



Student Code of Conduct

Philosophical Statement

Central to the mission of Southern State is a commitment to education that promotes academic excellence, personal and professional growth, free and unbiased thought and expression, tolerance, a strong sense of social responsibility, civility, and a lasting, life-long appreciation of learning. Students attending Southern State are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that supports the academic atmosphere of the College, that respects the rights of other students and employees of the College, and that follows the policies and procedures of the College as outlined in this College Catalog.

Definition of Terms

Alleged: an event that is said to have taken place but

Breach of Peace:

violation of a law which is also a violation of this Student Code of Conduct if both violations result from the same factual situation, without regard to pending civil litigation or criminal arrest and prosecution. The College will determine whether disciplinary proceedings under this Student Code of Conduct will be carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings off campus.

- C. When a student is charged by federal, state or local authorities with a violation of law, the College will not request or agree to special consideration for that individual because of his or her status as a student. If the alleged offense is also the subject of a proceeding before a Student Disciplinary Committee under the Student Code of Conduct, however, the College may advise off-campus authorities of the existence of the Student Code of Conduct and of how such matters will be handled internally.

Conduct - Rules and Regulations

The welfare of the student is the primary interest and concern of Southern State Community College. The College endeavors to provide all students a college environment that is conducive to academic pursuit, social growth, and individual self-discipline. That students are both citizens and members of the academic community is recognized. As individual citizens, students have the same freedoms and rights guaranteed constitutionally for all members of our society. As members of the academic community, students hold rights of participation in the learning process of the institution while realizing responsibilities for conduct in accordance with the law, regulations of the College, observable social mores, and the rights of other citizens.

Students who do not meet these expectations on College premises or at any College sponsored activity held on or off-campus, may be subject to disciplinary action. Any student alleged to have committed the following misconduct is subject to the disciplinary sanctions outlined in the section dealing with Disciplinary Sanctions. Misconduct includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Furnishing false information to any College
 - b. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any College document, record, or instrument of
 - c. Tampering with the election of any recognized student organization.
2. Disruption or obstruction of teaching, 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, coercion and/or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person.
4. Attempted or actual theft of and/or damage to property of the College or property of a member of the College community or other personal or public property.
5. Hazing for the purpose of initiation, admission continued membership in a group or organization.
6. Failure to comply with direction of College performance of their duties and/or failure to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so.
7. Unauthorized possession, duplication or use of keys to any College premises or unauthorized entry to or use of College premises.
8. Use, possession or distribution of narcotic or other controlled substances except as expressly permitted by law.
9. Use, possession or distribution of alcoholic beverages on campus.
10. Narcotics, or other controlled substances while on College premises or while participating in College connected activities at off campus locations.
11. Explosives, other weapons, or dangerous chemicals on College premises.
12. Participation in a campus demonstration which disrupts the normal operations of the College and 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; intentional obstruction which unreasonably interferes with freedom of movement, either pedestrian or vehicular, on campus or at College sponsored or supervised functions.
13. Conduct which 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 the College.

- d. The complainant, the accused and the Committee shall have the privilege of presenting witnesses, subject to questions from the other participants (complainant, accused, or committee).
- e. The Committee at the discretion of the chairperson may accept pertinent records, exhibits, and written statements for consideration.
- f. All procedural questions are subject to the Committee.
- g. After the hearing, the Committee shall determine by majority vote in a closed session, whether the student has violated the section of the Student Code of Conduct for which the student is charged with violating.
- h. There shall be a single verbatim record, such as a tape recording of all hearings before the Student Disciplinary Committee. The record shall be the property of the College. Accused students may, at their expense, request a copy of the record for purposes of appeal.

Student Disciplinary Sanctions

The following sanctions may be imposed upon any student found to have violated the Student Code of Conduct

- 1. Warning – A notice in writing to the student that the student is violating or has violated institutional regulations.
- 2. Probation – A written reprimand for violation designated period of time and includes the probability of more severe disciplinary sanctions if the student is found to be violating any institutional regulation(s) during the probationary period.
- 3. Loss of Privileges – A suspension of certain privileges for a designated period of time. In addition to a warning or probation period there may be a loss of privileges which would include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Denial of the right to park or operate motor vehicle on campus.
 - b. Denial of the opportunity to represent the College.
 - c. Denial of the privilege of participating in athletics or other student activities.
- 4. Restitution – Compensation for loss, damage or injury. This may take the form of appropriate service and/or monetary or material replacement.
- 5. Service – Work assignments which offer service to College-oriented projects (such

- assignments must have prior approval of the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management).
- 6. Educational – Assignments, which are designed to educate a student, related to the effect of their behavior on the College environment. Examples of such assignments include:
 - a. Awareness or sensitivity training.
 - b. Recommendation to seek personal counseling at the College Counseling Center or other designated individual/agency.
- 7. College Suspension – Separation of the student from the College for a designated period of time, after which the student is eligible to return. Suspension may range from one semester to three years.
- 8. College Expulsion – Permanent separation of the student from the College.

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

In each case in which the committee determines that a student has violated the Student Code of Conduct, the sanction(s) shall be determined and imposed by the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management or designee. The Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management or designee in determining and imposing sanctions shall consider the recommendation of all members of the committee. The Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management or designee is not limited to sanctions recommended by members of the committee. Following the hearing, the committee and Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management or designee shall advise the accused in writing of its determination and of the sanction(s) imposed, if any.

Interim Suspension

In certain circumstances, the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management or designee may impose a College suspension prior to the hearing before the Committee.

- 1. Interim suspension may be imposed by the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management or the President, in consultation with other appropriate professionals, only:
 - a. to ensure the safety and well-being of members of the College community or preservation of College property;
 - b. to ensure the student's own physical or emotional safety and well-being; or
 - c. to prevent a significant disruption or interference with the normal operations of the College.

2. During the interim suspension, students shall be denied access to the campus (including classes) and/or all other College activities or privileges for which the student might otherwise be eligible appropriate.

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 suspension, the student will receive written
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 pending disciplinary hearing. A hearing will
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 follow procedures as stated in the Institutional