regulations which define processes for accomplishing routine requests and transactions, as well as penalties for failure to acknowledge them.

These regulations are outlined in this publication and Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. The purpose of this Handbook is to assist you in understanding your rights, freedoms, and responsibilities as a student. This Handbook is an official publication of the College. As such, it is a legal and contractual document between the College and its student body. As a student, you will be held accountable for its contents. This means that while officially enrolled at the College you are responsible for abiding by its rules which are intended to facilitate and sustain, in an orderly fashion, the on-going business of the College. For its part, the College has committed itself to your holistic development and to the support of those regulations designed to enhance and protect your individual rights.

The College of Charleston has for many years maintained a stated, formal policy prohibiting

discrimination or harassment on our campus. This prohibition applies irrespective of race, age, religion, gender or sexual orientation. Quite simply, we cannot satisfactorily co-exist and meet the mission of the College to provide high-quality education in the face of either discrimination or harassment. Such actions are wholly antithetical to the precepts of higher education and, in particular, the College of Charleston. An integral part of education is the exposure to different views and different cultures. We must not only accommodate this diversity, but, if we are to maximize the educational opportunities presented at this institution, we must embrace this diversity as well. The ability to recognize differences and see linkages between and among these differences lies at the core of a liberal arts education, to which this college is dedicated. We must, therefore, exercise true tolerance and seek an understanding of others, for in an awareness of differing traditions and views, we grow as individuals. Further, we must respect the intrinsic worth of individuality and work together continuously to create and nurture an environment that stimulates intellectual and personal growth.

A second fundamental value inherent in a liberal arts education is that of intellectual freedom and freedom of expression. In educational institutions, this value is firmly entrenched in the doctrine of academic freedom. In our nation, this fundamental value is enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. As with other values, however, it is important that we live by these concepts and not simply be satisfied with mere rhetoric. Our institution must always serve as a dynamic marketplace of ideas if we are to maximize our potential both as individuals and as an institution. We must recognize, however, that there will be times when the fundamental values of freedom from discrimination or harassment will intersect with those of freedom of expression. The dilemma for each of us is to reconcile such conflicts in ways that do the least possible damage to either of these fundamental values. It is important for us to remember that freedom of expression in no way assures that every expression has merit. As G.K. Chesterton once noted, 'To have the right to do a thing is not at all the same as to be right in doing it.' It is both acceptable and, on occasion, required that we affirm the right to freedom of expression, while at the same time stating our unequivocal disapproval of the contents of that expression.

Ultimately, each of us in this college community must exercise our freedoms in a responsible and careful manner, just as we must analyze what we are hearing in a careful manner and critical way. This institution's potential is limitless if we engender and maintain an atmosphere of respect for the individual, a tolerance and sensitivity towards different cultures and differing points of view, and a support for the rights of others to freely express their opinions. I urge each of you to join me in adopting or reaffirming these fundamental values as the cornerstone of the College of Charleston.

The Honor System of the College of Charleston

Preamble

The Honor System of the College of Charleston is intended to promote and protect an atmosphere of trust and fairness in the classroom and in the conduct of daily life. The Honor System is composed of two major components: The Honor Code and the Code of Conduct. Specific policies fall under each major component. Students at the College of Charleston are bound by honor and by their enrollment at the College to abide by the Honor and Conduct codes and to report violations. Faculty and staff members are equally required to report violations of the Honor Code or Code of Conduct.

As members of the college community, students are expected to evidence a high standard of personal conduct and to respect the rights of other students, faculty, staff members, community neighbors, and visitors on campus. Students are also expected to adhere to all federal, state, and local laws.

Alleged violations of the Honor Code or Code of Conduct which are not admitted by the student will be heard by an honor board, a body composed of students, faculty, and staff members.

A student who admits to a violation of the Honor Code or Code of Conduct may elect to have the violation adjudicated by the reporting faculty member(s), a disciplinary panel, a smaller body composed of students and a faculty member, or by an Honor Board.

Who is a student?

The term "student" includes all persons taking courses at the College, both full-time and part-time, pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or professional studies and those who attend post-secondary educational institutions other than the College and who reside in the College's residence halls. Persons who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the College are considered "students." Persons who withdraw after allegedly violating a code are considered "students."

Honor System Authority

The Dean of Students is the honor system administrator. The Dean of Students shall develop policies for the administration of the honor system and procedural rules for the conduct of honor system hearings that are not inconsistent with the provisions of the honor system.

The Honor Code

The Honor Code of the College of Charleston specifically forbids:

Lying: knowingly furnishing false information, orally or in writing, including but not limited to deceit or efforts to deceive relating to academic work, to information legitimately sought by an official or employee of the College, and to testimony before individuals authorized to inquire or investigate conduct; lying also includes the fraudulent use of identification cards.

Cheating: the actual giving or receiving of unauthorized, dishonest assistance that might give one student an unfair advantage over another in the performance of any assigned, graded academic work, inside or outside of the classroom, and by any means whatsoever, including but not limited to fraud, duress, deception, theft, talking, making signs, gestures, copying, electronic messaging, photography, unauthorized reuse of previously graded work, unauthorized dual submission, unauthorized collaboration and unauthorized use or possession of study aids, memoranda, books, data, or other information. The term cheating includes engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.

Attempted cheating: a willful act designed to accomplish cheating, but falling short of that goal.

Stealing: the unauthorized taking or appropriating of property from the College or from another member of the college community. Note also that stealing includes unauthorized copying of and unauthorized access to computer software.

Attempted stealing: a willful act designed to accomplish stealing, but falling short of that goal.

Plagiarism:

- The verbatim repetition, without acknowledgement, of the writings of another author. All significant phrases, clauses, or passages, taken directly from source material must be enclosed in quotation marks and acknowledged either in the text itself or in footnotes/endnotes.
- Borrowing without acknowledging the source.
- Paraphrasing the thoughts of another writer without acknowledgement.
- Allowing any other person or organization to prepare work which one then submits as his/her own.

Penalties (Sanctions) for Violations of the Honor Code

XF – Transcript Notation

(See Appendix A for full description.)

The grade of “XF” has been added to our grading options at the College. The grade of XF means failure due to academic dishonesty. If a student is found responsible for an act of “serious” academic dishonesty, the instructor for that course must assign an XF. The XF remains on the student’s official transcript for a minimum of 2 years. After 2 years, the student can petition the Honor Board for removal of the X. The F will remain.

Instructors, with assistance from the Dean of Students if requested, will assess whether the behavior of the student falls into one of three classes:

Class 1 – act involves significant premeditation; conspiracy and/or intent to deceive, e.g., purchasing a research paper.

Penalties: XF and either suspension or expulsion assigned if student found responsible by Honor Board.

Class 2 – act involves deliberate failure to comply with assignment directions, some conspiracy and/or intent to deceive, e.g., use of the Internet when prohibited, some fabricated endnotes or data, copying several answers from another student’s test.

Penalties: XF and other sanctions assigned if student found responsible by Honor Board.

Class 3 – act mostly due to ignorance, confusion and/or poor communication between professor and class, e.g., unintentional violation of the class rules on collaboration.

Penalties: Student and instructor agree upon the response and forward agreement to Dean of Students. See “Class 3 Report and Resolution Form” on the Student Affairs, Honor System website.

Other penalties for violations of the Honor Code range up to and include expulsion from the College. Other penalties may be combined with the XF. Attempted cheating, attempted stealing, and the knowing possession of stolen property shall be subject to the same punishment as the other offenses. Because the potential penalties for an Honor Code violation are extremely serious, all students should be thoroughly familiar with the above definitions and be guided by them.

Student Code of Conduct

The following Student Code of Conduct is in force while on College premises or at College-sponsored or supervised activities. Alleged violations that occur within the campus jurisdiction may be adjudicated through honor system proceedings. The Office of Student Affairs shall determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether an incident that occurs off campus jeopardizes the College or members of the college community in pursuit of their institutional and educational goals and thus falls within the scope of the honor system. (See also section on "Off-Campus Jurisdiction.")

The Student Code of Conduct of the College of Charleston specifically forbids:

1. Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to the following:
 - Furnishing false information to any college official, faculty member, or office.
 - Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any college or non-college document, record, or instrument of identification.
 - Tampering with the election of any college-recognized student organization.
2. Disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, other college activities, including its public service functions on or off campus, or other authorized non-college activities, when the act occurs on college premises.
3. Physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, sexual harassment, sexual assault, coercion, and/or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person.
4. Sexual misconduct (See Sexual Misconduct Policy below).
5. Attempted or actual theft of and/or damage, (including, but not limited to any form of vandalism or arson) to property of the College or property of a member of the college community or other personal or public property, on or off campus.
6. Hazing, defined as an act which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or which destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization. The express or implied consent of the victim will not be a defense. Apathy and/or acquiescence in the presence of hazing are not neutral acts; they are violations of this rule.
7. Failure to comply with directions of college officials or law enforcement officers acting in

performance of their duties and/or failure to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so.

8. Unauthorized possession, duplication, or use of keys to any College premises, trespassing or unauthorized entry to or use of college premises.
9. Violation of published college policies, rules, or regulations published in hard copy or available electronically on the College of Charleston website.
10. Violation of federal, state, or local law.
11. Use, possession*, manufacturing, intent to distribute, distribution, dispensation, attempted purchase of marijuana, cocaine, narcotics or other controlled substances, including prescription medications, except as expressly permitted by law. The possession or sale of drug paraphernalia (such as roach clips, bongs, water pipes, cocaine spoons). (For more information about violations and our responses to drug-related activity see Drug Policy below.)
12. Use, possession*, manufacturing or distribution of alcoholic beverages, except as expressly permitted by the law and college regulations, or public intoxication. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used by, possessed by or distributed to any person under twenty-one (21) years of age. (For more information about our responses to alcohol-related activity see Alcohol Policies below and The Guide to Residence Living and The Compass.)
13. Illegal or unauthorized possession of firearms, explosives, other weapons, or dangerous chemicals on college premises or use of any such item, even if legally possessed, in a manner that harms, threatens or causes fear to others.
14. Participating in a campus demonstration or off campus demonstration, riot or activity that disrupts the normal operations of the College and/or infringes on the rights of other members of the college community; leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled and/or normal activities within any campus building or area.
15. Obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on College premises or at college-sponsored or supervised functions.
16. Conduct that is disorderly, lewd, or indecent; breach of peace; or aiding, abetting, or procuring another person to breach the peace on college premises or at functions sponsored by, or participated in, by the College or members of the academic community.

17. Facilitating or Accepting Improper Behavior: Facilitating or Accepting Improper Behavior is defined as aiding or choosing not to confront a person violating the honor code, code of conduct or other regulation, choosing not to leave such a situation, or choosing not to tell a college staff member about the code violation. **

18. Use of any technology to create, display or distribute an audio, video, digital file, picture or film of another individual without that person's knowledge and consent while the person is in a place where he or she would have reasonable expectation of privacy.

19. Theft or other abuse of the campus network, computers, or computer time, including but not limited to:

- Unauthorized entry into a file to use, read, or change the contents or for any other purpose.
- Unauthorized transfer of a file.
- Unauthorized use of another individual's identification and/or password.
- Use of computers or computing facilities and resources to interfere with the work of another student, faculty member, or college official.
- Use of computing facilities and resources in violation of copyright laws.
- Any violation of the College's information technology policies.

20. Abuse of the judicial system, including but not limited to:

- Failure to obey the notice of a judicial body or college official to appear for a meeting or hearing as part of a judicial process.
- Falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation of information before a judicial body.
- Disruption or interference with the orderly conduct of a judicial proceeding.
- Institution of a judicial proceeding knowingly without cause.
- Attempting to discourage an individual's proper participation in, or use of, the judicial system.
- Attempting to influence the impartiality of a member of a judicial body prior to, and/or during

the course of, the judicial proceeding.

- Harassment (verbal or physical) and/or intimidation of a member of a judicial body prior to, during, and/or after a judicial proceeding.
- Failure to comply with the sanction(s) imposed under the Honor System.
- Influencing or attempting to influence another person to commit an abuse of the judicial system.

Definitions

*** Possession**

Possession as used in this Code is defined as having actual knowledge of a substance or property and/or being in such close proximity to the substance or property that it is a reasonable presumption that one had knowledge of the substance or property. For example, 1) those in a room where a controlled or prohibited substance is present would be presumed to be in possession of the substance absent compelling evidence to the contrary or 2) a bong found on a desk during a health and safety inspection would be presumed to be the possession of the student to whom the desk belongs absent compelling evidence to the contrary.

**** Facilitating or Accepting Improper Behavior**

Making this choice is an interpersonal communication issue. As such, the typical sanction is a warning and/or a session that teaches students how to confront others in difficult situations, decision-making skills, and interpersonal communication.

Facilitating or Accepting Improper Behavior is a violation that can occur only once. The college expectation is that students who are found responsible for this situation will learn from it and not repeat it. In cases where students are accused of Facilitating or Accepting Improper Behavior a second time, additional charges beyond Facilitating or Accepting Improper Behavior (e.g., Possession) will usually be incurred with their resulting sanctions. A student in the presence of a policy violation and who is not actively involved, has three choices: 1) leave the situation; 2) ask the student(s) to stop the behavior and/or take it out of the room; or 3) seek assistance from a college staff member (for example: Resident Assistant or Public Safety). A student, who does not do any of the above, can be held responsible for the policy violation.

Violations Which Also Violate Municipal, State or Federal Law

Students may be accountable to both outside authorities and to the College for acts which constitute violations of law and of the honor system and other campus regulations. Disciplinary action at the college will normally proceed during the pendency of criminal or civil proceedings and will not be subject to challenge on the ground that criminal or civil charges involving the same incident have been dismissed, reduced or resolved in favor or against the student. Determinations made or sanctions imposed under a judicial process shall not be subject to change because charges arising out of the same facts giving rise to violation of College rules were dismissed, reduced or resolved in favor of or against the student.

Other Official Intervention Resolution

Letters of no contact, cease and desist letters, mediation agreements, and other written forms of intervention may be initiated after determination by officials in Student Affairs that such action is appropriate and warranted. The student(s) will be given the opportunity to appear personally before an official of Student Affairs to contest the determination and discuss the original circumstances that gave rise to the no contact or other intervention order. Intervention letters do not constitute a formal disciplinary charge or sanction. However, formal disciplinary proceedings could be initiated if any conditions outlined within the correspondence are violated and reported.

Jurisdiction of Residence Life and Housing and the Student Affairs Office for Incidents Which Take Place in College Residence Halls/Houses

Residence Life and Housing: The Office of Residence Life and Housing will review alleged violations of the housing contract (which may also constitute violations of the Student Code of Conduct) that are NOT likely to lead to removal from the residential system AND any form of suspension or expulsion from the College. Such offenses will be resolved under policies as stated by Residence Life and Housing.

Alleged violations of the housing contract unrelated to violations of the Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to administrative action by the Office of Residence Life and Housing. For more information on regulations and policies concerning residence halls, please consult the Residence Living Handbook and the residence hall contract.

Student Affairs Office: Alleged violations likely to lead to removal from the residential system AND any form of suspension or expulsion from the College shall be subject to action by the Dean of Students. This includes, but is not limited to, all drug-related and second alcohol violations, arson, sexual misconduct, physical assault and serious vandalism.

Identifying charges, notifying the accused and hearings will be conducted in accordance with procedures contained within the Student Handbook.

The Dean of Students or his/her designee will contact student(s), interview and, if appropriate, deliver charge packet and announce the adjudication timeline.

Future Revisions

The College of Charleston reserves the right to update all policies contained within the Student Handbook. Students are responsible for being aware of changes as they are disseminated to the college community.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

The core values that define the character of the College of Charleston community exclude behavior that in any way violates the rights or diminishes the dignity of any person. Sexual misconduct can, therefore, never be tolerated. The information provided below offers clarity in defining “sexual misconduct” and provides an outline for initiating a campus judicial process for an allegation involving another student.

Sexual misconduct, defined as any non-consensual conduct of a sexual nature, encompasses a broad range of behavior from inappropriate touching to sexual assault and includes, but is not limited to:

Non-consensual Sexual Intercourse - vaginal penetration by a penis, object, tongue or finger; anal penetration by a penis, object, tongue or finger; and oral copulation (mouth to genital contact or genital to mouth contact). Engagement in such behavior is also a crime under South Carolina law as Criminal Sexual Conduct.

Non-consensual Sexual Touching - touching of intimate body parts such as genitalia, groin, breast, buttocks, or any clothing covering them, touching a person with one’s own intimate body parts, or compelling another to touch one’s intimate body parts. Engagement in such behavior is also a crime under South Carolina law as Criminal Sexual Conduct.

Sexual Exploitation - non-consensual sexual advantage of another for one’s personal or third-party benefit that does not otherwise constitute rape or sexual assault. Examples of sexual exploitation include, but are not limited to such acts as:

- inducing incapacitation with the intent to rape or sexual assault another student;
- non-consensual video or audio taping of sexual activity;
- allowing others to observe a personal act of consensual sex without knowledge or consent of the partner;
- voyeurism (Peeping Tom activity)
- Knowingly transmitting an STD or HIV to another student;

- Prostituting another student (monetary gain, privilege or power from the sexual activities of another student)

Non-consensual – the absence of explicit verbal consent or overt action clearly expressing consent. Such signals of consent must be mutual and ongoing. Consent obtained through fraud or force, whether that force is physical or through threats, intimidation or coercion is not regarded as legitimate consent.

It is the responsibility of the initiator (the person who wants to engage in the specific sexual activity) to make sure that they have consent from their partner. Use of alcohol or drugs shall not diminish one's responsibility to obtain consent.

Incapacitation - constitutes a lack of consent. Examples of incapacitation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- use of force
- threat of force
- fear
- a person who is intoxicated, passed out, asleep, or for any other reason physically unable to communicate unwillingness

Initiating Campus Judicial Action:

While it is the choice of a student to determine whether he/she will initiate judicial action through the Dean of Students for a violation of sexual misconduct, we strongly encourage a student to do so. Honor Board hearings are closed to the public, unless the accused requests that others attend or that the hearing be open to the public. The accuser may also request that others attend the hearing in a sexual misconduct case. The granting or denying of this request is subject to a majority vote of the honor board presiding over the case.

Special Needs

Special needs regarding the hearing set-up should be communicated to the Dean of Students. After careful review, the Dean will ask the Honor Board/Panel to accommodate concerns for the personal safety, well-being, and/or fears of confrontation of the complainant, accused, and/or other witnesses during the hearing by providing separate facilities, by using a visual screen, and/or by permitting participation by telephone, videophone, audio tape, written statement, or other means.

Violations Which Also Violate Municipal, State, or Federal Law

Students may be accountable to both outside authorities and to the College for acts which constitute violations of law. Disciplinary action at the college will normally proceed during the pendency of criminal or civil proceedings and will not be subject to challenge on the ground that criminal or civil charges involving the same incident have been dismissed, reduced or resolved in favor or against the student. Determinations made or sanctions imposed under a judicial process shall not be subject to change because charges arising out of the same facts giving rise to violation of College rules were dismissed, reduced or resolved in favor of or against the student.

Other Official Intervention/Resolution

Letters of no contact, cease and desist letters and other written forms of intervention may be initiated after determination by officials in Student Affairs that such action is appropriate and warranted.

Rights and Options for Judicial Action

A student who becomes a victim of sexual misconduct:

- has the right to file charges and pursue criminal prosecution and conviction of a perpetrator (another student) whether the incident occurs on or off campus
- may choose to initiate campus proceedings in addition to criminal proceedings
- may consider pursuing a civil suit

Under the Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights, victims of sexual assault are entitled to:

- be treated with respect
- be informed of the option to notify law enforcement.
- be afforded the same opportunity to have others present at on-campus judicial proceedings.
- be informed of the outcome of any disciplinary proceeding.
- be aware of counseling services.
- be notified of options for changing academic and living situations.

For those electing to initiate campus judicial action, the complainant in sexual misconduct cases is afforded the same opportunities as the accused to have others present at honor board proceedings. Notification of the outcome of the proceedings is communicated directly to the complainant and the accused.

Both the accused and the accuser may be accompanied at the hearing by an honor advisor, another non-attorney advisor, or an attorney.

Sanctions:

Precedent set by previous boards for a finding of responsibility for non-consensual sexual intercourse is either expulsion or suspension for the duration of enrollment of the complainant with special conditions attached for re-enrollment.

A partial listing of other possible sanctions for any violation of our Code of Conduct follows:

- Disciplinary warning
- Restriction
- Disciplinary probation
- Deferred suspension or expulsion
- Disciplinary suspension
- Expulsion
- Other - work hours may be assessed; fines or reimbursement for damage to or misappropriation of property may be assessed; or rehabilitative educational experiences may be ordered.

For detailed information on the process for reporting a violation for judicial action and what occurs once a report has been initiated, please refer to "Procedures for Reporting."

Please Note: The **Crisis Assistance Response and Education (C.A.R.E.) Program**, staffed by two full-time certified victim assistance specialists, is a specially designed program that works specifically with College of Charleston students who may become a victim of a violent or potentially violent crime. It does not matter where the crime occurs, on or off campus, or whether the student elects to file an official police report or not. C.A.R.E. services are available to any currently enrolled student. The C.A.R.E. victim assistance specialists are available to: explain the reporting process and assist the student, if he/she chooses, in filing a report with the appropriate law enforcement agency; accompany and/or act on behalf of the victim, as needed; offer immediate crisis intervention and initial support; explain the victim's rights, responsibilities and options; assist in arranging meetings or initiate direct contact with individuals involved in on-campus disciplinary action or the criminal justice process; serve as the spokesperson for the student within the College community so that the victim's privacy and dignity are maintained in all aspects of intervention and assistance and, as necessary, to serve as liaison with individuals off campus; work with the student to reasonably accommodate possible disruption to the student's class attendance, class work, academic schedule, or initiating necessary changes that may result from the victimization; assist in locating appropriate on campus and

community resources to meet the student's specific ongoing needs; work with appropriate personnel within the court system to provide information relevant to the victim's circumstances and/or direct assistance to the victim, and provide access to legal information. This program is designed to prevent revictimization and provides comprehensive victim assistance at one convenient location. The C.A.R.E. team is accessible 24-hours a day to work with a student who needs immediate assistance for a victimization that has just occurred.

Off-Campus Jurisdiction of Student Affairs

The Office of Student Affairs shall determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether an incident that occurs off campus jeopardizes the College or members of the college community in pursuit of their institutional and educational goals and thus falls within the scope of the honor system. As an urban campus, clearly, good relations with the City of Charleston and our neighbors are essential to the overall mission of the College. Accordingly, the office of Student Affairs shall have discretion to exercise jurisdiction over conduct which occurs off-campus.

The Office of Student Affairs may choose to exercise jurisdiction over off-campus incidents where the alleged misconduct involves:

- Rape or sexual assault, any other physical assault, threats of violence, or conduct that threatens health or safety of any person.
- Stalking or sexual harassment.
- Possession or use of weapons, explosives, or destructive devices.
- Possession, manufacture, sale, or distribution of controlled substances.
- Possession, manufacture or distribution of alcoholic beverages, except as expressly permitted by the law, or public intoxication.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.
- Hate crimes.
- Hazing.
- Conduct which would constitute felony burglary, robbery, theft, destruction of property, etc.
- Disorderly conduct.
- Disturbance of the neighborhood.
- Misuse, alteration or forgery of any records, documents or identifications of the College.
- Misuse, alteration or forgery of any instruments of identification.
- Animal cruelty.

In determining whether or not to exercise off-campus jurisdiction in such cases, the Office of Student Affairs will consider the number of complaints, the seriousness of the alleged offense, whether drugs and/or alcohol are involved, the risk of harm involved, whether the victim(s) are members of the campus community or surrounding neighborhoods and/or whether the off-campus conduct is part of a series of actions which occurred both on and off campus.

Parental Notification Policy

Achieving autonomy and acceptance of one's personal responsibility are student development goals promoted throughout every facet of collegiate life. Such goals are promoted within the Family Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). In 1998, however, amendments to FERPA gave colleges and universities the option to notify parents or guardians of a student's violation of any federal, state, or local law, or an institutional disciplinary policy relating to the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance. The amendment clearly recognizes the cooperative partnership colleges have with parents and guardians that moves beyond enrollment to those times when intervention is a practical response to prevent the loss of a student's personal and collegiate goals.

In support of our mutual investment in the success of each student and the preservation of a climate conducive to living and learning, an official of the College will notify parents or guardians when a student is found to have violated Code of Conduct policies on the use or possession of alcohol or other drugs when he/she is under the age of 21 and one or more of the following occurs:

1. When a student has been found to have violated the alcohol or drug policy.
2. When there is significant property damage.
3. When we become aware that medical attention to any person, including the student, is required as a result of the student's alcohol or drug-related behavior.
4. When we become aware that the student demonstrates reckless disregard for his or her personal safety or the safety of others.
5. When there is evidence that the student's alcohol or drug-related behavior negatively impacts the learning environment

Alcohol Policies

Residence Life and Housing

Approximately 85 percent of our residence hall population is not of legal age to purchase or drink alcoholic beverages. Further, abuse of College of Charleston property is usually directly related to excessive use of alcohol. Accordingly, the following restrictions apply: a limited amount of beer and wine are allowed in only “upper-class” residence halls and houses. There will be no alcoholic beverages allowed in Berry, Buist, College Lodge, Craig, Liberty Street, McAlister, and McConnell Halls. Where allowed, beer and wine must be in the private possession and control of the owner. All persons consuming alcohol must be of legal drinking age and are responsible for their behavior and actions. NO KEGS are allowed in the residence hall system at any time.

Residential students are strongly encouraged to know the pertinent rules and procedures as listed in *Residence Living Handbook*.

Alcohol-Related Violation Responses within the Residence Halls, On Campus or Off Campus

First Violation (Adjudication by Dean/Honor Board/Panel/Residence Life) Sanctions may include but are not limited to:

- Be placed on residence life probation for a minimum of one semester (If a residential student and incident occurs within residential system).
- Have a parental/guardian notification letter sent concerning the violation.
- Participate in an alcohol risk reduction program at Counseling and Substance Abuse Services.
- Failure to complete first offense sanctions may trip second violation sanctions.

Second Violation (Adjudication by Dean/Honor Board/Panel) Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Be removed from residence life housing with full payment of the contract due (If a residential student and incident occurs within residential system).
- Be placed on disciplinary suspension from the College for a minimum of one semester.
- Have re-admission to the College dependent on successful completion of a pre-approved substance abuse counseling program.
- Have a parental/guardian notification letter sent concerning the violation.

Noise and Public Disturbance Violation Responses for Off-Campus Incidences

First Violation

- Receive a warning or probationary period from a Student Affairs official.
- Failure to complete first offense sanctions may trip second violation sanctions.

Second Violation (Adjudication by Dean/Honor Board/Panel) Sanction could include, but not limited to:

- Be placed on deferred suspension for one year.
- Have a parental/guardian notification letter sent concerning the violation.
- Denial of on campus housing and other privileges.
- Attend a pre-approved comprehensive substance abuse assessment.
- Failure to complete second offense sanction may trip third violation sanctions.

Third Violation (Adjudication by Dean/Honor Board/Panel) Sanction could include, but not limited to:

- Be placed on disciplinary suspension from the College for a minimum of one semester.
- Have re-admission to the College dependent on successful completion of a pre-approved substance abuse counseling program.
- Have a parental/guardian notification letter sent concerning the violation.

South Carolina Scholarships – Hope, Life, Palmetto – and Violations of State Alcohol and Drug Laws

Students who have been adjudicated delinquent or have been convicted or pled guilty or nolo contendere more than once to any South Carolina alcohol or other drug-related misdemeanor offense are ineligible for the scholarship for one academic year after the adjudication, conviction, or plea occurred. The student will lose eligibility the next academic year immediately following conviction and will lose the scholarship for the fall and spring terms.

Group (student organization and office-sponsored) Events

Our policies are designed to ensure that group functions are conducted in compliance with South Carolina state alcoholic beverage laws and College of Charleston regulations. The policies are also intended to discourage irresponsible use of alcoholic beverages and emphasize responsible drinking behavior, thereby minimizing the liabilities of the College of Charleston and of the sponsoring group. The complete policy pertaining to student organization and office-sponsored events can also be found in The Compass.

Off-Campus Events with Alcohol

Any registered/sanctioned student organization and offices working with student organizations sponsoring an off-campus event with alcohol must adhere to the following:

- At least one organization representative must attend a session on responsible hosting at the Student Leadership Summit.

- At least one event manager must be identified. Event manager must remain sober while carrying out their duties during the event.
- The event must be registered with the Director of Student Life at least two weeks in advance. The Director of Student Life is located on the Third Floor, SSC, Room 310. The signature of the organization's advisor will also be required.
- Greek lettered organizations must register their events with the Associate Director for Greek Affairs.
- A method of identifying participants under the age of 21 must be in place during the event.
- The event must be a BYOB or at a location with an approved liquor license and the amount of alcohol each participant may bring must be limited if BYOB. The limitation is one six-pack of beer or one liter of wine per participant.
- Arrangements for the presence of a security officer(s) (Public Safety, City of Charleston, or a private security company) must be made at least two weeks in advance. Security officers must be present at all times. The organization is responsible for all related costs.
- No personnel, including security is to be paid in cash for working the event. Policies have been established for payment of all personnel. See the Coordinator for Business Services to arrange for payment.

On-Campus Events with Alcohol

This policy is for beer and wine only. No distilled spirits are permitted at any College of Charleston function sponsored by students on the College of Charleston campus. This policy is written for all recognized student organizations and offices working with organizations at the College of Charleston. When planning an event, make sure this policy is read in its entirety.

- **Under NO circumstances** are alcoholic beverages to be sold by the sponsoring organization. However, student organizations may contract with a third party vendor to serve and/or sell alcoholic beverages at approved functions and locations. The third party vendor will be restricted to the amount of alcohol to be purchased, the service method, the number of drinks per individual and the time frame of service. These determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- No organization-sponsored event that includes alcohol shall exceed four hours.
- Functions for which admission is charged, tickets are sold, or donations are requested may have alcoholic beverages present on a BYOB basis only (six pack cans of plastic containers limit per person/per event or one plastic liter bottle wine cooler).
- Responsibility for the proper conduct of all individuals attending functions rests primarily with

the organization sponsoring the event.

- Campus areas designated for consuming alcoholic beverages at a student-sponsored event are: 58 George St (Sottile Garden) Cistern, Stern Center Garden, Ballroom and P Parking Lot located behind fraternity housing off Wentworth St.
- All SSC functions must be scheduled by the Assistant Director for Center Services two weeks in advance and comply with all provisions of this policy. Reservation forms are available at <http://studentlife.cofc.edu>.
- All SSC functions must be scheduled by the Assistant Director for Center Services and must be approved by the Director of Student Life and/or Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. The approval form may be found at www.studentlife.cofc.edu.
- Non-alcoholic beverages and unsalted food for fifty (50%) percent of anticipated guest attendance must be available at every function. Sponsorship of any social event involving alcohol use or service by the sponsoring organization is contingent upon the organization's training in social planning or risk management. An organization may not have social functions involving alcohol unless some members have attended training by the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention Services.
- The sponsoring organization will not be allowed to profit from alcohol sales.

The following guidelines and procedures shall be in effect and followed at all functions where alcoholic beverages will be consumed on the College of Charleston campus.

Attendance

- Every member, including alumni in good standing of the sponsoring organization, will be permitted to attend that sponsor's event. The number of participants allowed access to a function will be controlled by pre-established limits for the specific facility or locale.

Guest Procedures

- Those attendees (age 21 and over) consuming alcohol must have their College I.D. and driver's license checked to confirm their age; must have their coolers, etc., inspected as the one six pack per person or one liter bottle wine limit is in effect; and must have their hands stamped or marked or wristband applied designating that they are 21 or older.
- No shuttling shall be permitted. Each person may bring one six-pack or one liter bottle of wine

into the site one time. Individuals shall not be permitted to leave and return to the function site with additional alcohol.

- No intoxicated person(s) will be admitted to the function.

Advertising

Advertising of college or organization-sponsored events where alcoholic beverages will be consumed must be consistent with the educational philosophy of the College of Charleston and follow these conditions:

- Advertisement for any event where alcoholic beverages are being served must note the availability of non-alcoholic beverages and food as prominently as the alcoholic beverages.
- The message conveyed in the event promotion must not encourage the use of alcohol.
- Publicity must not convey that consumption of alcohol is the purpose or reason for the event.
- Promotion must not refer to the amount/quantity (five-keg party, etc.).
- Advertisements for events must not portray drinking as a solution to personal or academic problems or as necessary for social, sexual, or academic success.
- Alcoholic beverages must not be provided as awards, door prizes, or giveaways to individuals or campus organizations.

Violations

- Any person who is a member of the College of Charleston community violating any procedures shall be subject to accountability under the alcohol policy penalty provisions found below. Non-College of Charleston guests violating these procedures shall be removed from the premises and arrested. They will also be prosecuted as deemed necessary by the Public Safety officials.
- Any student organization violating these procedures shall be subject to accountability under the alcohol penalty policy found below.
- No under-aged student should be wearing a wristband or hand stamp or be provided alcoholic beverages. Any failure to comply with this will be considered a violation of the alcohol policy, Honor code, and state law.

Sanctions

Organization sponsored activities (including sororities and fraternities) and/or drug-related violations

or party registration violations on or off-campus will be subject to the following violation responses.

Violation Responses for Student Organization Sponsored Events with Alcohol

The first person detected being in violation of campus, local alcohol or drug ordinances will be ticketed and removed from the event. The second person in violation will be ticketed, removed from the event and cause the event to be shut down.

First Violation Sanctions may include but are not limited to:

- Group is on social/event suspension for minimum of one month. The exact time period is to be determined by the Director of Student Life.
- Executive Board and risk manager must schedule and attend a meeting with Campus Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator to develop a risk reduction plan.
- Social/event suspension remains in place until meeting and plan are completed.

Failure to comply with sanctions on the first offense may result in sanctioning as imposed under a second violation.

Second Violation Sanctions may include but are not limited to:

- Loss of campus privileges including access to the organization account for a minimum of three months, excluding summer months.
- Entire organization must attend a 6-hour alcohol risk reduction seminar (deadline to be set by the disciplinary administrator).
- Must pay a \$500.00 fine to the Office of Student Life or plan an alcohol-free social event for the entire student body on a weekend.
- Letter of notification to be sent to the national organization, sponsoring agency or academic department.

Failure to comply with sanctions on the second offense may result in sanctioning as imposed under a third violation.

Third Violation

The sanction for a third violation is suspension of recognition by the College for a time period consistent with the level of infraction up to a permanent suspension from the College of Charleston

campus. This will be determined by the Director of Student Life in conjunction with the Dean of Students.

Drug Policy

The College of Charleston is concerned with both the welfare of the College community and the academic and personal development of each student. The College strives to create a healthy environment where the illegal and/or improper use of drugs does not interfere with learning, performance, or development. Abuse of drugs disrupts this environment and places at risk the lives and well-being of the members of the College community, as well as the potential for students to contribute to society. It is important for all members of the college community to take responsibility for preventing the illegal and/or improper use of drugs from negatively affecting the community's learning environment and the academic, physical, and emotional well-being of its students. Since there are numerous means by which the use of drugs may adversely affect both students and the College community, it is important that the College issue to all students a clear statement of policy concerning the illegal and/or improper use of drugs.

This policy is intended to accomplish the following:

- To promote a healthy and safe learning environment.
- To demonstrate the commitment of the College to the provision of:
 1. Education and prevention services designed to help prevent illegal and/or improper use of drugs.
 2. Early intervention and referral services related to the illegal and/or improper use of drugs.
- To encourage and facilitate the use of treatment and support services by those students who seek or are in need of assistance.
- To define expectations for student behavior with respect to the illegal and/or improper use of drugs.
- To identify appropriate disciplinary procedures for those students who engage in illegal and/or improper drug-related behaviors.

Education, Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment

The College's first obligation in dealing with drug problems is to educate the College community. This obligation is addressed by a variety of prevention and education programs which are offered, including formal and informal classes, lectures, discussions, and activities that address both

drug-abuse prevention and drug-related problems. Students are encouraged to participate in the numerous campus organizations and activities which promote drug-free experiences. A list of student organizations is available in the Stern Student Center. Current information about the risks and statistics related to drug use are available to students. Educational efforts also address personal intervention skills to help members of the College community to better respond to students demonstrating problems related to the use of drugs. As drug abuse is a societal issue, the College will also conduct research and offer expertise in this area as a public service.

A second responsibility of the College is to promote an atmosphere where students who have a problem with drug use will have the opportunity to seek help. Each student seeking assistance will be provided an opportunity for an individual diagnostic assessment and will be offered information on, or referral to appropriate services which address the improper use of drugs, including the misuse of prescription or over-the-counter drugs. Available services may include educational activities, structured groups, counseling, and self-help groups. Some of these services are offered on campus at no cost to the student. The cost of off-campus services is the responsibility of the student.

Students may receive assessment, counseling, and educational services from the Office of Substance Abuse Services, 953-5640, or from off-campus treatment providers.

This policy is not intended to create obligations or restrictions which may interfere with the confidential nature of counseling, clinical, or therapeutic relationships. Confidentiality will be maintained in accordance with state and federal laws.

Violations that occur within our residential system are not only violations of our community standards for students residing in housing but also of our campus community standards and values.

Violations

This policy prohibits, on or off campus:

- The unlawful use, manufacture, intent to distribute, distribution, dispensation, possession, and/or attempted purchase of illegal drugs or controlled substances, including prescription medication distribution and/or use of non-anabolic steroids.
- The possession or sale of drug paraphernalia (such as roach clips, bongs, water pipes, cocaine spoons).
- The distribution or delivery of an imitation (“look alike”) non-controlled substance represented as a controlled substance by college students as set forth in the South Carolina Code of Laws. (See Appendix D.)

The term “controlled substances” when used in this policy shall refer to those drugs and substances whose possession, sale, or delivery results in criminal sanctions under South Carolina law.

As citizens, students have responsibility for knowing of and complying with the provisions of state law referenced above. Any student who violates any of these laws is subject to prosecution and punishment by the civil authorities as well as to disciplinary procedures conducted by the College which may precede criminal or civil proceedings. It is not “double jeopardy” for both the civil authorities and the College to proceed to sanction a person for the same specified conduct.

Sanctions

The College considers any violation of the drug policy to be a serious offense. The College will respond to all reported violations of this policy in accordance with the disciplinary procedures published in the Student Handbook. Residential students will be referred to the Dean of Students for adjudication.

The sanctions imposed by the College for students found responsible for a drug-related violation follow:

Intent to distribute, Distributing, or Trafficking illegal drugs --

Prior to hearing -- Because the distribution of illegal drugs or controlled substances is a threat and danger to both the health and safety of the community, when there is reason to believe, based on available facts, that the student represents an immediate threat to the safety, health, or welfare of herself/himself, other persons, or property, the College may immediately suspend alleged offenders prior to a hearing, in accordance with policies as published in the Student Handbook.

Following the hearing -- Students found responsible for the illegal intent to distribute drugs or controlled substances will

- Be placed on disciplinary suspension for one year in accordance with disciplinary procedures as published in the Student Handbook.
- Be removed from residence life housing with full payment of the contract due.
- Have re-admission to the College dependent on successful completion of a pre-approved substance abuse counseling program.

Following the hearing -- Students found responsible for the illegal distribution of drugs or controlled substances will:

- Be expelled in accordance with disciplinary procedures as published in the Student Handbook.

Possession or use of illegal drugs --Students found responsible for the use or possession of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or the distribution of prescription medications will:

- Be removed from residence life housing with full payment of the contract due.
- Be placed on disciplinary suspension from the College for a minimum of one semester.
- Have re-admission to the College dependent on successful completion of a pre-approved substance abuse counseling program.

Possession or sale of drug paraphernalia -- For students found in violation of the drug paraphernalia section of this policy, the College's response will

- Be determined on a case-by- case basis in accordance with disciplinary procedures as published in the Student Handbook or Residence Living Handbook.

Eligibility For Financial Aid

Students found in violation of the alcohol and drug laws jeopardize their ability to receive federal financial aid, College of Charleston scholarships and South Carolina Scholarships for which they might otherwise be eligible.

Drug-Free Workplace Policy

The Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of illegal drugs in the workplace and provides for sanctions against faculty, staff, and the student employees, permanent or temporary, who violate this policy. Pursuant to federal law, the policy also requires grant or contract employees to notify the employer of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five days after the conviction. Any student employee who violates the drug-free workplace policy is subject to prosecution and punishment by civil authorities, as well as to disciplinary procedures by the College and may also be terminated from his or her position of employment by the supervising department.

Procedures for the Reporting of Honor Code, Student Code of Conduct, Alcohol Policy, and Drug Policy Violations

THE PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN THIS HANDBOOK ARE INTENDED TO AID THE HONOR BOARD AND THE DEAN OF STUDENTS IN THEIR EFFORT TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS OF MATTER AND TO REACH A JUST DECISION. CIRCUMSTANCES CAN DIFFER GREATLY BETWEEN CASES, AND THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD AND THE DEAN OF STUDENTS MAY NEED TO MODIFY THE PROCEDURES IN A PARTICULAR CASE IN ORDER TO REACH A TIMELY AND JUST DECISION.

Reporting Alleged Violation(s)

Any member of the college community with knowledge that a student, student group or student organization has violated the Honor Code, the Student Code of Conduct, the Alcohol Policy, or the Drug Policy should report the violation(s) as soon as reasonably possible to the office of the Dean of Students. The report should be in writing and should contain:

- The name of the student, student group, or student organization suspected of the violation(s).
- All details of the suspected violation(s), including the date, which are known to the person reporting it.
- The names of potential witnesses to the suspected violation.

Any person not a member of the College community may also report suspected violations of the codes and should follow these same procedures as set out above.

Student groups and student organizations may only be charged when the violation(s) arises out of or in connection with an organized group event.

The alleged violation(s) must have taken place or have been detected within one month previous to the report, unless there is evidence of concealment, the act or acts in question were later determined to be part of a pattern of harassment, or there is evidence of extenuating circumstances which have caused a delay in reporting, in which case(s) this period of limitation will not apply.

Role of the Student Affairs Office

An authorized official* in the Student Affairs Office will discuss the suspected violation(s) with the person reporting it, with other persons having pertinent knowledge, with other College officials, and with the College's legal counsel when the authorized official deems it necessary in order to determine

whether or not there is a reasonable basis for the allegation(s).

If, after proper consultation, the Student Affairs Office determines that there is not a reasonable basis for the allegation(s), it will inform the person who reported the suspected violation of that fact and take no further action. If, after proper consultation, the student affairs office determines that there is a reasonable basis for the allegation, it will notify the accused individual(s) of the allegation(s).

This notification shall contain the following:

- The specific violation(s) of the Honor Code, the Student Code of Conduct, Alcohol Policy, Drug Policy with which the individual(s) is being charged.
- Notification that the accused must make an appointment within forty-eight (48) hours and present him/herself to the Office of Student Affairs to review the allegation(s) and case file.

Failure to comply with the procedures as set forth in “Reading of the allegations” will result in said procedures being carried forth in the absence of the accused.

*Such an official is usually the Dean of Students, Associate Dean of Students, or their designee.

Academic dishonesty: When the allegation is some form of academic dishonesty, the instructor of the course in which the violation is alleged to have occurred will be listed as the accuser and a witness in the notice, in that it is anticipated that the expertise and judgment of that instructor will be relevant and important to the consideration of the case. If the allegation is plagiarism and materials available to the Dean of Students make the allegation self-proving, the person reporting the violation, upon request, may remain anonymous and not be listed as a witness in the notice. This exception usually will not apply when the person reporting the violation is the faculty member for the course involved, for, again, the expertise and judgment of the instructor may well be necessary to a consideration of the case.

In the case of alleged academic dishonesty, the student’s grade in the assignment and/or course will be carried as an “incomplete” until the charges are resolved. After the delivery of the decision of the board/panel (for Class 1 and Class 2 violations, see Appendix A), the instructor will assign a grade based on the decision reached by the honor board / panel / official. In cases of found academic dishonesty, the instructor of the course will also receive a copy of the letter.

Interim Suspension: Whenever there is evidence that the continued presence of the student on the campus poses a substantial threat to him/herself or to others or the stability and continuance of

normal college functions, the student affairs office may suspend the accused student for an interim period pending disciplinary proceedings or medical evaluation, such interim suspension to become immediately effective without prior notice. During the interim suspension, a student shall be denied access to residence halls and or campus (including classes) and / or all other College activities or privileges for which the student might otherwise be eligible, as the Dean of Students or his/her designee may determine to be appropriate. A student suspended on an interim basis will be given an opportunity to appear personally before the Dean of Students or other appropriate official within five (5) working days from the effective date of the interim suspension for a hearing only on the following issues:

- The reliability of the information concerning the student's conduct.
- Whether the conduct and surrounding circumstances reasonably indicate that the continued presence of the student on the campus poses a substantial threat to him/herself or to others or to the stability and continuance of normal college functions.

Statement Rights of the Accused

Each case of an alleged Honor Code, Student Code of Conduct, Alcohol Policy, or Drug Policy violation will be dealt with in a manner which scrupulously protects the rights of the accused. Just as the College of Charleston Honor System demands that students maintain high standards of integrity, it also demands that students receive fair and impartial treatment in every situation. Any College of Charleston student accused of violating the Honor Code, Student Code of Conduct, Alcohol Policy, or Drug Policy has the following rights:

- The right to have all proceedings and information relating to a pending or disposed of allegation kept private to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the Freedom of Information Act.
- The right to full consultation. The accused may seek advice concerning the case from whomever s/he wishes, including attorneys and faculty or student honor advisors. However, if a hearing is held, the accused must personally present his/her own case.
- The right to choose his/her honor advisor.
- The right to have at least five (5) working days from the notice of the hearing to prepare his/her case, unless such notice is waived.
- The right to be present during the entire hearing before the honor board / panel / official, except for deliberations.

- The right to confront and cross-examine all witnesses giving evidence about the allegation unless the evidence has been allowed in affidavit form for good cause shown as determined by the Dean of Students and the college counsel.
- The right to challenge honor board/panel members on the panel on the ground of personal bias.
- The right to examine all physical or documentary evidence in the case file maintained in the Student Affairs Office and to present evidence on his/her own behalf.
- The right to request witnesses who are reasonably available to appear on his/her own behalf.
- The right to remain silent without adverse inference.
- The right to the presumption of not having violated the code, to have the burden of proof borne by the College or the accuser, and to have violation(s) proven by a preponderance of the evidence.
- The right to make either a written or oral statement.
- The right to review the recording of the hearing in the Student Affairs Office if there is an appeal. The recording shall be the property of the College.
- The right to a written decision of the board / panel / official from the Student Affairs Office within forty-eight (48) hours of the decision.
- The right to have the procedures for the reporting and disposition of Honor Code, Student Code of Conduct, Alcohol Policy, and Drug Policy violations followed by all parties.
- The right to waive the aforementioned rights.

Honor Board Composition and Duties

- Eight faculty members, five staff members, and at least twenty students constitute the Honor Board pool.

Honor Boards assigned to hear alleged violations or to design sanctions under the Honor Code and the Code of Conduct shall consist of one faculty member, one staff member, and three students. Disciplinary Panels assigned to hear alleged violations or to design sanctions shall consist of one faculty member and two students. The student membership of the Honor Board should be representative of the student body of the College in terms of sex, race, age, major area of study, and year in school. Student membership is voluntary and there are no term limits. The Honor Board, with assistance of the SGA and Student Affairs Office, annually selects new members to replace graduating members and members dismissed for insufficient grade point average and to maintain the representative nature of the board. The Student Affairs Office recruits and selects the five staff members. The Faculty Senate nominates and selects the five faculty members. • Any member who is involved in any way with a hearing before the board will be disqualified and replaced by an appropriate alternate. Any student who has been called before an Honor Board or Disciplinary Panel may challenge the impartiality of any member.

Honor Board Duties

- To enforce and promote the Honor System, in conjunction with Student Affairs Office of the College of Charleston.
- To review periodically the Honor Code and Code of Conduct and make recommendations to the administration.
- To hear cases involving alleged violations of the Honor Code and/or the Code of Conduct.
- To recommend sanctions in cases involving violations of the Honor Code and/or the Code of Conduct.
- To call an Appellate Board when instructed by the Dean of Students. An Appellate Board consists of two staff/faculty members and one student drawn at random from the Honor Board pool. Neither the faculty or staff members nor the student may have sat on the original hearing that is being appealed.

- To provide student members for grievance hearing panels.
- To hear student government election appeals, impeachment of officers of student organizations, and the requests for judicial review of the actions of the student government (students only).
- To provide student representatives to the student government (undergraduate) election commission.

Procedures for the Disposition of Honor Code, Student Code of Conduct, Alcohol Policy, and Drug Policy Violations

Reading of the Allegation(s)

The accused shall be given notice to make appointment within forty-eight (48) hours to appear in Student Affairs. The accused will be presented with a procedures packet setting forth the steps required to fully instruct him/her on the preservation of his/her rights. The packet shall include:

- Web address or copy of the Honor Code, Student Code of Conduct, the Alcohol Policy, and/or the Drug Policy.
- A statement of the allegation(s) and the accuser.
- A listing of witnesses.
- A procedural flow chart.
- A listing of student/faculty honor advisors.
- A form for response to the allegation(s).
- A waiver form.

Following the reading of the allegation(s), the student has seventy-two (72) hours after receipt of the forms provided to advise the Student Affairs Office of the following:

- If his/her response is an admission of violating the Code of Conduct, whether the accused desires a sanction imposed by a disciplinary panel or by an honor board.
- If his/her response is an admission of violating the Honor Code, whether the accused desires a sanction imposed by a disciplinary panel or by an honor board.
- If his/her response is not an admission of violating a Code:

1. Who his/her counsel or advisor will be (see “response of no violation”).
2. Who his/her witnesses will be.
3. What documents or exhibits will be used.

At no time may any member of the Student Affairs Office advise or counsel the accused. The accused should direct all questions to his/her honor advisor or other counsel as set forth in “statement of rights of the accused.” Advisors or counsel may confer directly with the Student Affairs Office personnel for clarification of procedural questions.

The Disciplinary Panel - Admission of a Violation

The disciplinary panel shall be composed of two (2) students and one (1) faculty member of the honor board.

No evidence as to the issue of a violation or non-violation shall be considered.

The accused shall be permitted to present evidence or testimony solely on the issue of mitigation. Such evidence may, by way of illustration, consist of character witnesses or medical testimony.

A “victim’s impact statement” may be submitted by the accuser, orally or in writing, outlining the impact of the accused’s behavior on the accuser’s personal life and/or educational goals.

Decisions of the disciplinary panel shall be communicated to the Student Affairs Office for review and action.

Should the accused elect to appear before the disciplinary panel, s/he may waive five (5) working days’ notice and be heard as soon as a panel may be convened. Should the accused not waive the requirement, a disciplinary panel will convene no sooner than five (5) days after the accused admits to having violated a code and elects to proceed before the disciplinary panel.

The Honor Board - Admission of a Violation

The Honor Board which hears the case shall be composed of three (3) students, one (1) faculty member, and one (1) staff member selected from honor board members.

No evidence as to the issue of a violation or non-violation shall be considered.

The accused shall be permitted to present evidence or testimony solely on the issue of mitigation. Such evidence may, by way of illustration, consist of character witnesses or medical testimony.

A "victim's impact statement" may be submitted by the accuser, orally or in writing, outlining the impact of the accused's behavior on the accuser's personal life and/or educational goals. Decisions of the honor board shall be communicated to the Student Affairs Office for review and action by an appropriate official. Should the accused elect to appear before the honor board, s/he may waive the five (5) working days' notice and be heard as soon as a board may be convened.

Should the accused not waive the requirement, an honor board will convene no sooner than five (5) working days after the accused admits to having violated a code.

The Honor Board - Response of No Violation

The accused shall be given written notification of the date, time, and place of the hearing scheduled before the honor board. Documentation of notification will be placed on file. The allegation(s) and/or name(s) of witness(es) may be different from those in the original notice as a result of additional information being made available to the Student Affairs Office through further investigation. Notice shall be given at least five (5) working days in advance of the hearing before the honor board. Accused students who fail to appear for the hearing after proper notice will have their case considered by the honor board in their absence, based on evidence and testimony available.

The Student Affairs Office will provide a list of all witnesses to the allegation(s) to the presiding officer prior to the hearing. The Student Affairs Office may subpoena witnesses when there is a reasonable basis to believe that a witness has knowledge pertinent to the issues. Subpoenas will only be used when a witness has been asked to attend and states that s/he is unwilling to appear voluntarily.

The case file, containing statement(s) of the witness(es) and all other pertinent information, will be available for review in the Student Affairs Office prior to the hearing. All members of the board shall read the case file prior to the hearing.

Both the accused and the accuser may be accompanied at the hearing by an honor advisor, another non-attorney advisor, or an attorney. An accused who wishes to be represented by an attorney must inform the Student Affairs Office in writing at least two (2) working days before the scheduled date of the hearing. If the accused chooses to have an attorney present to advise him/her, the College's legal counsel may be present to advise the honor board. When honor advisors or attorneys appear, their participation is advisory only; they shall not ask questions or participate in the hearing itself. No honor advisors or attorneys shall be present during deliberation.

Hearings will be closed to the public, unless the accused requests that others attend or that the hearing be open to the public. The granting or denying of this request shall be subject to a majority

vote of the honor board presiding over the case.

If the accused or the accuser has any special needs with regard to the hearing set-up, the request for accommodation must be relayed to the Office of Student Affairs at least two (2) working days prior to the actual hearing. The Office of Student Affairs may, after reviewing a request, ask an Honor Board to accommodate concerns for the personal safety, well-being, and/or fears of confrontation of the complainant, accused, and/or other witnesses during the hearing by providing separate facilities, by using a visual screen, and/or by permitting participation by telephone, videophone, audio tape, written statement, or other means.

The chairman of the honor board will be the presiding officer. In his/her absence, the Office of Student Affairs will designate another member of the panel to serve in this capacity. Normally, the board will consist of three (3) student members of the honor board, one (1) faculty member and one (1) college staff member.

After reviewing his/her case file (available in the Student Affairs Office), which lists the panel members called to hear the case, the accused may challenge the empanelling of a particular honor board member on the basis of personal bias. The challenge must be made in writing to the Office of Student Affairs at least two (2) working days prior to the actual hearing.

The presiding officer will begin the hearing by stating the allegation(s) and asking the accused if he/she wishes to change his/her response to the allegation. If the response is an admission of a violation, the presiding officer will follow the procedures set forth in "The Honor Board – Admission of a Violation." If the response is no violation, the presiding officer will proceed to call the witness(es) to the allegation(s) in an order which seems logical to him/her from the witness list and the witness statements and information in the case file.

Witness(es) and the accused shall testify under oath or affirmation administered by the presiding officer.

Prospective witnesses will testify one at a time and may be excluded from the hearing during the testimony of other witnesses. Witnesses to the allegation(s) shall testify first; then the accused may call witnesses and/or testify him/herself. Both the accused and the accuser shall have the right to be present during the testimony of all witnesses, to question all witnesses, and to argue his/her case to the honor board.

The burden of proof is upon the complainant or the College as accuser, and proof of a violation of the code by the accused must be by a preponderance of the evidence. (This standard is not as stringent as proof beyond a reasonable doubt, which is required for criminal convictions.) Formal rules of

evidence shall not be applicable during the hearing. The presiding officer shall admit all matters into evidence, including hearsay, if relevant, which reasonable persons would accept as having probative value in the conduct of their affairs. Unduly repetitious or irrelevant evidence may be excluded. Affidavits may be admitted into evidence at the discretion of the presiding officer if there is good cause why the witness cannot appear in person. Generally, no affidavit shall be admitted into evidence unless it is signed by the affiant, notarized, and states the reason why the affiant cannot appear in person to testify. Honor Board members may take judicial notice of matters which would be within the general experience of college students at the College of Charleston.

If, at any time, the presiding officer finds it proper and necessary to recess the hearing or to continue it to a new time, she/he may do so.

A finding of "in violation" requires a majority vote of the honor board. The board chairman votes only in the case of a tie.

After a finding of "in violation" has been rendered by the honor board, the chairman can inform the accuser that a "victim's impact statement" may be submitted by the accuser, orally or in writing, outlining the impact of the accused's behavior on the accuser's personal life and/or educational goals.

Records of prior disciplinary action(s) shall not be relevant to the determination of a violation of the code, but shall be provided to the honor board, disciplinary panel, or administrator only after a determination of a violation for the deliberations as to sanctions.

Status of a Student/Group Pending Final Resolution of a Disciplinary Case

Until a final resolution is determined, the status of a student/group will not change unless interim restrictions have been imposed to protect the health and safety of the student/group or the College community.

Violations Committed during Final exam periods, Maymester or Summer Sessions

These procedures shall be in effect during final exam periods, Maymester and summer sessions. Efforts will be made to consolidate several hearings at one time so as not to inordinately interfere with the exam and summer schedules of the honor board members and the parties involved. Therefore, the period of time between the violation(s) and the hearing may be slightly longer than during the regular school year. Further, during these periods the student may choose for an administrator in the Student Affairs Office or their designee to hear a response of no violation or to determine a sanction for an admission to a violation.

Sanctions and Record Keeping

One or more of the following sanctions may be imposed for violations of the honor system or other regulations:

1. Disciplinary warning – a written letter sent to the student from the Student Affairs Office or faculty member, stating that the student has been found to have violated a particular item of a code, that such conduct is unacceptable and that further misconduct will result in more severe disciplinary action.
2. Restriction – certain student privileges may be suspended for a set period of time, providing that suspension of these privileges does not interfere with the student's ability to complete his/her academic work at the College.
3. Fines—previously established and published fines may be imposed.
4. Restitution – compensation for loss, damage or injury. This may take the form of appropriate service and/or monetary or material replacement.
5. Disciplinary probation – a student on probation is not considered in good standing within the College, and his/her continued enrollment is conditioned upon good conduct for the probationary period. The period of time over which the probation extends shall be set forth in the letter to the student as well as the probability of more severe disciplinary sanctions if the student is found to violate any regulation during the probationary period. This sanction may limit student participation in other College activities or programs as determined by individual College units.
6. Residence Probation - this sanction informs students that the standards necessary for community living have been seriously violated and that future violations of College policy may result in residence suspension, suspension, or expulsion from the College.
7. Residence Suspension - this sanction requires the student to terminate occupancy of on-campus residence for a specified period of time, and is automatically accompanied by the assignment of a Persona Non Grata status from all residential environments of the College. Residence suspension status does not limit participation in non-residential programs. Conditions which must be met in order to be eligible to live on-campus at the end of the residence suspension period must be clearly outlined.
8. Residence Expulsion – permanent separation of the student from the residential system. This sanction is automatically accompanied by the assignment of a Persona Non Grata status from all

residential environments of the College and full payment of the housing contract if the removal is due to a code or regulation infraction.

9. Deferred suspension or expulsion— a student on deferred suspension or expulsion is not considered in good standing within the College, and the suspension or expulsion is held in abeyance as long as all other sanction conditions are completed and the student has no other proven code violations. The period of time over which the deferred suspension or expulsion extends shall be set forth in the letter to the student. This sanction may limit student participation in other College activities or programs as determined by individual College units.
10. Transcript notation describing the reason for a particular grade, period of separation or dismissal.
11. Disciplinary suspension - denial of enrollment, attendance, and other privileges at the College for a given period of time; permission to reapply for admission at the end of the period may be granted with or without qualifications.
12. Disciplinary Expulsion – permanent dismissal from the College.
13. Other –
 - disciplinary work hours may be assessed where the student will do work benefiting the College community;
 - withholding a transcript or degree otherwise earned until the completion of the process set forth in this Student Handbook, including the completion of all sanctions imposed, if any;
 - rehabilitative educational experiences may be ordered (drug or alcohol counseling, psychological assessment, defensive driving course, essays, class presentations, etc.)
14. The following sanctions may be imposed upon groups or organizations –
 - Those sanctions listed above, 1-8.
 - Loss of selected rights and privileges for a specified period of time.
 - Deactivation. Loss of all privileges, including College recognition, for a specified period of time.

More than one of the sanctions listed above may be imposed for any single violation.

Sanctions will be determined by a majority vote of the honor board or disciplinary panel except in

the case of expulsion, which requires a unanimous vote of the board or panel. All sanctions will be forwarded to the student affairs office for review and action. (See Appeals section.)

An appropriate letter informing the student of the sanctions imposed will be available to the student in the Office of Student Affairs within forty-eight (48) hours of the decision of the dean/honor board/panel. It is the responsibility of the student to pick up this letter.

In cases of academic dishonesty, the instructor of the course will also receive a copy of the letter. The sanction of disciplinary expulsion may become a matter of permanent record in the office of the registrar with approval of the Executive Vice President for Student Affairs and will accompany all official transcripts sent by the College.

The Office of Student Affairs will place a hold flag on the record of a student suspended for disciplinary reasons. Such hold flag will prohibit the enrollment of the named student for the appropriate length of time.

Records of residence hall expulsions and disciplinary suspensions will be maintained in the Office of Student Affairs for five (5) years after all appeal rights have expired or have been exhausted, unless federal law requires that they be maintained for a longer period for auditing purposes only. Files on pending cases and records of expulsions will be maintained indefinitely in the Office of Student Affairs.

Records of all other sanctions shall not be made part of the student's permanent academic record, but shall become part of the student's disciplinary record and will be maintained in the Student Affairs Office until the student graduates, and then destroyed, unless federal law requires that they be maintained for a longer period for auditing purposes only. Disciplinary files and records of cases that resulted in "not in violation" findings will be destroyed immediately after all appeal rights have expired or have been exhausted.

Recordings of all judicial hearings shall be kept until all appeal rights have expired or have been exhausted, and then destroyed. Recordings are the property of the College.

Appeals

The appellate board will consist of one student and two faculty / staff, neither of whom participated in the original disciplinary panel or the honor board hearing.

A decision reached or a sanction imposed, except for the cases* listed below, by an administrator, the honor board or disciplinary panel may be appealed by the accused student or complainant to the Dean of Students within five (5) working days of the decision. Such appeals shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the Dean of Students or his/her designee for review. Deviations from designated procedures will not be a basis for sustaining an appeal unless significant prejudice results. Except as required to explain the basis of new evidence, an appeal shall be limited to review of the verbatim record of the initial hearing and supporting documents for one or more of the following purposes:

- To determine whether the original hearing was conducted fairly in light of the charges and evidence presented, and in conformity with prescribed procedures giving the complaining party a reasonable opportunity to prepare and present evidence that the Honor Code, Student Code of Conduct, Alcohol Policy, or Drug Policy was violated, and giving the accused student a reasonable opportunity to prepare and to present a rebuttal of those allegations.
- To determine whether the decision reached regarding the accused student was based on a preponderance of evidence, that is if the evidence is sufficient to determine that the infraction is more likely to have occurred than not.
- To determine whether the sanction(s) imposed were appropriate for the violation of the Honor Code, Student Code of Conduct, Alcohol Policy, or Drug Policy which the student was found to have committed*.
- To consider new evidence, sufficient to alter a decision, or other relevant facts not brought out in the original hearing, because such evidence and/or facts were not known to the person appealing at the time of the original hearing.

The appellate board will reach a determination within ten (10) working days from the date of the appeal.

If an appeal is upheld by the appellate board, the matter may be remanded to the original honor board or a new honor board / panel / official for re-opening of the hearing to allow reconsideration of the original determination and/or sanction(s). In cases involving appeals by students accused of violating the Honor Code, Student Code of Conduct, Alcohol Policy, or Drug Policy, review of the sanction by the appellate board may not result in more severe sanction(s) for the accused student.

In cases involving appeals by persons other than students accused of violating the Honor Code, Student Code of Conduct, Alcohol Policy, or Drug Policy, the appellate board may, upon review of the case, reduce or increase the sanction(s) imposed by the honor board/panel or remand the case to the original or new honor board/panel.

***For drug-related violations and second alcohol violations: If student admits to the violation or is found in violation through a judicial process the minimum sanction is NOT subject to appeal on the grounds of the sanction being excessive or inappropriate. All sanctions above the minimum sanctions may be reviewed for their appropriateness.**

The final authority over all decisions made under the honor system rests with the Executive Vice President for Student Affairs. Only the accused student may appeal any decision made under this system to the Executive Vice President for Student Affairs for review on the issues of due process in the proceedings and/or the appropriateness of the sanction(s) imposed within ten (10) working days of the appellate board's decision. The Executive Vice President for Student Affairs shall consider such matters and make a determination, including the authority to revise any sanction(s) in the case of such appeals. The Executive Vice President for Student Affairs will reach a determination within ten (10) working days from the date of the appeal. At this stage in the appeals process, the Executive Vice President for Student Affairs' response time may be modified if circumstances dictate.

Information Technology Policies

Copyright

The College of Charleston's mission as an institution of higher learning is to support those who would study, teach, inform, write, and create. In pursuit of this mission, we acquire, preserve, and disseminate knowledge among the members of our academic community. This community of scholars embraces knowledge in all forms and respects the intellectual property of its creators. The College acknowledges its debt to other scholars and artists and its ethical responsibility in the use of copyrighted material. In doing so, the College of Charleston adheres to the United States Copyright Law (Public Law 94533) of 1976, as amended. The College urges all members of our community to be aware of this law and abide by it.

The entire U.S. Copyright Law is available from Cornell University Law School web site at <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/>. The "Fair Use" doctrine under the U.S. Copyright Law permits the use of copyrighted work including reproducing portions of that work, without the copyright holders' permission. Section 107 of the Copyright Act establishes four basic factors to be examined in determining fair use:

1. The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes.
2. The nature of the copyrighted work.
3. The amount and substantiality of the portion of the work used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.
4. The effect of the use in question upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Administrative and academic departments that deal with copyrighted materials (Addlestone Library, Copy Center, Information Technology, Bookstore, Center for the Documentary/Media Communications, Language Lab, etc.) have developed specific policies which communicate copyright law to their clients and permit fair use.

The College reserves the right to limit access to the college network and college-owned PCs when federal, state, or local laws are violated regarding copyright.

The College acknowledges that a rapidly evolving technological environment will have a significant impact on fair use and that permissible copying standards may change due to these technological changes.

Free Speech Access

A fundamental responsibility of the College of Charleston, as an institution of higher learning, is to serve as a dynamic marketplace of informed ideas for our constituencies as they exercise their freedom of expression. This goal of informed ideas is best accomplished by encouraging the active flow of information, by granting to these constituencies access to this information, and by promoting freedom of expression whenever possible. The privilege of access to information and the freedom of expression carry with them certain responsibilities. Behavior that constitutes an abuse of access to information and/or the freedom of expression remains subject to the constraints of federal, state, and local law, as well as to existing college rules and regulations.

The College reserves the right to limit, restrict, or extend computing privileges and access to electronic information resources. Access to the College's information resources may be granted by the College based upon its judgment regarding the following factors: relevant state and federal laws, contractual obligations, the requester's need to know, the sensitivity of the information, and the potential risk of loss or damage to the College. Because the primary mission of this institution is

teaching, research, and service, the College places its highest priority on those uses of the College's resources that are educational in nature. Likewise, because non-educational (e.g., recreational or commercial) uses have a potentially negative impact on the fundamental educational mission for which these resources are intended or may result in unwarranted costs to the institution, the College restricts the use of its resources for non-educational purposes.

Additionally, because the fundamental reason for providing the right of access to these resources is educational, the College's computing facilities may not be used for commercial purposes, without prior written approval. In most cases, because of the commercial (i.e., for profit) nature of the activities, the College will ordinarily require payment of appropriate fees should permission be granted.

In the case of outside users, the College's staff may allow individuals other than College of Charleston faculty, students, or staff access to information, so long as such access does not violate any license or contractual agreement, college policy, or any federal, state, or local law or ordinance. The College staff may also limit access to the public which incurs additional cost to the institution (e.g., excessive printing and searching priced-per-search databases).

Privacy

The College of Charleston embraces the concept of academic freedom and the value of the free exchange of ideas, whether expressed through electronic or non-electronic communications. Similarly, the College acknowledges the desirability of respecting the reasonable expectation of privacy that individuals have regarding their electronic communication and files. Nevertheless, the College also recognizes that in some instances maintaining the privacy of these communications is either not possible (e.g., third party hacking or disclosure pursuant to Freedom of Information Act requests) or is not appropriate (e.g., where there is a reasonable belief that there has been or continues to be a violation of college rules and regulations, local, state, or federal laws).

Accordingly, the College will make all reasonable efforts to respect the privacy of electronic communications by individuals, whenever possible and appropriate. The College, however, reserves the right to access electronic information where there is a reasonable belief by the appropriate college personnel that there has been or continues to be a violation of college rules and regulations, local, state, or federal laws. This access will be limited in scope and duration to the extent reasonably necessary to accomplish the legitimate purpose giving rise to this access. Any violations of this policy should be immediately reported to the system or network administrator or to the vice president for legal affairs.

The College reserves the right to limit access to its network when applicable college rules or regulations, local, state, or federal laws are violated. Likewise, the College reserves the right to remove or limit access to material posted on college-owned computers when applicable college

policies, rules or regulations, local, state, or federal laws are violated. The College, however, does not randomly monitor the content of material transmitted on its network or posted on college-owned computers.

College faculty, students, and staff should remember that the resources being used for these electronic communications are state resources and that, pursuant to South Carolina law, state resources may not be used for private purposes. College users should also be aware that electronic communications and files are accessible both on and off campus and that while the College will make reasonable efforts to assure the privacy of this electronic information from unwarranted access, the institution cannot guarantee against unauthorized third-party access.

Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment, Including Sexual Harassment and Abuse Policy

(See full policy and also the related policy “Reporting Responsibilities for Discrimination, Harassment, and Abuse” in Appendices B and C.)

The College is committed to the goal of providing an environment free of discrimination, harassment or abuse of any kind for students and employees. Sexual harassment and/or harassment of students or employees (whether faculty or members of the staff or administration) based on sex, gender, age, race, color, religion, national origin or disability are prohibited as defined by law and contradictory to the College’s policy and philosophy. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) also provides certain protected status rights arising from past or present membership or obligation to serve in the uniformed services under circumstances provided by the Act. As to students under age 18, abuse, as defined below and under state law, may or may not overlap with harassment; additional legal protections and requirements are provided under state law. Also inherent in the College’s belief in respect for the individual is the principle that each student and employee is due appropriate respect and freedom from harassment in any form; therefore, harassment as defined in this policy may or may not be based upon a legally protected status.

Sexual harassment can occur in a variety of contexts. In relationships of unequal power, it contains an element of coercion, as when compliance with requests for sexual favors becomes a criterion for granting work, study, or grading benefits. In relationships among equals, sexual harassment may have a harmful effect upon a colleague’s ability to study or work in the academic setting.

Definition of Sexual/Gender Harassment (Protected Status)

- Sexual/gender harassment is defined consistent with sexual harassment law to include

unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other visual, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, whether or not such conduct is legally actionable. Undesired physical contact, repeated, unwelcome requests for social engagements, and questions or comments about sexual behavior or preference are included in this definition.

- Additionally, sexual harassment is behavior directed at an employee (whether faculty, staff or administration) or student because of his or her sexual orientation or sex/gender when (i) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of academic or other college related benefits or employment; (ii) educational or other college related opportunities/academic benefits, job benefits or other decisions affecting an individual's employment or educational or other college related opportunities are explicitly or implicitly granted or withheld based on submission to, or rejection of, unwelcome requests or conduct, based on sex/gender; or (iii) the academic or other college related and/or work environment is hostile, in other words, oppressive and/or has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance or an employee's job performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive academic, work, or student living environment. Such harassment may also be based upon gender, despite lack of sexual advances.

Responsible Administrators

The director of human relations and minority affairs will be responsible for disseminating information to educate the College community about sexual harassment and will be available to provide information. Our legal counsel, associate provost or dean of students also may be consulted concerning this area.

Other Remedies

The procedures outlined herein provide only for an internal resolution of sexual harassment complaints. Sexual harassment also is a violation of state and federal law and, therefore, other remedies may be available.

Procedures for Resolution of Complaints Made by Students

Any student or employee who has experienced or witnessed protected status discrimination, harassment or abuse by a student or employee has a responsibility to report the situation immediately to one of the Designated Recipients listed in the "Reporting Responsibilities for Discrimination, Harassment, and Abuse" in Appendix B. In general respect for the dignity and worth of all individuals is essential to an appropriate college environment. Actions which come within the definition of sexual harassment provided herein will be grounds for disciplinary action even resulting in termination.

Consensual Relations Policy

“Sexual relations between students and faculty members with whom they also have an academic or evaluative relationship are fraught with the potential for exploitation. The respect and trust accorded a professor by a student, as well as the power exercised by the professor in an academic or evaluative role, make voluntary consent by the student suspect...In their relationships with students, members of the faculty are expected to be aware of their professional responsibilities are to avoid apparent or actual conflict of interest, favoritism, or bias. When a sexual relationship exists, effective steps should be taken to ensure unbiased evaluation or supervision of the student.” [AAUP Policy cited by AAUP Staff counsel in Sexual Harassment in the Academy: Some Suggestions for Faculty Policies and Procedures, October 2002.]

Similar concerns exist when sexual relations occur between students and staff members in supervisory, evaluative, or trust positions.

Accordingly, the College of Charleston adopts the following policy regarding consensual relationships between students and faculty or staff:

All sexual relationships between students and faculty/staff are strongly discouraged. Further, no faculty or staff member shall have an amorous relationship (consensual or otherwise) with a student who is enrolled in a course being taught by the faculty member or whose work is being supervised, evaluated, or otherwise impacted by the faculty or staff members.

Rights of Students Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“Buckley Amendment”)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, is a federal law which provides for the confidentiality of student educational records. The College of Charleston accords all of the rights under the law to its students. No one outside the institution has access to, nor does the institution disclose any information from, students’ educational records without the written consent of students, subject to the following exceptions:

- To personnel within the institution.
- To officials of other institutions in which students seek to enroll.
- To persons or organizations providing student financial aid.
- To accrediting agencies carrying out their accreditation function.
- To persons in compliance with a judicial order.

- To persons in an emergency in order to protect the health or safety of students or other persons.
- To certain local, state, and federal authorities for purposes specified in the act.

Within the College of Charleston community, only persons with legitimate educational interests are allowed access to the student's educational records. This includes, but is not limited to, personnel in the Office of the Registrar and academic and administrative personnel (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff) within the limitations of their need to know. Students serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks can qualify as persons with legitimate educational interests.

At its discretion, the College may release without written consent "directory information" which includes: student's name; campus and home address; campus and home telephone number; date and place of birth; major field of study; dates of attendance; degrees and awards received; the most recent previous educational institution attended by the student; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; and weight and height of members of athletic teams.

Students may withhold "directory information" by notifying the Office of the Registrar in writing of their desire that such information not be disclosed without their consent. (Please note that "non-published" Bell South numbers are not automatically non-published numbers at the College.) Requests for non-disclosure of "directory information" must be renewed yearly in the Office of the Registrar.

The law provides students with the right to inspect and review information contained in their educational records, to challenge the contents of their education records, to have a hearing if the outcome of the challenge is unsatisfactory, and to submit explanatory statements for inclusion in their files if the decision of the grievance panel is unacceptable. The registrar at the College of Charleston has been designated by the College to coordinate the inspection and review procedures for student education records. Students wishing to review their education records must make a written request to the Office of the Registrar, listing the item or items of interest. Only records covered by the act will be made available, and this will be done within 45 days of the request. At their own expense, students may have copies made of their records with certain exceptions, (e.g., a copy of the academic record for which a financial "hold" exists, or a transcript of an original or source document which exists elsewhere). Education records exclude records of instructional, administrative, or educational personnel which are the sole possession of the maker (those not routinely accessible or revealed to any other individual), public safety records, student health records, employment records, and alumni records.

Under the act, students may not inspect and review the following:

- Financial information submitted by their parents.
- Confidential letters and recommendations associated with admissions, career services, or honors to which they have waived their rights of inspection and review.
- Educational records containing information about more than one student, in which case the College will permit access only to that part of the record which pertains to the inquiring student.

Students who believe that their education records contain information that is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of their privacy or other rights, may discuss their complaint informally with the Office of the Registrar. If that office does not grant the student's requests for amendments to the record(s), the student will be notified of the denial within a reasonable period of time and informed by the Office of the Registrar of the right to pursue a formal grievance. If the student wishes to file a formal grievance, s/he should follow the "formal procedures" of this handbook. The grievance will be handled as an academic grievance against an administrator.

The grievance procedure may result in the education records of the student being corrected or amended in accordance with the decision. If the decision is unsatisfactory to the student, the student may place statements in the student's educational record(s) commenting on the information in the records, or statements setting forth any reasons for disagreeing with the decision of the grievance panel. The statements will be placed in the educational records, maintained as part of the student's records, and released whenever the records in question are disclosed. Students who believe that the adjudication of their challenges was unfair or not in keeping with the provisions of the act may request, in writing, assistance from the senior vice president for student affairs in filing a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

AIDS/HIV Policy: Division of Student Affairs

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is an international public health concern that affects all segments of society including college communities. Current medical information provided by the United States Centers for Disease Control confirms that the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is not transmitted by casual contact and poses no risk to students or employees in the campus setting. Accordingly, the College of Charleston is committed to and assures:

- Non-discriminatory programs and services to students that have or may have been exposed to the HIV as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- AIDS/HIV safety guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control and the Occupational

Safety and Health Administration will be followed and training in operating procedures of universal precautions will be required for relevant campus employees.

- Educational programs to create awareness about HIV infection, its modes of transmission and prevention and increased sensitivity to students with HIV infection will be provided.

Students with HIV infection who need reasonable accommodation under the provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) should contact the Center for Disability Services (843-953-1431) for information and assistance.

Students who believe they have been discriminated against based on HIV infection are protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act and should contact the ADA Coordinator in the Office of Human Relations (843-953-5580).

Administrative or medical decisions made with respect to an individual student with HIV infection or AIDS will be decided on a case-by-case basis by appropriate University personnel. Strict confidentiality will be maintained in each case as mandated by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

Health Services will monitor medical releases from the Centers for Disease Control, the United States Public Health Service, American College Health Association, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Based on current information distributed by official sources, appropriate Student Affairs departments will coordinate the implementation of guidelines and ensure revision to the college's policies and procedures as appropriate.

Adapted from the University of Arizona and the University of South Carolina policies on AIDS/HIV December 2004.

Rights of Students With Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990

The College of Charleston and the Graduate School actively and affirmatively seek to accommodate any currently enrolled student with a certified disability according to the regulations established by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Services for students with disabilities (physical, psychological, learning disabilities, ADD/ADHD) are provided through the Center for Disability Services located in the Lightsey Center, first floor, Rm. 104. The web address is www.cofc.edu/~cds. Telephone numbers are: (843) 953-1431 (voice) and (843) 953-8284

(TDD).

Based on these laws, the College of Charleston assures that all programs and services at the College of Charleston are accessible and reasonable academic accommodations that do not affect essential components of the course will be provided to all qualified students.

Students who believe that a violation of their rights has occurred may discuss their complaint informally with an administrator in the Center for Disability Services. If the issue is not resolved informally, or the student does not wish to pursue the issue on an informal basis, students served by the Center for Disability Services may file a formal grievance. (See "Student Grievance Procedure.")

Students who believe that the adjudication of their complaints was not fair may contact South Carolina Protection and Advocacy (SCP&A), 1569 Sam Rittenberg Blvd., Charleston, S.C. 29407, Voice: (843) 763-8571, Fax: (843) 571-0880. The student may also file a complaint directly with the Office of Civil Rights at the following address: Office for Civil Rights, DC Office, US Department of Education, P.O. Box 14620, Washington, D.C. 22004-4620, Voice: (202) 786-0500, Fax: (202) 208-7797.

English Fluency Policy

Under the provisions of the 1991 English Fluency in Higher Education Act, the South Carolina legislature has mandated that each public institution of higher learning establish a mechanism to "ensure that the instructional faculty whose second language is English possess adequate proficiency in both the written and spoken English language." Additionally, the act requires that the institutions "provide students with a grievance procedure regarding an instructor who is not able to write or speak the English language." A student/faculty ad hoc committee was formed and based upon its recommendation, the following policy is adopted:

One of the primary goals of the College of Charleston is to provide an environment that encourages students to develop an awareness of and a heightened sensitivity towards the individual's relationship with society within the context of a global perspective. One means to achieve this goal is to foster cultural and ethnic diversity within the academic community. College response has been positive in this regard as evidenced by a steady increase in the population of both international students and faculty in diverse disciplines.

The College also takes great pride in maintaining a faculty who are well prepared in their respective academic areas, and most importantly, demonstrate the ability to communicate this knowledge effectively to their students. In some instances problems can arise for instructors whose primary language is not American English. Effective interaction with students could be severely hampered

by insufficient control of English grammar and pronunciation. In most situations, when an instructor speaks with an accent and experiences some difficulty in grammatical usage, students will quickly adjust to the uniqueness of these speech patterns and communication is not affected. Occasionally, however, the most sincere efforts of a well-prepared and scholarly individual will fail because of his or her difficulties with some aspects of the English language.

In 1986, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) developed proficiency guidelines addressing performance in speaking and writing abilities in a second language. These guidelines identify stages of proficiency which are intended to allow assessment of what an individual can and cannot do with regard to a particular language skill. In order to ensure that effective communication is not hampered by insufficient control of the pronunciation and grammar of American English, it is recommended that a prospective candidate perform at an advanced level of speaking and writing proficiency.

The following description is provided to assist the faculty in assessing the competency level of English language usage of a candidate.

For speaking, an advanced level is characterized by the speaker's ability to:

- Converse in a clearly participatory fashion.
- Handle with confidence but perhaps not with facility complicated tasks and social situations, such as elaborating, complaining, and apologizing.
- Narrate and describe in the present and past tense with some details, linking sentences together smoothly in paragraph-length discourse.
- Communicate facts and talk casually about topics of current public and personal interest, using general vocabulary. Shortcomings often can be smoothed over by communicative strategies, such as pause fillers, stalling devices, and different rates of speech. Some groping for words may be evident, but paraphrasing and rephrasing because of vocabulary or syntactic limitation is usually quite successful.
- Pronunciation, though perhaps marked, should not impede comprehension of speech.
- An advanced-level speaker can be understood without difficulty by native speakers.

For writing, an advanced level is characterized by the writer's ability to:

- Write cohesive summaries and resumés, as well as narratives and descriptions of a factual

nature, although he or she may still make errors in punctuation, spelling, or the formation of nonalphabetic symbols.

- Demonstrate good control of word formation and the most frequently used grammatical structures, e.g. common word order patterns, conjunctions, and subordinate clauses, but may make frequent errors in producing complex sentences.
- Write with a sense of organization and style approaching English written discourse, but may still resemble literal translations from the native language. Writing is understandable to natives not used to the writing of non-natives.

NOTE: Those students who believe that a faculty member is unable to write or speak English pursuant to the guidelines set forth above may use the section on student grievance procedures found in the College of Charleston Student Handbook to resolve this matter.

The Ombuds Office

The College of Charleston Ombuds Office is a safe place where all members of the College community can go for anonymous and confidential assistance. The Ombudsperson is a designated neutral or impartial dispute resolution practitioner whose function is to provide confidential and informal assistance to students, faculty, staff, and/or administrators.

The office serves as a source of information, education and consultation regarding policies, processes, and procedures. The Ombudsperson is an advocate for fairness and provides an informal process for achieving fair and reasonable resolution. The Ombuds office is authorized to investigate complaints, to mediate or negotiate settlement to disputes, to bring issues to the attention of those with authority to address concerns, to expedite administrative processes, and to make recommendations for change in policy, procedure, and/or practice when appropriate.

The Ombuds Office is in Randolph Hall, suite 305, (843) 953-5580 or email Ombuds@cofc.edu

Student Grievances Procedures

Disputes may occasionally arise between members of the College of Charleston community over both academic and non-academic matters. While many issues can be resolved at the personal level between the two parties, a formal procedure is available for the resolution of disputes that cannot. The procedure which has been established presents a framework within which disputes may be settled. The formal procedure is not meant to change the character of a dispute but to ensure that all parties are treated fairly and that every attempt is made to arrive at a just resolution of the dispute.

Informal Resolution of Dispute

Since many disputes can be resolved in an informal manner, students having serious complaints

about academic treatment or non-academic matters at the College are strongly urged to attempt to reconcile any differences informally with the faculty or staff member involved. Students should meet with the faculty or staff member to discuss their concerns openly, without fear of reprisal and as soon as possible during the academic semester, since ultimately delay may result in no viable resolution to the dispute. If the student is unable to meet with the faculty or staff member, or if his/her attempt to discuss the issue with the faculty or staff member is not satisfactory, the student should meet with the department chair or program director.¹ Students should continue attending the class in question throughout this process unless they have been instructed not to by the department chair or program director.

If the student elects not to pursue the matter informally directly with the other party, or if s/he does pursue an informal resolution and the parties cannot resolve their differences, the student may initiate the formal process. That process basically will be the same for academic and non-academic disputes and for disputes involving faculty, administrators, or staff.

Formal Procedures: Student-Faculty Grievances

If the student elects to pursue the formal procedure for academic and non-academic grievances against faculty members, s/he must submit in writing to the faculty member's department chair or program director a written grievance which includes the following:

- The act(s) complained of.
- Facts and evidence in support of the complaint.
- An account of attempts to resolve the complaint informally, if any, and the reason(s) those attempts have failed.
- Suggested resolutions to the problem which are acceptable to the student.

The department chair or program director (in consultation with the department chair where appropriate and where consistent with the reporting lines) will have a maximum of 30 days to review the materials, investigate the complaint, and attempt to bring the parties to an agreed-upon resolution. Should an agreed-upon resolution not be reached at this level, the grievance and all accumulated materials will be referred to the dean (or associate dean) of the school. The dean (or associate dean) of the school will have a maximum of 30 days to investigate the complaint and attempt to bring the parties to an agreed-upon resolution. His/her investigation may include interviewing and taking statements from the parties and others, securing documents and evidence from any available sources, and other actions which s/he deems necessary in the circumstances. Failing an agreed-upon resolution, s/he shall make a decision resolving the dispute and promptly notify the parties and

the faculty member's department chair or program director of his/her decision in writing.

Graduate Students Only: Either party may appeal the decision of the dean (or associate dean) of the school by presenting a written notice of appeal to the dean of graduate studies no later than five (5) working days from receipt of the written response from the dean (or associate dean) of the school. The dean of graduate studies will further investigate the complaint and attempt to bring the parties to an agreed-upon resolution. His/her investigation may include interviewing and taking statements from all parties and others, reviewing documents and evidence previously compiled, securing additional documents and evidence from any available sources, and other actions which s/he deems necessary in the circumstances. The graduate dean may affirm, reverse, affirm in part, and reverse in part the decision of the dean (or associate dean) of the school. The graduate dean will promptly notify the parties, the faculty member's department chair or program director, and the dean of the school of his/her decision in writing.

Either party may appeal the decision of the dean (or associate dean) of the school (in cases involving undergraduates) or the dean of graduate studies (in cases involving graduate students) by presenting a written notice of appeal to the senior vice president for academic affairs no later than five (5) working days from receipt of the decision by the graduate dean. A copy of the original written grievance and the decision appeal form should be attached to the notice of appeal. If the senior vice president for academic affairs determines that the notice of appeal has been filed in a proper and timely manner, s/he will promptly appoint an ad hoc College grievance panel as described below (see "College grievance panel composition") to consider the case. The senior vice president for academic affairs will notify the parties of the composition of the panel and will instruct the dean (or associate dean) of the school or dean of graduate studies to forward all materials accumulated thus far to the panel chair, who will be designated by the senior vice president for academic affairs.

The appeal of the decision of the dean (or associate dean) of the school or dean of graduate studies may be on either procedural or substantive grounds and shall constitute a de novo determination of the issues.

Within ten (10) working days after submission of the notice of appeal to the senior vice president for academic affairs, the student may submit to the senior vice president any additional evidence, including written affidavits and other items deemed pertinent to the issues. Within ten (10) working days of notification of an appeal, the faculty involved may submit to the senior vice president for academic affairs any additional evidence, including written affidavits and other items deemed pertinent to the issues. Those materials reviewed or considered by the panel in reaching a decision shall be made available to the parties for their inspection except where confidentiality is required by law.

The panel shall review all materials made available to it. It may also conduct its own investigation and secure further evidence it deems necessary in order to make a decision. It may hear live testimony if it wishes or may ask the parties to orally present their sides of the matter; both parties shall be given an opportunity to attend panel sessions called for these two purposes. Whenever the parties appear before the panel, they may be accompanied by an advisor or an attorney; such person may only advise and may not participate in the panel sessions or address the panel. Those materials reviewed or considered by the panel in reaching a decision shall be made available to the parties for their inspection.

The panel's decision will be sent in writing to the parties, the faculty member's department chair or program director, the dean of the school, the dean graduate studies, and the senior vice president for academic affairs. The panel may affirm, reverse, affirm in part, or reverse in part the decision of the dean (or associate dean) of the school or dean of graduate studies or may remand the case to the dean of graduate studies, the dean of the school, or to the faculty member's department chair or program director for a new and final attempt at informal reconciliation which, if it fails, may not be pursued further. If not satisfied with the panel's decision, either party may, within three (3) working days of receipt of the decision, request that the senior vice president for academic affairs review the decision. If the Senior Vice President decides that extraordinary circumstances exist justifying his/her review of the case, s/he will review all accumulated materials and may take any of the actions which were available to the panel. His/her decision will be final.

Any informal reconciliation which is reached at any level of these procedures will result in the purging of all formal records; all that will remain is a signed document setting forth the agreement.

Student-Staff or Student-Administrator Grievances

The same procedure will be followed except that the immediate supervisor of the staff person or administrator involved in the dispute will substitute for the department chair or program director, and the appropriate college vice president will substitute for the dean (or associate dean) of the school or dean of graduate studies. If conflicts of interest arise or the person designated cannot proceed for any reason, it shall be the responsibility of the senior vice president for academic affairs to appoint persons to fulfill the responsibility of the immediate supervisor and the vice president for purposes of these procedures.

College Grievance Panel Composition

For grievances filed by undergraduate students, the panel will be composed of:

- Two student members of the honor board, drawn by lot; and if the dispute is

1. Academic – three faculty members of the academic standards committee, drawn by lot.
2. Non-academic, involving a faculty member or administrator, three faculty members of the student affairs and athletics committee, drawn by lot.
3. Involves a staff person – three supervising personnel selected by the senior vice president for academic affairs in consultation with the director of personnel.

For all grievances filed by graduate students, the panel will be composed of:

- Two student members chosen by lot from the graduate student judicial committee. Members of this committee will consist of one student from each graduate program, to be designated by the program director (or the dean of the school of education in the case of the graduate education programs).
- Two faculty members, selected by lot from the roster of graduate faculty members of the College.
- One member of the supervising staff of the College, selected by lot from the roster of the academic staff of the senior vice president for academic affairs.

As panel members are selected, any designee who is found to be in a conflict of interest in the case will be excused and an alternate will be selected.

These panels will be ad hoc, and a separate panel will be selected for each dispute or set of related disputes.

Classroom Code of Conduct

“Published by the President’s Advisory Committee in cooperation with the Office of the President.”

While there are many informal situations in which people have neither the desire nor the right to prescribe how others ought to behave, a college classroom requires a higher level of courtesy than many people exercise in ordinary public space. Everyone in a classroom is there for the purpose of learning, and no one should be able to deprive another person of the chance to learn. Expressions of rudeness and even of carelessness degrade the high purpose of learning that should be paramount in a college classroom. Your professor expects that you as a student:

- Will be attentive and courteous during class.
- Will complete the assigned work according to the course schedule.

- Will do all your own work and will not present anyone else's work as your own.

Some More Specific Principles of Civil Conduct in a College Classroom:

- Do not cut classes, come in late, or leave early. If you ever are late for class, enter in complete silence and do not walk between the class and the professor. Never leave during class unless you absolutely must. Leaving for a short break and then returning is not acceptable. The professor is not a TV set, but is a person addressing the class, and it is rude to leave when someone is addressing you.
- Likewise, it is rude and unacceptable to talk with classmates while the professor (or another student who has the floor) is talking.
- Turn off cell phones, pagers, and all other electronic devices.
- Eating or drinking are not acceptable during class.
- Wearing a hat that conceals your face is rude because the person who is addressing you cannot see you.
- Visible and noisy signs of restlessness are rude as well as disruptive to others. If you cannot sit still or stay awake, you should not be taking a college class. Do not begin packing your book bag or otherwise indicate that you think it is time for class to come to an end; wait for the professor to dismiss class. If the class period has ended but the professor has not finished and you cannot stay any longer, leave in complete silence.
- Come to class prepared to work. Bring writing materials and any other necessary instructional material with you, such as your text book, workbook, computer disks, etc. Make necessary financial arrangements so that you can purchase all such material at the beginning of the semester. It is a waste of money to pay for a class and then not buy the books you will be reading. Your professor expects you to obtain all necessary material in order to succeed in the course. Your professor also expects you to prepare for class by completing reading and homework assignments. If you are unprepared for class, this may prevent you from participating in a class activity. Do not present your lack of preparation as a problem for the professor to solve or excuse.
- Submit work and take tests on schedule. If you miss a test or fail to turn in work on time, you may not have the opportunity to make it up.
- The Honor Code prohibits lying, cheating, plagiarism and stealing; this is, of course, the most basic and most important of all principles of civilized academic behavior. For more information about or to report a violation of the Honor Code, contact the Dean of Students.

Administrative Regulations

Class Absences and Student Health Service

Students who have been evaluated by a clinician at Student Health Services and for whom it has been determined that the student should not attend class, will receive an "Absence Memo Request" form to complete. This form will be signed by the licensed clinician and faxed to the Associate Dean of Students. Students who have managed their own illness may complete a separate "Absence Memo Request" which will include a brief description of their medical condition. These forms will also be faxed to the Associate Dean of Students. Students who have received treatment through other sources should bring that documentation to the Associate Dean of Students Office (67 George Street). The Associate Dean of Students will e-mail the student's instructors regarding the absence. If there is a difficulty, the Associate Dean of Students or his/her designee will attempt to reach the student through CofC email. Ultimately, the decision to excuse the student from class can only be made by the faculty.

Amplified Sound Policy

In an effort to continue to develop Student Life at the College of Charleston and promote an increased sense of community on campus, the Division of Student Affairs has created the following policy for the use of amplified sound on-campus in connection with programs and events held on weekdays during business hours during the upcoming academic year:

1. Events requiring the use of amplified sound that are scheduled Monday – Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. will be held in the Stern Center Gardens.
2. Space reservations for the Stern Center Garden will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis through the Office of Student Life and must be approved in advance by the Director of Student Life.
3. The Office of Student Life and the Division of Student Affairs will provide information related to any special previously approved events requiring amplified sound in a timely manner to the Provost's Office so that advance notice of events can be distributed to faculty members and academic departments.
4. The use of amplified sound will not be permitted during the hours of 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. on weekdays in areas immediately adjacent to offices or classrooms facilities (i.e. Maybank Hall, the Cistern, etc.). As always, student organizations will be allowed to host informational tables and programs that do not require amplified sound at these locations.

5. Requests for exceptions to this policy must be submitted in writing to the Director of Student Life and must be approved by the Provost and Senior Vice President for Student Affairs.
6. Contact the Office of Student Life at (843) 953-5726 if you have any questions regarding this policy or campus programming.

Debts

The maturity of students is reflected in part by the manner in which they meet financial obligations to the community and to the College. Transcripts of students whose accounts are in arrears will not be released to them or to any agency or institution for the benefit of the student. Students cannot graduate from the College and may be refused the privileges of registering for courses if their college accounts are in arrears.

Delinquent Accounts

If an account becomes delinquent, the College reserves the right to assign the account to a collection agency. Therefore, the student will be responsible for all collection costs, any additional attorney fees, and court costs.

Demonstrations

Demonstrations must be scheduled two weeks in advance with the Executive Vice President for Student Affairs. The information required is a specific location, the beginning time, the ending time, and the name of the sponsoring organization. Demonstrations must be orderly and may not block entrances to buildings or interfere with free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic. If an amplification system is used, reasonable volume level will be determined by location and time of day. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in penalties, including loss of demonstration privileges.

Identification/Debit Cards

All students are issued identification/debit cards which they should carry at all times. The cards are the means of identifying students for library privileges, student health services, athletic events, the meal plan, social events, check cashing, and other college functions or services open to them as students. Students are expected to present their cards upon request to any college official or employee. Any student whose identification/debit card is lost or destroyed may purchase a new one from the Cougar Card Office. Fraudulent use or transfer of an identification/ debit card is considered a violation of the Honor System.

Posting Policy*

- I. Academic and administrative departments will control, manage and maintain their own bulletin boards.

- II. All other campus bulletin boards will be deemed for use by either (A) off-campus activities or (B) on-campus activities.

Off-Campus Activities

- Advertisements for legal off-campus activities will be limited to postings on three out-of-doors bulletin boards locations: the breezeway of Physicians Auditorium, outside the west entrance of Maybank Hall, and the kiosk in front of 10 Greenway. The boards will be clearly marked as "Off-Campus Activities."
- The College of Charleston Physical Plant will be responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of all outside bulletin boards including the Off-Campus Activities boards. Weekly these boards will be cleared of all advertisements.

On-Campus Activities

- The Office of Student Affairs will manage and maintain all non-departmental bulletin boards on campus.

*For the companion policy concerning student organizations and student elections see The Compass.

Soliciting

The College does not permit any type of soliciting on campus without the proper clearance, which includes a letter of authorization from the Executive Vice President for Student Affairs (or designee). Authorized solicitors will be assigned a specific area to offer services or information to the campus community. Unauthorized solicitors, as well as strangers who loiter on campus, should be reported promptly to the Executive Vice President for Student Affairs or to the Public Safety Office. This provision should not be interpreted to include the orderly distribution of printed matter during a regular school day.

Speakers on Campus

Any registered student organization wishing to sponsor a speaker on campus is encouraged in their sponsorship to afford the campus community exposure to many points of view. Should the Executive Vice President for Student Affairs have reasonable apprehension founded in fact that a speaker's activities would cause a substantial disruption at the College, s/he may prohibit the appearance of the speaker. This is to assure that our community remains an open forum of ideas shared in a civil environment.

Use of Facilities

Registered student organizations are encouraged to present their events and hold meetings in

campus facilities. Contact the appropriate facility reservationist to determine facility availability. If a student activity form is required, go to the Stern Student Center. Unauthorized entry into, occupation of, or use of College facilities is illegal and will result in disciplinary action, with penalties ranging from reprimand to suspension, in addition to possible legal action.

Smoking Policy (Approved by the President of the College, June 2006)

The College of Charleston has the inherent power to protect itself and its property and to control and manage its buildings as a state institution.* Consistent with the powers granted by General Assembly to the Board of Trustees and the President to appropriately protect the College and its property, and to expect students to adhere to generally accepted standards of conduct, the following policy concerning smoking on campus is adopted:

Purpose: The College of Charleston promotes a safe, clean and healthy environment on all its property and prohibits smoking inside and at all designated smoke-free entranceways to College facilities.

Designated Smoking Areas

Faculty, staff and students who wish to smoke may do so outside at the designated smoking areas where proper ash receptacles exist. Smokers must properly dispose of cigarette/cigar remains in designated receptacles.

Restricted Areas

Smoking is prohibited inside and near** the designated smoke-free entrances to all College buildings.

College/State Vehicles

Smoking is prohibited in all College and state vehicles.

Educational Programs

Stop-smoking classes and seminars will be planned and implemented, as resources permit, to assist faculty, staff and students interested in ceasing to smoke. Student Affairs is responsible for developing such programs for employees and students.

Monitoring the College's Smoking Policy

Residence Life and Housing will implement, monitor and enforce all aspects of this policy for the residential living buildings and areas.

Public Safety will advise individuals who are not in compliance with the College's no smoking policy of the outdoor smoking areas. Any College employees and students also may take the initiative to inform individuals of the outdoor policy and ask for their compliance. Supervisors will instruct their employees in the policy and should they view an employee, whom they supervise, in a non-designated area--will instruct them as to the location of the designated area(s). Employees and students with concerns should follow the appropriate College grievance procedure. Any disruptions related to the smoking regulations should be reported immediately to the Dean of Students when students are involved and to the supervisor when employees are involved.

Sale and Advertising of Tobacco Products

The sale, sampling, or advertising of tobacco products shall be prohibited on the College of Charleston campus and in all College publications.

*Informal Opinion, Office of the Attorney General State of South Carolina, February 2, 1998, 1998 WL 115506 (S.C.A.G.)

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends a ban of 25 feet around a building entrance.

Appendix A

Academic Dishonesty and the Operation of the XF – Transcript Notation Due to Finding of Responsibility for Academic Dishonesty

Faculty input – When a faculty member determines a student has committed academic dishonesty, he or she will fill out the appropriate Honor Code Report form. The faculty member has the option of designating whether he/she believes that the offense warrants the grade of XF.

Schedule of Sanctions for Violations of Academic Dishonesty

A. Class 1. The most serious breaches of academic honesty fall into this category, as well as all second or more offenses of any class. Class I violations must be found to involve significant premeditation; conspiracy and/or intent to deceive. See listing of examples at the end of this policy.

Sanction options:

XF grade and suspension

XF grade and expulsion

B. Class 2. This class includes acts that are found to involve deliberate failure to comply with assignment(s) directions; some conspiracy and/or intent to deceive. See listing of examples at the end of this policy.

Sanction options:

XF grade and disciplinary probation

XF grade and disciplinary probation and/or other educational sanctions

XF grade and suspension

C. Class 3. This class includes violations due to student confusion; ignorance and or miscommunication or incomplete communication between the instructor or his/her designee and the class. See listing of examples at the end of this policy.

Class 1 and 2 Violations

A. If the Honor Board sanctions a student with a course grade of XF, and this sanction is not appealed by the student, the dean of students and the faculty member notify the Registrar to place a grade of XF for the applicable course on the student's academic record. The grade XF shall be recorded on the student's transcript with the notation "failure due to academic dishonesty."

- B. Student appeals of the XF grade follow the procedure for all other appeals of academic dishonesty sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook. If the Appellate Board denies the right to another hearing, or another hearing is granted and the Honor Board decides to uphold the XF grade sanction, the dean of students and the faculty member notify the Registrar to assign the XF grade to the student's academic record.
- C. If grades are due but an academic dishonesty hearing is still in progress, a grade of 'I' shall be applied to the course until the hearing process is complete.
- D. An XF grade shall maintain a quality point value of 0.0. The grade "XF" shall be treated in the same way as an "F" for the purposes of Grade Point Average, course repeatability, and determination of academic standing.]
- E. The XF must stay on the transcript for at least two years from the date student is found in violation.
- F. After two years, a student may petition the Honor Board to exchange the XF for an F. The petition must be in written form and provide the reason for removal of the XF. Additionally, the petitioner must appear before the Honor Board to explain the request (appearance may be through electronic means if necessary). If the student petitions and a majority of the Honor Board agree to remove the XF, the Honor Board outlines conditions under which the XF is removed. The conditions may include giving testimony of dishonesty during freshman orientation or other organized Honor Board events, and/or performing specific tasks aimed at increasing the education of the violator and/or campus on the value of academic integrity. When these conditions are met, the XF is removed entirely from the transcript, leaving no past evidence of the XF. A grade of F is recorded in its place.
- G. If a petition to change an XF grade to an F has been made and denied, another petition may not be made for another year from the date of denial. This stipulation applies after graduation as well.
- H. If the student is/has been found responsible of an additional violation of academic honesty, either in the past or future, the XF remains. For cases where the XF was changed to an F and the student is later found responsible of an additional act of academic dishonesty, the XF grade is restored for the course. In these cases, the XF remains permanent. The student may not petition for an F in exchange for the XF in these cases.
- I. A student who has received an XF in a course and needs to pass the course for a requirement

may retake the course. If the student passes the course, the requirement is met, but the original course grade will remain as an XF unless the X is removed by an accepted petition for removal.

Class 3 Violations

- A. When a faculty member suspects an Honor Code violation is more of a result of student confusion, ignorance or miscommunication, he/she should arrange a conference with the student as soon as possible to discuss the matter.
- B. Together, the faculty member and student review all materials.
- C. The faculty member proposes a response which is discussed with the student, e.g., written warning, resubmission of the work, research on relevant topic, etc.
- D. The faculty member and student agree upon a response and commit the agreement to a form provided by the Dean of Students office.
- E. A written record of the educational response with the signatures of both the faculty member and the student is forwarded to the Dean of Students. The record will remain in the Dean of Students office until the student graduates.
- F. The record of the educational response for this violation will be introduced in subsequent hearings during the sanctioning phase should the same student be found in violation of the Honor Code at a later point in time.
- G. The student has the right to contest the allegation and/or the suggested response and request that the matter be forwarded immediately to the Dean of Students office for adjudication under the procedures outlined in the Student Handbook.

Changes to the operation of the XF grade as a sanction option within the Honor System must go through the Faculty Committee on Academic Standards and the Faculty Senate.

Examples of violations for Classes 1-3

The lists below are not meant to be comprehensive but illustrative of the types of acts that generally will be before the Honor Board and faculty members.

Examples of Class 1 violations:

- cheating on a test which involves significant premeditation and conspiracy of effort
- taking a test for someone else, or permitting someone else to take a test or course in one's place
- intentional plagiarizing, where the majority of the submitted work was written or created by another
- obtaining, stealing, or buying all or a significant part of an unadministered exam
- selling, or giving away all or a significant part of an unadministered test
- bribing, or attempting to bribe any other person to obtain an unadministered test or any information about the test
- buying, or otherwise acquiring, another's course paper and resubmitting it as one's own work, whether altered or not
- entering a building, office, or computer for the purpose of changing a grade in a grade book, on a test, or on other work for which a grade is given
- changing, altering, or being an accessory to changing and/or altering a grade in a grade book, on a test, on a "Change of Grade" form, or other official academic college record which relates to grades
- entering a building, office, or computer for the purpose of obtaining an unadministered test.

Examples of Class 2 violations:

- cheating on an exam which involves some premeditation
- copying from another's test or allowing another student to copy from your test, where some plans were made for such collaboration
- intentional plagiarizing, where a moderate portion of the submitted work was written or created by another
- unauthorized reuse of previously graded work

- intentionally failing to cite information from the correct source
- intentionally listing sources in a bibliography/work cited page that were not used in the paper
- copying, or allowing one to copy, homework assignments that are to be submitted for credit, when unauthorized
- unauthorized collaboration on an assignment
- unauthorized and intentional use or possession of a study aid.

Examples of Class 3 violations:

- record of same offense made on other similar assignments and no feedback provided by the instructor prior to allegation
- reusing and/or building upon coursework already submitted for another class without permission of the professor
- unintentionally failing to cite information from the correct source,
- unintentional violation of the class rules on collaboration
- unintentional possession of a study aid.

Appendix B

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment (Including Sexual Harassment), and Abuse

SECTION: Human Relations

Date Issued: 7/1/1995

Revised: 3/15/2006

SUBJECT: Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment (Including Sexual Harassment), and Abuse

APPLIES TO: All Employees (whether faculty or member of the staff or administration) and Students

ISSUED BY: College of Charleston Human Relations and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs

POLICY

PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT, INCLUDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ABUSE (See also the related policy “Reporting Responsibilities for Discrimination, Harassment, and Abuse”)

The College is committed to the goal of providing an environment free of discrimination, harassment or abuse of any kind for students and employees. Sexual harassment and/or harassment of students or employees (whether faculty or members of the staff or administration) based on sex, gender, age, race, color, religion, national origin or disability are prohibited as defined by law and contradictory to the College’s policy and philosophy. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) also provides certain protected status rights arising from past or present membership or obligation to serve in the uniformed services under circumstances provided by the Act. As to students under age 18, abuse, as defined below and under state law, may or may not overlap with harassment; additional legal protections and requirements are provided under state law. Also inherent in the College’s belief in respect for the individual is the principle that each student and employee is due appropriate respect and freedom from harassment in any form; therefore, harassment as defined in this policy may or may not be based upon a legally protected status. **All forms of discrimination, sexual harassment, other prohibited harassment and abuse as defined below are specifically prohibited.**

This policy and the following Reporting Procedures were developed as a result of discussions with faculty, staff, administrators and students regarding harassment and discrimination issues and the desire to provide a college environment that is positive and encourages communication and personal growth for all members of the college community. The Human Relations Office is responsible for

developing policies and procedures, and monitoring the College's conformity with those policies and procedures, so as to comply with federal and state nondiscrimination laws. However, a discrimination-free environment is the responsibility of every member of the community. The College can take corrective action only when it becomes aware of problems. Timeliness of reporting is extremely important; it allows a more complete investigation and better prevention of recurrence. **Therefore, the College encourages persons who believe that they have experienced or witnessed discrimination, sexual harassment, other prohibited harassment and abuse as defined below to come forward promptly with their inquiries, reports, or complaints.**

DEFINITIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT, OTHER PROHIBITED HARASSMENT, AND ABUSE

Sexual Harassment, Other Prohibited Harassment and Abuse

Definitions:

The definitions are interpreted and applied by the College consistent with applicable law as well as accepted standards of mature behavior.

A. Harassment Based on Legally Protected Status

(1) **Sexual/Gender Harassment (Protected Status):** Sexual/gender harassment is defined consistent with sexual harassment law to include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other visual, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, whether or not such conduct is legally actionable. Undesired physical contact, repeated, unwelcome requests for social engagements, and questions or comments about sexual behavior or preference are included in this definition. Additionally, sexual harassment is behavior directed at an employee (whether faculty, staff or administration) or student because of his or her sexual orientation or sex/gender when (i) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of academic or other college related benefits or employment; (ii) educational or other college related opportunities/academic benefits, job benefits or other decisions affecting an individual's employment or educational or other college related opportunities are explicitly or implicitly granted or withheld based on submission to, or rejection of, unwelcome requests or conduct, based on sex/gender; or (iii) the academic or other college related and/or work environment is hostile, in other words, oppressive and/or has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance or an employee's job performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive academic, work, or student living environment. Such harassment may also be based upon gender, despite lack of sexual advances.

(2) Sexual harassment most often occurs when one person has actual or apparent power or authority over another; however, it may also occur between individuals of equal status or rank within the College. Sexual harassment may occur between persons of the same gender.

(3) Conduct forms the basis of a harassment claim if a reasonable person, in view of all the surrounding circumstances, would consider it sufficiently severe or pervasive to interfere unreasonably with academic, other educational, employment performance, or participation in a College activity or living environment.

(4) Other Protected Status Harassment (Non-Sexual): Harassment based on other protected status is defined consistent with the law to include conduct which has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a person's academic/college related or job performance or creating for the College's purposes, or tending to create, an intimidating, hostile, or offensive college or work environment on the basis of a person's legally protected status other than sex or gender, i.e., race, age (over 40), color, religion, national origin and/or disability.

(5) This policy addresses intentional conduct. It also addresses conduct which results in negative effects even though such negative effects were unintended. Sexually-related conduct forms the basis of a sexual harassment claim if a reasonable person, in view of all the surrounding circumstances, would consider it sufficiently severe or pervasive to interfere unreasonably with academic, other educational, or employment performance or participation in a College activity or living environment.

(6) Examples of Protected Status Harassment: For purposes of this policy, the following are examples of prohibited Sexual/Gender Harassment and of other protected status harassment as defined above. Harassing or discriminatory conduct in the college/academic environment or workplace, whether committed by regular members of the College community (including employees and students) or third parties (e.g., parents, guests, vendors) in college related settings may include, but is not limited to:

- Unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors or other favors based upon stereotypes of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age or disability;
- Unwanted physical contact, including touching, pinching or brushing the body;
- Verbal harassment, such as sexual innuendoes, suggestive comments, jokes of a sexual nature, sexual propositions or threats; epithets; slurs; negative stereotyping (including "jokes"); or threatening, intimidating or hostile acts which relate to race, color, religion,

gender, national origin, age or disability;

- Non-verbal conduct, such as display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, leering, whistling, or obscene gestures; written or graphic material (including communications by computers) that defames or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group because of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age or disability and is in the public spaces of the College's premises, or that is circulated in and affects the college community via e-mail, internet posting or otherwise; and
- Acts of physical aggression, intimidation, hostility, threats, or unequal treatment based on sex (even if not sexual in nature) or upon race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, military obligation or disability.

B. Non-Protected Status Harassment Abusive Behavior

For the College's purposes, prohibited harassment or abusive behavior in the college environment not necessarily based on sex/gender or other protected status may be defined as follows: any harassing or abusive behavior in the college community, either verbal or non-verbal, where such behavior threatens a student or employee's safety and/or traumatizes the student or employee to a point that his or her individual performance in the academic/college environment or work environment is significantly affected.

REPORTING DUTIES

Reporting Duties for All Types of Discrimination, Harassment and/or Abuse.

Any student or employee who has experienced or witnessed protected status discrimination, harassment or abuse by a student or employee has a responsibility to report the situation immediately to one of the Designated Recipients listed in the "Reporting Responsibilities for Discrimination, Harassment, and Abuse".

Additional Duty in Reporting Non-College Related Child Abuse.

The College strives to abide by South Carolina law, which dictates requirements for reporting child neglect or abuse as it affects students younger than age 18, even when it occurs outside the College. South Carolina law requires that any physician, nurse, dentist, optometrist, medical examiner or coroner, or an employee of a county medical examiner's or coroner's office, or any other medical,

emergency medical services, mental health, or allied health professional, member of the clergy, including Christian Science practitioner or religious healer, schoolteacher, counselor, principal, assistant principal, social or public assistance worker, substance abuse treatment staff, or childcare worker in any day care center or foster care facility, police or law enforcement officer, undertaker, funeral home director or employee of a funeral home, persons responsible for processing of films, computer technician, or any judge who has reasonable cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect as defined by state law is to immediately report it to the local DSS or other proper law enforcement agency. S.C. Code §20-7-510.

For purposes of this law, a child is a person under the age of eighteen. S.C. Code Ann. § 20-7-30. It should be understood that if a student under age 18 is believed to have been abused or harassed, the legal requirements for reporting child abuse may apply.

The state law definition of child abuse and neglect is specific and detailed. A faculty or staff member who suspects or has any concern regarding child abuse or neglect is expected to report this information promptly to his/her Department Head, Director of Human Relations, the Dean of Students, General Counsel or Provost, who, in turn, will determine the College's duty and, if determined appropriate, assist in contacting the proper authorities.

A faculty member or member of the administration who has reason to suspect abuse or neglect and fails to report it is subject to prosecution; however, the person making the report based on valid suspicion and concern is protected by law from both civil and criminal retaliation.

RESPONSE AND PROCEDURES

Prevention and Education.

The College is committed to preventing and eliminating illegal discrimination, harassment, and abuse of students and employees. To that end, this policy will be posted and disseminated to the College community. The policy is discussed during orientation for new students and employees. In addition, appropriate educational sessions are conducted by the College on an ongoing basis to (1) inform students, and employees about identifying discrimination and harassment and the problems they cause, (2) advise members of the College community about their rights and responsibilities under this policy, and (3) train employees and students in the administration of this policy.

Counseling.

Information about or assistance with discrimination, harassment, and abuse issues may be obtained from a variety of College resources. Prior to or concurrent with making a report or complaint of discrimination, harassment, abuse or retaliation, individuals may find it helpful to consult with a counselor. The employees may contact the Human Resources Office regarding the employee assistant program (EAP) and students may contact the Counseling and Substance Abuse Services for support regarding discrimination, harassment, abuse or retaliation in a confidential setting. Discussions with representatives of EAP and/or the Counseling and Substance Abuse Services offices are confidential and do not constitute a complaint to the College.

Inquiries about this Policy.

Inquiries about this policy may be made to the Human Relations Office, Dean of Students, General Counsel, or Associate Provost.

College Initiated Action.

In circumstances where a report of inappropriate behavior is made but the complainant does not wish to pursue the matter, the College reserves the right to investigate the report and take appropriate action. The College also reserves the right to receive and investigate, at the college's discretion, complaints or reports by persons external to the College community about conduct of College, employees or students alleged to be involved in discrimination and/or protected status harassment.

Written Report/Complaint.

Once a complaint of harassment has been made, the complainant may be asked to submit a written statement to the individual designated to investigate the complaint. The complainant is expected to cooperate with the College's investigation including, but not limited to, preparation and submission of a comprehensive written complaint.

Cooperation.

All College employees, faculty, students, administrators and/or parents/guardians are expected to fully cooperate as requested in any investigation. If the College determines that anyone involved in the investigation has intentionally withheld information or provided false information at any time, appropriate action may be taken.

No Retaliation.

The College prohibits adverse treatment of employees or students for exercising their rights under this policy. **Any good faith report of discrimination and/or harassment, experienced or observed, should be made without fear of retaliation by the College. Retaliation against any employee or student for filing a complaint or participating in an investigation in good faith is strictly prohibited by law is strictly prohibited.** Any incident of retaliation as above should also be reported using this policy. Retaliation is grounds for appropriate action (i.e., disciplinary action for students and employees, up to and including dismissal). Intentionally making a false report or providing false information is grounds for discipline.

After a complaint has been made and addressed, the College may make inquiries to determine that any prohibited activity has in fact ended and retaliation has not occurred.

Confidentiality.

The College recognizes that confidentiality is important. Information provided is kept confidential to the extent reasonably possible. Examples of situations where confidentiality cannot be maintained include circumstances where the College is required by law to disclose information (i.e., in response to legal process) and when disclosure is required by the College's outweighing interest protecting the rights of others.

The investigator or the investigator's designee may periodically keep the accuser, the accused, the reporting party and appropriate members of the administration informed as the investigation and decision processes unfold and of the ultimate resolution and/or action to be taken.

The College reserves the right to keep other concerned persons informed, within its discretion. See also "Reporting Responsibilities for Discrimination, Harassment, and Abuse."

Discipline and/or Corrective/Responsive Action for Protected Status and Non-Protected Status Harassment.

Upon receiving a report and in keeping with the provisions above, the College strives to promptly conduct an investigation of any allegations of discrimination and/or harassment based on sex/gender (with or without sexual conduct), race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or protected activity (i.e., opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in the statutory complaint process). The College affords an individual accused of discrimination, harassment, or abuse notice of the allegations and an opportunity to respond and present rebuttal information and witnesses.

At any time following notice of a complaint, the College, at its sole discretion, may reassign the living quarters and/or suspend from class or employment, with or without pay, any College student or employee accused or suspected of discrimination, harassment, or abuse as defined herein.

During the investigative and grievance process, the College, at its sole discretion, at all times has the authority to take action necessary to maintain safety and to ensure the smooth operation of the college's functions.

The resolution of any complaint is communicated to the parties involved. Any student or employee who is found to be involved in protected status discrimination, harassment, or activity which could be perceived as discriminatory or harassing of another student or employee, is subject to appropriate disciplinary or corrective action to be determined at the sole discretion of the College.

Any student, or employee determined by the College's investigation and at the sole discretion of the College to have participated in any form of protected status discrimination or harassment abuse or retaliation as defined in College policy, is subject to discipline and/or corrective/responsive action, up to and including immediate termination, suspension or expulsion. Other discipline and/or corrective/responsive action may include, but is not limited to, training, referral to counseling and/or corrective action such as a warning, reprimand, suspension from class or employment, transfer, demotion, reassignment within the campus residential living system, removal of responsibility and related pay, community service and/or other requirements and/or penalties. Ongoing civil or criminal charges, pleas or other court related action will not impede the College from making an independent determination to the extent it determines it has sufficient information to take such action as it deems appropriate.

In the event the College determines that a corrective action is necessary, the accused individual may contest the corrective action pursuant to procedures available in the **Student Handbook, Faculty/ Administration Manual** or the **Grievance Procedure for College of Charleston Employees**, as applicable.

Appendix C

Reporting Responsibilities for Discrimination, Harassment, and Abuse

SECTION: Human Relations

Date Issued: 7/1/1995

Revised: 3/15/2006

SUBJECT: Reporting Responsibilities for Discrimination, Harassment, and Abuse

APPLIES TO: All Employees (whether faculty or members of the staff or administration) and Students

ISSUED BY: College of Charleston Human Relations and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs

POLICY

REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES, INVESTIGATION AND COMPLAINT RESOLUTION FOR PROTECTED STATUS DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND ABUSE [(See also the related policy “Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment (Including Sexual Harassment), and Abuse”)]

Reporting Duties for All Types of Discrimination, Harassment and/or Abuse.

Any student or employee who believes that the words or actions of a College student or employee or third party in college related settings constitute protected status discrimination, harassment or abuse toward himself or another has a responsibility to report the matter to the College. See Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment (Including Sexual Harassment), and Abuse. The report should be made to one of the following individuals (“Designated Recipients”):

Director of Human Relations

Associate Provost

General Counsel

Dean of Students

In the case of conflict, unavailability or other concern with any of the aforementioned avenues, a report of discrimination, harassment, abuse or retaliation may also be made to the President, or in case of a conflict to the Chair of the College’s Board of Trustees.

Timeliness of reporting is extremely important; it allows a more complete investigation and better prevention of recurrence. Complainants are expected to bring complaints of discrimination,

harassment or abuse to a Designated Recipient as soon as possible. Additionally, any threat, attempt, or act of retaliation should be immediately brought to the attention of the Human Relations office and/or other Designated Recipient.

Additional Duty in Reporting Non-College Related Child Abuse.

The College strives to abide by South Carolina law, which dictates requirements for reporting child neglect or abuse, even when it occurs outside the College. South Carolina law requires that any physician, nurse, dentist, optometrist, medical examiner or coroner or an employee of a county medical examiner's or coroner's office or any other medical, emergency medical services, mental health, or allied health professional, member of the clergy, including Christian Science practitioner or religious healer, school teacher, counselor, principal, assistant principal, social or public assistance worker, substance abuse treatment staff, or childcare worker in any day care center or foster care facility, police or law enforcement officer, undertaker, funeral home director or employee of a funeral home, persons responsible for processing of films, computer technician, or any judge who has reasonable cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect as defined by state law is to immediately report it to the local DSS or other proper law enforcement agency. S.C. Code Ann. § 20-7-510. For purposes of this law, a "child" is a person under the age of eighteen. S.C. Code Ann. § 20-7-30.

It should be understood that if a student under age 18 is believed to have been abused or harassed, the legal requirements for reporting child abuse may apply. The state law definition of child abuse and neglect is specific and detailed. An employee who suspects or has any concern regarding child abuse or neglect is expected to report this information promptly to the General Counsel who, in turn with the Dean of Students, will determine the College's duty and, if determined appropriate, assist in contacting the proper authorities.

An employee who has reason to suspect abuse or neglect and fails to report it, is subject to prosecution; however, the person making the report based on valid suspicion and concern is protected by law from both civil and criminal retaliation.

Action by Designated Recipient.

The Designated Recipient is expected to obtain information from the complainant detailing alleged discrimination, harassment, abuse, or retaliation, including the identity of the accused, the specific incidents, dates, locations and any witnesses. The Designated Recipient is expected to promptly convey the information to the Director of Human Relations and/or General Counsel for further action.

Initial Actions and Appointment of Investigator.

Upon receipt of the complaint, the Director of Human Relations, in conjunction with General Counsel and the Provost, will assign an investigator to investigate the complaint. In the event one of these three individuals is the subject of the complaint, the remaining two will assign an investigator to investigate the complaint.

The College may also take any immediate actions it deems appropriate to preserve privacy, safety or the smooth functioning of college operations. At any time following notice of complaint of discrimination, harassment, abuse, or retaliation, the College, at its sole discretion may re-assign the living quarters and/or suspend from class or employment with or without pay, any College student or employee accused or suspected of abuse or harassment as defined herein.

The College, or the appointed investigator, strives to place the individual charged on notice of the complaint promptly. Impracticality of immediate notification to the accused does not prevent the College from taking such immediate action as it deems appropriate, including but not limited to separating, suspending and/or questioning and/or preliminary corrective/disciplinary action of the individual[s] involved.

Confidentiality.

Information provided is kept as confidential as possible in keeping with an investigation that is as thorough as the College determines necessary and appropriate to the charge. Additionally, once a complaint of discrimination or college related abuse or harassment or retaliation has been filed, the investigator or the investigator's designee may periodically keep the accuser, the accused, the reporting party and appropriate members of the Administration informed as the investigation and decision processes unfold and of the ultimate resolution and/or action to be taken. The College reserves the right to keep other concerned persons informed, within its discretion.

College Initiated Action.

In circumstances where a report of inappropriate behavior is made but the complainant does not wish to pursue the matter, the College reserves the right to investigate the report and take appropriate action. The College also reserves the right to investigate complaints or reports by persons external to the College community about conduct of College employees alleged to be guilty of protected status harassment.

Retaliation.

Retaliation against any student or employee for filing a complaint, participating in or cooperating with an investigation is strictly prohibited. The College does not tolerate adverse treatment of employees, or students because they report discrimination, harassment or abuse or provide information related to such complaints. After a report, the College may make follow up inquiries to determine that any prohibited activity has in fact ended and retaliation has not occurred.

Any incident of retaliation directed toward the complainant or others who have participated in the investigation must be reported immediately to a Designated Recipient. The Designated Recipient is responsible for making sure the report of retaliation is promptly conveyed to the Director of Human Relations or General Counsel. Examples of potential evidence of retaliation directed toward the complainant or others who have participated in the investigation may include such things as the following: adverse employment action; adverse academic action; lowering a grade or giving a poor academic recommendation; exclusion from employment or educational opportunities; limiting scholarly activities (e.g., exclusion from teaching or research, or interfering with publication); and spreading false information about an individual who has made, pursued or supported a complaint.

Complaints of retaliation are promptly investigated in accordance with this policy.

Investigation of Protected Status Discrimination, All Types of Harassment and/or College Related Abuse.

The appointed investigator documents the information relevant to the complaint and conducts a prompt investigation of any allegations of protected status discrimination, or harassment or abuse or retaliation defined by College policy. See, "Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment (Including Sexual Harassment), and Abuse."

During the investigation, anyone who is alleged to have committed acts of protected status discrimination, harassment or abuse or retaliation may be contacted and permitted to respond to specific allegations. Upon review of the investigation and/or evidence the appropriate Sr. Vice President, in conjunction with General Counsel and Provost as applicable, determines the seriousness of the circumstances, and may take such action as the College deems appropriate, including, as determined appropriate, remedial and/or preventive measures.

Written Statement/Report.

While the initial complaint to the Designated Recipient may be made verbally, once an investigator

has been appointed, the investigator may ask the complainant to submit a written statement detailing the alleged discrimination, harassment, abuse or retaliation. The complainant is expected to cooperate with the College's investigation, including but not limited to, preparation and submission of a comprehensive written complaint. Although failure to immediately receive the complaint in writing does not prevent investigation, delay or lack of substantiated detail may hamper the investigation and appropriate resolution.

The written statement should include, if known: (1) the names of the complainant and of the alleged offender; (2) a complete description of the alleged discrimination, harassment, abuse or retaliation, including the dates, times, locations and any witnesses to the alleged incidents (3) a description of any adverse consequences resulting from the discrimination, harassment or retaliation (4) a description of any evidence that corroborates the allegations and (5) a statement of the remedy requested.

The investigator may personally interview the complainant and the alleged offender(s) as well as others with relevant information. Both the complainant and accuser may provide statements from any witnesses. The investigator may, in his or her sole discretion, provide the accused with a copy of the written statement. At a minimum, the investigator shall notify the individual accused of the complaint, the identity of the person allegedly mistreated, the specifics of the alleged wrongdoing, and the dates, times, and locations of the same. The accused is allowed an opportunity to respond, identify witnesses and present evidence to rebut or dispute the allegations.

Cooperation.

All College employees, students, and/or parents/guardians are expected to fully cooperate as requested in any investigation. If the College determines that anyone involved in the investigation has intentionally withheld information, or provided false information at any time, appropriate action may be taken.

Report of Investigation/Findings/Conclusion.

Upon completion of the investigation, as soon as reasonably possible, the investigator makes a written report of his/her investigation, findings and conclusion to the General Counsel and the appropriate Sr. Vice President.

For complaints against faculty members, the investigative report is made to the General Counsel and the Sr. Vice President of Academic Affairs. For complaints against an individual, faculty or otherwise, who reports directly to the President, the investigative report is made to the General Counsel and the

President. (In the event the complaint is made against the General Counsel, the investigative report is made to the President only). For complaints against all other employees, the investigative report is made to the General Counsel and appropriate Sr. Vice President. For complaints against students, the investigative report is made to the General Counsel and the Dean of Students.

College's Action.

Within 10 business days of receipt of the investigative report and finding, the appropriate individual (as determined by the status of the accused in the foregoing section) will issue to the complainant and the accused a written determination of the corrective or remedial action, if any, and the basis for the determination. Alternatively, should this individual determine that additional investigation or information is needed before a determination can be made, he or she may remand the investigation to the original investigator or another investigator with instructions for additional action, or take direct to obtain information deemed important to a final determination.

Any student or employee determined by the College's investigation and at the sole discretion of the College to have participated in any form of protected status discrimination, harassment, abuse, or retaliation as defined in College policy, is subject to discipline and/or corrective/responsive action, up to and including immediate termination, suspension or expulsion. Other discipline and/or corrective/responsive action may include, but is not limited to, training, referral to counseling and/or corrective action such as a warning, reprimand, suspension from class or employment, transfer, demotion, reassignment within the campus residential living system, removal of responsibility and related pay, community service and/or other requirements and/or penalties. Ongoing civil or criminal charges, pleas or other court related action will not impede the College from making an independent determination to the extent it determines it has sufficient information to take such action as it deems appropriate.

Grievance/Appeal Rights.

In the event the College determines that a corrective action is necessary, the accused individual may contest the corrective action pursuant to procedures available in the Student Handbook, Faculty/Administration Manual or the Grievance Procedures for College of Charleston Employees, as applicable.

In the event the complainant disagrees with the corrective action recommended by the College, the complainant may file a grievance pursuant to procedures available in the Student Handbook, Faculty/Administration Manual or the Grievance Procedures for College of Charleston Employees, as applicable.

Appendix D

Information on Federal and State Alcohol and Drug Laws

Prepared by the SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

SOUTH CAROLINA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LAWS

The following is a partial list of current South Carolina laws related to the acquisition, possession and use of alcoholic beverages. Be aware that state laws are subject to change.

*Purchase, attempt to purchase, consume or possession of beer or wine if you are under the age of 21
Possession is prima facie evidence that it was knowingly possessed. A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.*

First offense: A fine of not less than \$100 dollars or more than \$200 dollars or must be imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both. A person who violates the provisions of this section also is required to successfully complete a DAODAS approved alcohol prevention education or intervention program. The program must be a minimum of eight hours and the cost to the person may not exceed \$150. (Section 20-7-8920)

*Purchase, attempt to purchase, consume or possession of liquor if you are under the age of 21
Possession is prima facie evidence that it was knowingly possessed. It is also unlawful for a person to falsely represent his age for the purpose of procuring alcoholic liquors.*

First offense: A fine of not less than \$100 dollars or more than \$200 or must be imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both. A person who violates the provisions of this section also is required to successfully complete a DAODAS approved alcohol prevention education or intervention program. The program must be a minimum of eight hours and the cost to the person may not exceed \$150. (Section 20-7-8925)

Possession of an altered or invalid driver's license or personal identification card.

First offense: A fine of not more than \$200 or imprisonment for not more than thirty days.

Second or subsequent offense: A fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than six months. (Section 56-1-51{1})

Lending a driver's license or personal identification card to any other person

First offense: A fine of not more than \$200 or imprisonment for not more than 30 days, and suspension of driver's license for a period of four months.

Second or subsequent offense: A fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than six months, and suspension of driver's license for a period of one year. (Section 56-1-510{1})

Giving false information on an application to obtain a driver's license or personal identification card

First offense: A fine of not more than \$200 or imprisonment for not more than thirty days.

Second or subsequent offense: A fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than six months. (Section 56-1-510{5})

Altering a driver's license

First offense: A fine of not more than \$2,500 or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both and suspension of driver's license for a period of four months for a first offense.

Second offense: A fine as above and suspension of driver's license for a period of one year. (Sections 56-1-515{1}, 56-1-515{3} and 56-1-746{A})

Selling or issuing a false driver's license

First offense: A fine of up to \$2500 or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both and suspension of driver's license for a period of four months.

Second offense: A fine as above and suspension of driver's license for a period of one year. (Sections -56-1-515{1}, 56-1-515{3} and 56-1-746{A})

Using someone else's driver's license or personal identification card

First offense: A fine of not more than \$100 or imprisonment for not more than thirty days and suspension of driver's license for a period of four months.

Second offense: A fine as above and suspension of driver's license for a period of one year. (Sections 56-1-515{2}, 56-1-515{4} and 56-1-746{A})

Using an altered driver's license or identification card containing false information

First offense: A fine of not more than \$100 or imprisonment for not more than thirty days and suspension of driver's license for a period of four months.

Second offense: A fine as above and suspension of driver's license for one year. (Sections 56-1-515{2}, 56-1-515{4} and 56-1-746{A})

Giving beer or wine to anyone who is under the age of 21. This law includes serving anyone at home except your child or spouse

Unlawful for a person to transfer or give to a person under the age of twenty-one years for the purpose of consumption beer or wine in the State. A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

First offense: A fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$300 dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days.

Second offense: A fine of not less than \$400 or more than \$500 dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days. (Section 61-4-90)

Giving liquor to anyone who is under the age of 21

Unlawful for a person to transfer or give to a person under the age of twenty-one years for the purpose of consumption alcoholic liquors in the State. A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

First offense: A fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$300 or imprisoned not more than thirty days.

Second offense: A fine of not less than \$400 or more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both. (Section 61-6-4070)

Giving beer or wine to anyone who is under the age of 21 at a bar, restaurant

Unlawful for a person who purchases beer or wine while on licensed premises to give the beer or wine to a person to whom beer or wine cannot lawfully be sold, for consumption on the premises.

First offense: A fine not less than \$200 or more than \$300 or imprisoned not more than thirty days.

Second offense: A fine not less than \$400 or more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than

thirty days, or both. (Section 61-4-80)

Giving liquor to anyone who is under the age of 21 at a bar, restaurant

Unlawful for a person who purchases alcoholic liquors while on licensed premises to give the alcoholic liquors to a person to whom it cannot lawfully be sold for consumption on the premises.

First offense: A fine not less than \$200 dollars or more than \$300 or imprisoned not more than thirty days.

Second offense: A fine of not less than \$400 or more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both. (Section 61-6-4075)

Selling of beer or wine to anyone who is under the age of 21

The minor also must be charged with the unlawful purchase or possession of beer or wine. In addition, if the minor gave false information as to age or if an adult purchased beer or wine for a person who cannot lawfully buy, these persons also must be charged with their violations.

First offense: A fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$300 or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

Second offense: A fine of not less than \$400 or more than \$500 dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both. Mandatory merchant education for at least 2 hours and cost no more than \$50. (Section 61-4-50)

Selling of liquor to anyone who is under the age of 21

A person engaged in the sale of alcoholic liquors who knowingly sells the alcoholic liquors to a person under the age of twenty-one is guilty of a misdemeanor.

First offense: A fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$300 or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

Second offense: A fine of not less than \$400 or more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both. Mandatory merchant education for at least 2 hours and cost no more than \$50. (Section 61-6-4080)

If a person is charged with a violation of the unlawful sale of alcoholic liquors to minors pursuant to Section 61-6-4080, the minor also must be charged with a violation of the unlawful purchase or possession of alcoholic liquors pursuant to Section 20-7-8925. In addition, if

the minor provided false information as to his age pursuant to Section 20-7-8925(A) or if an adult violated the provisions of Section 61-6-4075 regarding purchasing alcoholic liquors for a person who cannot lawfully buy them, these persons also must be charged with their violations. (Section 61-6-4085)

Having an open container of beer or wine in a moving vehicle of any kind, except in the trunk or luggage compartment

A fine of not more than \$100 or imprisonment for not more than thirty days (Sections 61-4-110 and 61-9-87)

Having an open container of liquor anywhere except in private residence, hotel or motel room, licensed establishment, the luggage compartment of a vehicle or a legally constituted private gathering

A fine of not more than \$100 or imprisonment for not more than thirty days (Sections 61-5-20 and 61-5-110)

Disorderly conduct - To be grossly intoxicated on any highway or at any public place or public gathering

A fine of not more than \$100 or imprisonment for not more than thirty days (Section 16-117-530)

Registration of kegs – It is illegal to sell a keg without tagging it, having buyer complete a form, having buyer sign a statement saying they won't give beer to anyone underage, or returning a deposit if the tag is not intact.

First offense: A fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$300 hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

Second offense: A fine of not less than \$400 or more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both. (Section 61-4-1920)

DUI - Driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. With a blood alcohol content (BAC) level of 0.08 percent or more, it may be inferred that the person was under the influence of alcohol. With a BAC less than 0.08 percent, the BAC may be considered with other evidence and the person may be charged with DUI.

First offense: A fine of \$400 or imprisonment for not less than 48 hours nor more the thirty days; driver's license is suspended for six months

Second offense: A fine of not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$5,000 and imprisonment for not less than 5 days or up to one year; driver's license is suspended for one year and an ignition interlock device place on vehicle.

Third offense: A fine of not less than \$3,800 nor more than \$6,300 and imprisonment for not less than 60 days nor more than three years; driver's license is suspended for two years. If a person is convicted of a fourth-offense or more, then the offender will be sentenced to prison for a minimum of one year and could have to serve up to 5 years. This is considered to be a felony DUI.

If the offender is the owner of the vehicle or a resident of the household of the vehicle, the vehicle will be confiscated at the time of the arrest for third DUI within 10 years. Felony DUI - Driving under the influence which results in great bodily harm or death

For causing great bodily harm: A fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000 and imprisonment for not less than 30 days nor more 15 years. Driver's license is suspended for a period of imprisonment plus 3 years.

For causing death: A fine of not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$25,000 and imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than 25 years. Driver's license is suspended for period of imprisonment plus 3 years. (Section 56-5-2945)

NOTE:

All convictions are placed on a permanent criminal record. All alcohol offenses are misdemeanors except a felony DUI conviction.

For underage drinking laws, alcohol offenses can be "stacked." In other words, a person charged and convicted of three separate offenses can receive all three fines or jail terms, not just the largest of the three.

Persons convicted of first offense DUI:

Are required to show proof of financial responsibility to the Department of Highways and Public Transportation, usually in the form of a guarantee of high-risk insurance coverage, for three years.

Are required to complete an Alcohol and Drug Safety Action Program (ADSAP) before becoming eligible to apply to the Department of Highways and Public Transportation for driver's license reinstatement.

May be eligible for a provisional driver's license upon meeting requirements. *All accidents resulting in injury or death of a person under age 21 as a result of DUI are investigated.

BE AWARE THAT STATE ALCOHOL LAWS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

An online version of The SC Code of Laws is available at <http://www.scstatehouse.net/>

INFORMATION ON SOUTH CAROLINA DRUG LAWS

The following is a partial list of South Carolina's drug laws.

I. MARIJUANA—HASHISH

Possession of 1 ounce or less of marijuana, or 10 grams or less of hashish

- First offense: Not more than 30 days of imprisonment and/or a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$200
- Second or subsequent offense: Not more than one year and/or \$200 to \$1,000 (Section 44-53-370{d}{4})

Possession of more than 1 ounce of marijuana, or more than 10 grams of hashish

- First offense: Not more than six months and/or not more than \$1,000
- Second or subsequent offense: Not more than one year and/or not more than \$2,000 (Section 44-53-370{d}{4})

Manufacture, distribution, or possession with the intent to distribute

- First offense: Not more than five years and/or not more than \$5,000
- Second offense: Not more than 10 years and/or not more than \$10,000
- Third or subsequent offense: Not less than five years nor more than 20 years and/or not more than \$20,000 (Section 44-53-370{b}{2})

Trafficking (10 lbs. to 100 lbs. of marijuana)

- First offense: Not less than one year nor more than 10 years and \$10,000
- Second offense: Not less than five years nor more than 20 years and \$15,000
- Third or subsequent offense: 25 years and \$25,000 (Section 44-53-370{e}{1}{a})

Trafficking (100 lbs. to 2,000 lbs. of marijuana, or 100 to 1,000 marijuana plants regardless of weight)

- 25 years and \$25,000 (Section 44-53-370{e}{1}{b})

Trafficking (2,000 lbs. to 10,000 lbs. or more of marijuana, or 10,000 or more marijuana plants regardless of weight)

- Not less than 25 years and \$50,000 (Section 44-53-370{e}{1}{d})

II. COCAINE AND HEROIN

Cocaine Possession (less than one gram)

- First offense: Not more than three years and/or not more than \$5,000
- Second offense: Not more than ten years nor more than \$7,500
- Third or subsequent offense: Not more than ten years and/or not more than \$12,500 (Section 44-53-375{A})

Manufacture, distribution, or possession with the intent to distribute (10 grains < 10 grams)

- First offense: Not more than 15 years and/or not more than \$25,000
- Second offense: Not less than five years nor more than 30 years and/or not more than \$50,000 (Section 44-53-370{b}{1})

Trafficking (10 grams to 28 grams of cocaine)

- First offense: Not less than three years nor more than 10 years and \$25,000
- Second offense: Not less than five years nor more than 30 years and \$50,000 (Section 44-53-370{e}{2}{A})

Manufacture, distribution, or possession with the intent to distribute heroin, opium, or morphine (2 grains < 4 grains)

- First offense: Not less than 15 years and \$25,000

- Second or subsequent offense: 5-30 years and \$50,000 (Section 44-53-370{b}{1})

III. CRACK

Possession of less than 1 gram

- First offense: 0-three years and/or up to \$5,000
- Second offense: 0-ten years and/or up to \$7,500
- Third or subsequent offense: 0-ten years and/or up to \$12,500 (Section 44-53-375{A})

Manufacture, distribution, purchase, or intent to distribute (more than 1 gram)

- First offense: 0- 15 years and/or up to \$25,000
- Second offense: 5-30 years and/or up to \$50,000 (Section 44-53-375{B})

IV. ANABOLIC STEROIDS

Possession of 10 or fewer dosage units without a valid prescription

- First offense: Not more than six months and/or not more than \$1,000
- Second or subsequent offense: Not more than one year and/or not more than \$2,000 (Section 44-53-1530{2})

Possession of 10 to 100 dosage units without a valid prescription

- First offense: Not more than one year and/or not more than \$2,000
- Second or subsequent offense: Not more than two years and/or not more than \$3,000 (Section 44-53-1530{3})

Possession of more than 100 dosage units without a valid prescription

- First offense: Not more than five years and/or not more than \$5,000
- Second or subsequent offense: Not more than 10 years and/or not more than \$10,000 (Section 44-53-1530{4})

V. SUSPENSION OF DRIVER'S LICENSE

In addition to the above, the driver's license of any person convicted of a controlled substance violation involving hashish or marijuana must be suspended for a period of six months. The driver's license of any person convicted of any other controlled substance violation must be suspended for a period of one year. (Section 56-1-286{a})

VI. Possessing PRESCRIPTION DRUGS without a valid prescription is illegal. For example, Adderall and Ritalin are prescription stimulants often prescribed for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Both of these drugs are classified as Schedule II controlled substances, as are cocaine and heroin. Unlawful distribution of Adderall or Ritalin, which means either the sale or simply giving the drug to another person, is a felony carrying up to five years in prison. Additionally, if the offense occurs on or within a half-mile of the college campus, an additional crime of distribution in proximity to a school has been committed, which is a felony carrying a 10-year sentence. A person who has in their possession one of these drugs, without a valid prescription, is guilty of a misdemeanor carrying a penalty of up to two years in prison.

MISCELLANEOUS STATE LAWS

Distribution of controlled substance within proximity of a school. (Distance from school, public park, or playground, or college or university is a radius of one-half mile.) Fine is not more than \$10,000 and imprisonment to be less than 10 years. For crack cocaine, the fine is between \$10,000 and 15,000 and prison between 10 and 15 years. For purchase, the fine will not exceed \$1,000 and not exceed one year of prison. Any violation of this section is considered a separate offense. (Section 44-53-445 {B})

Illegal acts involving persons under 17-years-old. Any use of persons under the age of 17 by persons over the age of 17 in the violation of Section 44-53-370 and 375, or the receipt of controlled substance from a person under 17 is considered a felony with punishment between 5 and 15 years. Any violation of this section is considered a separate offense. (Section 44-53-577)

Unlawful to advertise for sale, manufacture, possess, sell, or deliver, or to possess with intent to sell or deliver drug paraphernalia. Any person convicted can be fined no more than \$500; a corporation can be fined up to \$50,000. (Section 44-53-391)

Distribution of controlled substances to persons under 18-years-old. Distribution of a narcotic drug, LSD, and crack cocaine is guilty of a felony and upon conviction must be imprisoned not more than 20 years or fined not more than \$30,000, or both, and the sentence may not be suspended and probation may not be granted. Distribution of any other controlled substance to a person under 18 is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction must be imprisoned not more than 10 years or fined not more than \$10,000 or both. (Section 44-53-440)

Illegal acts involving persons under 17 years old and controlled substances. It is unlawful for any person at least 17 years old to knowingly use, hire, coerce, or employ a person under 17 years old to violate a controlled substance law. Violation of this section is a separate offense and punishment is imprisonment for not less than five years up to 15 years. (Section 44-53-577)

BE AWARE THAT DRUG LAWS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

INFORMATION ON FEDERAL DRUG LAWS

The following is a partial list of federal drug laws.

Possession of a controlled substance without a valid prescription

- First offense: Not more than one year and/or less than \$1,000
- Second offense: Not less than 15 days nor more than two years and not less than \$2,500
- Third or subsequent offense: Not less than 90 days nor more than three years and not less than \$5,000 (Statute - 21 U.S.C.A. Section 844{a})

Possession of a mixture or substance which contains cocaine base

- First offense: If the amount exceeds 5 grams, not less than five years nor more than 20 years and/or a fine of \$1,000
- Second offense: If the amount exceeds 3 grams, not less than five years nor more than 20 years and/or a fine of \$1,000
- Third offense: If the amount exceeds 1 gram, not less than five years nor more than 20 years and/or a fine of \$1,000 (Statute - 21 U.S.C.A. Section 844{a})

Distribution of controlled substances to persons under the age of 21

- First offense: Imprisonment (for not less than one year) and/or a fine, neither to exceed twice that authorized by 21 U.S.C.A. Section 841 (b)
- Second offense: Imprisonment (for not less than one year) and/or a fine, neither to exceed three

times that authorized by 21 U.S.C.A. Section 841 (b) Statute 21 U.S.C.A. Section 859

- Third offense: Life imprisonment (Statute - 21 U.S.C.A. Section 841{b}{1}{A})

Manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to manufacture or distribute controlled substances in or on, or within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a public or private elementary, vocational, secondary school, college, junior college, or university, or a playground, or within 100 feet of a public or private youth center, public swimming pool, or video arcade

- First offense: Imprisonment (for not less than one year) and/or a fine, neither to exceed that authorized by 21 U.S.C.A. Section 841 (b)
- Second offense: Not less than three years nor more than life (or three times that authorized by an offense, whichever is greater) and/or a fine not to exceed three times that authorized by 21 U.S.C.A. Section 841 (b)
- Third offense: Life imprisonment (Statutes - 21 U.S.C.A. Section 860; and 21 U.S.C.A. Section 841 {b}{1}{a})

Manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to manufacture or distribute:

a) 1 kilogram or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin;

or

b) 5 kilograms or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine;

or

c) 50 grams or more of a mixture or substance which contains cocaine base;

or

d) 100 grams or more of PCP or 1 kilogram or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of PCP;

or

e) 10 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of LSD;

or

f) 100 kilograms or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of marijuana, or 1,000 or more marijuana plants regardless of weight;

or

g) 100 grams or more of methamphetamine, or 1 kilogram or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine.

- First offense: Not less than 10 years nor more than life (if death or serious bodily harm results from the use of such substance, imprisonment shall be for not less than 20 years nor more 47

than life) and/or a fine not to exceed the greater of that authorized by Title 18 of the U.S. Code or \$4,000,000

- Second offense: Not less than 20 years nor more than life (if death or serious bodily harm results from the use of such substance, imprisonment shall be for life) and/or a fine not to exceed the greater of that authorized by Title 18 of the U.S. Code or \$8,000,000
- Third offense: Life imprisonment (Statute - 21 U.S.C.A. Section 841{b}{1}{A})

Manufacture, distribution, or possession with the intent to manufacture or distribute:

- a) 100 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin;
or
- b) 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine;
or
- c) 5 grams or more of a mixture or substance which contains cocaine;
or
- d) 10 grams or more of PCP or 100 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of PCP;
or
- e) 1 gram or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of LSD;
or
- f) 100 kilograms or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of marijuana, or 100 or more marijuana plants regardless of weight;
or
- g) 100 grams or more of methamphetamine, or 100 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine

- First offense: Not less than five years nor more than 40 years (if death or serious bodily injury results from the use of such substance, imprisonment shall be for not less than 20 years or more than life) and/or a fine not to exceed the greater of that authorized by Title 18 of the U.S. Code or \$2,000,000
- Second or subsequent offenses: Not less than 10 years nor more than life (if death or serious bodily harm results from the use of such substance, imprisonment shall be for life) and/or a fine not to exceed the greater of twice that authorized by Title 18 of the U.S. Code or \$4,000,000 (Statute - 21 U.S.C.A. Section 841 {b}{1}{B})

Manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to manufacture or distribute: a) 50 kilograms or

less of marijuana (except in the case of 50 or more marijuana plants regardless of weight); or b) 10 kilograms or less of hashish, or 1 kilogram or less of hashish

- First offense: Not more than five years and/or a fine not to exceed the greater of that authorized by Title 18 or \$250,000
- Second or subsequent offenses: Not more than 10 years and/or a fine not to exceed the greater of twice that authorized by Title 18 or \$500,000 (Statute - 21 U.S.C.A. Section 841 {b}{1}{D})

Manufacture, distribution, or possession with the intent to manufacture or distribute any controlled substance listed in Schedule I or II (e.g., LSD, heroin, marijuana, opium, morphine) of 21 U.S.C.A. Section 812 (except as provided elsewhere):

- First offense: Not more than 20 years (if death or serious bodily injury results from the use of such substance, imprisonment shall be for not less than 20 years nor more than life) and/or a fine not to exceed the greater of that authorized by Title 18 of the U.S. Code or \$1,000
- Second or subsequent offenses: Not more than 30 years (if death or serious bodily injury results from the use of such substance, imprisonment shall be for life) and/or a fine not to exceed the greater of twice that authorized by Title 18 of the U.S. Code or \$2,000,000 (Statute - U.S.C.A. Section 841{b}{1}{C})

Manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to manufacture or distribute any controlled substance listed in Schedule IV of 21 U.S.C.A. Section 812:

- First offense: Not more than three years and/or a fine not to exceed the greater of that authorized by Title 18 of the U.S. Code or \$250,000
- Second or subsequent offenses: Not more than six years and/or a fine not to exceed the greater of twice that authorized by Title 18 of the U.S. Code or \$500,000 (Statute - 21 U.S.C.A. Section 841{b}{2})

Manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to manufacture or distribute a controlled substance listed in Schedule V of 21 U.S.C.A. Section 812:

- First offense: Not more than one year and/or a fine not to exceed the greater of that authorized by Title 18 of the U.S. Code or \$100,000
- Second or subsequent offenses: Not more than two years and/or a fine not to exceed the greater of twice that authorized by Title 18 of the U.S. Code of \$200,000 (Statute - 21 U.S.C.A. Section 841{b}{3})

BE AWARE THAT DRUG LAWS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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