

**Tidewater Community College
Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities**

Preamble

The reputation of the college and the college community depends in large part upon the behavior and academic achievement of its students. Students enrolled at the college are expected to uphold the TCC Core Values:

- Teaching & Learning Excellence
- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
- Community
- Innovation
- Empathy
- Integrity
- Accountability

The TCC Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities outlines expectations of students that support the TCC Core Values and encourages an active learning environment for all students. The TCC Handbook is another supporting document that details how the TCC Code will be upheld and outlines specific processes. Any individual who has accepted an offer of admission to TCC is expected to review and uphold the expectations outlined in the Code and Handbook.

Students are subject to college jurisdiction, meaning it is expected that the TCC Code be maintained while a student at the college. The college reserves the right to take disciplinary action against any student whose conduct, in the opinion of college representatives, adversely affects the college's pursuit of its educational objectives. Students who are involved in the conduct process should expect to find their case outcomes enforced at all Tidewater Community College campuses.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Student Rights & Responsibilities.....	3
2. Expectations for Civility & Safety.....	4
3. Academic Integrity & Academic Misconduct.....	5
4. Behavioral Expectations.....	7
5. Outcomes.....	12
6. Guiding Principles.....	12
7. Procedures.....	13
8. Sexual Harassment / Sexual Misconduct.....	13
9. August 2024 VCCS Addendum	14

What Students Can Expect Of TCC

Tidewater Community College is committed to maintaining a social and physical environment conducive to carrying out its educational mission.

TCC is a large and friendly college, providing access to comprehensive educational programming at a reasonable cost to students of any age.

Students can expect quality instruction and support from caring faculty and staff who put students' needs first.

Students can expect a stimulating environment where students, faculty, and staff enjoy a climate of mutual trust and respect which encourages exciting intellectual pursuits.

Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of Tidewater Community College to provide equal employment and educational opportunities for all persons without regard to race (or traits historically associated with race including hair texture, hair type, and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists), sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, veteran status, political affiliation, disability, genetic information, and pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. There shall be no retaliatory action against any person making allegations of violations of this policy. For more information, please review TCC's Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination Policy – 1200.

1. Student Rights & Responsibilities

Student Rights

Students have the right to file a complaint if they believe any code expectations, as defined in this Code, have been violated by a member of the college community. Reports can be made by completing an Incident Reporting Form, which can be found at <https://forms.tcc.edu/conduct-reporting-form/>.

A student making a complaint under the provisions of this Code should expect that the college will make a good faith attempt to determine the validity of the complaint.

An alleged offender, complainant, or victim is not entitled to be present while the individuals who are responsible for determining the merits of the complaint are deliberating the merits of the complaint.

Rights of a complainant include:

1. The college will disclose the final results of any disciplinary proceeding to complainants as permitted by the provisions of state and federal laws. Specifically, victims of crimes that involve violence or a sex offense will be notified of proceeding outcomes as outlined in the Title IX Policy. For the privacy of student records, it is possible the person who made the complaint would not be notified of a case outcome if the above does not apply.

The alleged student has due process rights that include:

1. A fair and reasonable process and information about the conduct process
2. Notice of charges
3. Summary of allegations reported
4. Opportunity to present evidence
5. Opportunity to share their perspective of the incident
6. Adviser of their choosing
7. Opportunity to present relevant witnesses (the college will make a good faith effort to compel the attendance of witnesses, but witnesses are not required to participate)
8. Opportunity to choose to not speak during the process (if a student decides not to provide their perspective during the process, a decision will be made using the information and evidence available)
9. Notice of the case outcome
10. Information on the appeal process

Student Responsibilities

Just as students have rights, they also have responsibilities. Tidewater Community College expects students to demonstrate personal and academic integrity, to be open to new ideas, and to share in a community where individuals from diverse backgrounds and cultures help one another grow intellectually, socially, and personally.

Tidewater Community College expects students to work to their fullest potential in order to achieve academic success and reach their fullest potential. While many caring and talented faculty and staff are here to help, students must take responsibility for their own learning. Students should strive for a high level of academic performance and to be responsible, contributing citizens within the college and outside communities. Above all, Tidewater Community College wants students to develop a love of learning that will last a lifetime, along with a life-long interest in maintaining emotional and physical wellness.

2. Expectations for Civility & Safety

Civility

- Engage in classroom activity and discussion in a way that supports the educational topic at hand.
- Respect differences in thought and be open-minded to new ideas.
- Resolve disagreements in a positive, non-combative manner. Request the assistance of college personnel if needed.
- Apply what you learn at TCC to classes and work-based experiences.
- Engage in actions that promote personal well-being, social good, and trust.
- Uphold personal honesty and integrity.
- Take accountability for learning and actions. Be prepared for classes and be responsible for the things you say and do in and out of the classroom.

Safety

- Report TCC Code violations to TCC authorities.
- Always keep halls and walkways clear and fully accessible.
- Weapons and other hazardous items are not permitted on college grounds and must be

left elsewhere.

- In emergency instances, comply promptly with directions given by college authorities. Activate emergency signals, such as fire alarms, only for a genuine cause.
- Observe restrictions and regulations for the possession and use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.
- Unless authorized by the college, do not solicit money or sell items or services on campus.
- Post only materials that have been approved by college personnel.
- Handle only your own possessions. Turn in any lost items or money to college authorities.

All members of the college community and visitors to campus must comply with college policies and procedures, as well as applicable federal, state, and local laws. Direct any questions to the Campus Dean of Student Life and Conduct.

Tidewater Community College recognizes its responsibility to support and uphold the basic freedoms and citizenship rights of all students, and it expects students to be responsible for upholding and following all codes of conduct, including this Code, relevant codes and bulletins of respective schools, professional programs or professional societies, and all rules applicable to conduct in class environments, including distance education courses and programs and college-sponsored activities, including off-campus clinical, field, internships, athletics, in-service experiences, activities utilizing college technology or other college approved activities.

3. Academic Integrity & Academic Misconduct

Tidewater Community College recognizes academic integrity as a fundamental principle of collegiate life. The credibility of the college's educational programs rests upon the foundation of student learning and integrity. Students who misrepresent their academic work, violate the rights of fellow students, and undermine the faculty members' authority and ability to assess learning, can expect disciplinary action to be taken.

The following behaviors and actions undermine academic integrity and are forms of academic misconduct:

3.1.1 Cheating: Unauthorized use of notes, study aides, electronic devices, artificial intelligence, or acquiring information from another student's papers on an examination; obtaining a copy of an examination or questions from an exam prior to taking the exam; altering graded work with the intent to deceive; using another person's work and then submitting as one's own work; allowing another to take an examination in one's name; submitting identical or similar papers for credit in more than one course without obtaining permission from the instructors of all the courses involved.

3.1.2 Aiding Cheating or Other Acts of Academic Dishonesty: Providing materials or information to another student with the knowledge that this material or information will be used to deceive faculty.

3.1.3 Plagiarism: Presenting within one's own work the ideas, representations, or words of another person, or artificial intelligence, without customary and proper acknowledgment, or citation of that proper authorship is considered plagiarism. Students who are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism should consult with their instructors.

3.1.4 Data Misrepresentation: Fabricating data; deliberately presenting assignment data that were not gathered in accordance with assigned guidelines or are deliberately fabricated; or providing an inaccurate account of the method by which the data were gathered and generated.

3.1.5 Falsification of Academic Records or Documents: Falsification of academic records or documents includes, but is not limited to, altering any documents affecting academic records; forging signatures or falsifying information of an official academic document such as a grade report, ID card, library card, transcript, or any other official college letter or communication. This includes ID card misuse, which includes lending out a personal ID card or using someone's ID card. For additional information on this, see Policy 1302 – College Identification Cards.

3.1.6 Unauthorized Access to Computerized Academic or Administrative Records or Systems: Unauthorized access to computerized academic or administrative records or systems means viewing or altering the college's computer records without authorization; copying or modifying the college's computer programs or systems without authorization; releasing or dispensing information gained through unauthorized access; or interfering with the use or availability of computer systems or information. Also, when college-sponsored activities are held at locations owned or managed by other institutions or organizations, the unauthorized use, viewing, copying, or altering of those institutions' computer records, systems, or programs would similarly constitute a violation of academic integrity.

3.1.7 Unprofessional or Inappropriate Behavior within a Clinical, Field, or Internship Experience: Conduct that is considered to be lewd, indecent, obscene, inappropriate, disruptive, and/or non-compliant with professional or accreditation standards; or a violation of clinical or other affiliated site expectations or guidelines; or a violation of federal or state laws.

Faculty Response to Academic Misconduct

Faculty members who have reliable evidence of academic misconduct will follow the procedures outlined in the Student Handbook and/or any procedures outlined in their syllabus.

4. Behavioral Misconduct:

Tidewater Community College may assign outcomes to students who have been found in violation of behavior expectations. Violations of behavioral expectations are subject to the TCC Student Conduct process, which is detailed in the TCC Handbook. Examples of such violations are outlined below.

Misconduct Involving Computers/Technology

4.1.1 Network Files: Tidewater Community College provides students with network files for academic purposes. These files are not private and may be inspected by authorized college personnel to ensure compliance with the terms outlined in the college's acceptable use of technology policies.

4.1.2 Unauthorized Use of Computers and Technology: Theft or other abuse of computers or computer lab facilities or technology resources including, but not limited to:

- a. Unauthorized entry into a file, to use, read or change the contents, or for any other purpose.
- b. Unauthorized transfer of a file; including peer-to-peer file sharing.
- c. Use of another individual's identification and/or password.
- d. Use of computing facilities and resources to interfere with the work of another student, faculty member, and/or college official.
- e. Use of computing facilities and resources to send obscene, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate messages.
- f. Use of computing facilities and resources to view, download, print, send, or seek out obscenities or sexually explicit materials, except in the context of a bona fide college activity.
- g. Use of computing facilities and resources to interfere with normal operations of the college's computing system.
- h. Use of computing facilities and resources in violation of copyright laws.
- i. Unauthorized release or use of any college access codes for computer systems or equipment.
- j. Any violation of the college's computer use policy.

Behavioral Misconduct

4.2.1. Dishonesty: Dishonest conduct including, but not limited to, false accusation of misconduct; forgery, alteration, or misuse of any college document, record, or identification; and giving to a college official information known to be false. This also includes the following:

- a. **Falsification of Identity:** Assuming another person's identity or role through deception or without proper authorization. Communicating or acting under the guise, name, identification, e-mail address, signature, or other indications of another person or group without proper authorization or authority.
- b. **Falsification of Information:** Knowingly initiating, transmitting, filing, or circulating a false report or warning concerning an impending bombing, fire, or other emergency or catastrophe; or transmitting such a report to an official or an official agency.

4.2.2. Inappropriate Conduct: Conduct that is considered to be lewd, indecent, obscene, or inappropriate.

4.2.3. Disruptive Conduct: Conduct that is considered to be obstructive or disruptive that interferes with teaching, research, administration, or other college or college-authorized activities, or infringes on the rights of others.

4.2.4. Failure to Comply: Failure to comply with the directions of authorized college officials in the performance of their duties, including failure to identify oneself when requested to do so; failure to comply with the terms of a disciplinary outcome; refusal to vacate a college facility when directed to do so.

4.2.5. **Unauthorized use of Facilities, Property, or Resources:** Unauthorized entry, use, or occupancy of college facilities and unauthorized taking, possession, or use of college property, services, resources, or the property or services of others.

4.2.6. **Damage to Property:** Attempted or actual damage to or destruction of college property or property belonging to others. This includes not disposing of items in their rightful place, i.e. littering.

4.2.7. **Theft:** The intentional taking of property to use or keep, without the consent of the rightful owner.

4.2.8. **Fire/Safety Equipment:** Unauthorized setting of fires, or attempt to, on college property; unauthorized use of or interference with fire or emergency equipment and emergency personnel.

4.2.9. **Explosive Devices:** Unauthorized possession, use, manufacture, distribution, or sale of illegal fireworks, incendiary devices, or other dangerous explosives.

4.2.10. **Firearms and Weapons:** Students are prohibited from possessing, or carrying, any weapon while on college property, in a college vehicle, or while attending or participating in a college-sponsored event, on campus or off. Weapons include any item designed for combat or any item that is used with the intention to cause harm or to threaten harm. Firearms are prohibited from campus and include any type of handgun, rifle, shotgun, pellet gun, or any other type of propellant gun. These prohibitions shall not apply to possession of a lawfully owned handgun, rifle, or shotgun when stored securely inside the student's vehicle. If a student desires to store a handgun in a vehicle, they must hold a current, valid concealed handgun permit. Any firearm stored in a vehicle under this exception shall be unloaded and secured in a locked container, which may include the vehicle's glove compartment or trunk. Any student desiring to store a firearm in their vehicle shall provide written notice of such intent to the college official of that area. Students are responsible for their property and the security of their property. More on this can be found in TCC Policy 1101 – Weapons.

- a. **Sale/Distribution of Weapons/Controlled Substances:** The sale of any weapon, firearm, or controlled substance from college property or using college facilities, including computer accounts and telephones, including email accounts, is prohibited.

4.2.11. **Bomb Threat, Fire Alarm:** Students who activate a fire alarm, make a threat to damage or bomb college property, or encourage, incite, entice, or solicit any person to commit such a threat, shall be disciplined by the college and recommended for criminal prosecution to the full extent of the law.

4.2.12. **Endangerment:** Actions that endanger one's self or others in the college community or the academic process.

4.2.13. **Stalking/Harassment/Cyber-bullying:** Stalking, harassment, or cyber-bullying of any kind whether the behavior is carried out verbally, physically, electronically, or in

written form is prohibited.

- a. **Stalking** is defined as repeated, unwanted contact in the forms of including but not limited to, phone calls, email, messaging, physical presence, postal mail, and social networking media.
- b. **Harassment** is defined as any unwanted conduct in the form of words, gestures, images, or actions directed towards an individual, or group of individuals that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive, that it undermines and detracts from someone's educational experience or would cause a reasonable person to experience fear or intimidation or actual or attempted block of rightful actions. Harassment based on race, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, national origin, religion, age, military/veteran status, political affiliation, genetic information, marital status, or disability will not be tolerated.
- c. **Cyber-Bullying** is defined as any conduct that subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, humiliate, or intimidate the person through the use of electronic or digital media, this includes doxing.

4.2.14. **Threatening or Intimidating Behavior** is defined as any words or actions that express, imply, or encourage a threat to the safety or well-being of others or college property. This includes fighting words that inherently are likely to provoke a violent reaction.

4.2.15. **Abuse:** Abuse, whether physical or verbal, is defined as any behavior, action, or words that restrict a person's rightful actions and cause a reasonable person to feel threatened or intimidated.

- a. **Physical Abuse** is defined as the use of physical force or violence that attempts to or causes harm, restricts the freedom, action, or movement of another person, or endangers the health or safety of another person and restricts their rights. Physical abuse also includes physical behavior that involves an expressed or implied threat to interfere with an individual's personal safety, academic efforts, employment, or participation in college-sponsored extracurricular activities or causes the person to have a reasonable apprehension that such harm is about to occur.
- b. **Verbal Abuse** is defined as any verbal, written, visual, or gesture directed to someone that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear or intimidation and could interfere with an individual's personal safety, academic efforts, employment, or participation in college-sponsored activities. This can include excessive yelling, name-calling, insulting, and other forms of verbal abuse.

4.2.16. **Hazing:** Hazing is defined as any conduct that subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, humiliate, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a

group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

All members of TCC faculty, staff, and student body are expected to report potential or actual acts of hazing to the Dean of Student Life and Conduct via the Incident Reporting form. Bystanders who report hazing in good faith will not be penalized even if they, as a bystander engaged in illegal use of drugs or alcohol.

4.2.17. Retaliation: Retaliation is defined as actions, words, or gestures directed towards someone who reported a code violation or behavioral/safety concern. Retaliation against a person who made a report or served as a witness to an incident is prohibited.

4.2.18. Obstruction: Intentionally obstructing or blocking access to college facilities, property, or programs is prohibited. This includes withholding information requested by college administrators for the purposes of official college business and interfering with the dissemination of information.

4.2.19. Possession/Distribution/Consumption of Alcohol: Unauthorized possession, use, or supplying alcoholic beverages to others is prohibited. More on TCC's alcohol and drug policy can be found within Policy 1103 – Alcohol and Other Drugs.

- a. Tidewater Community College prohibits:
 1. Public intoxication, use, or possession of alcoholic beverages on college property;
 2. Providing or possessing alcohol contrary to law.
- b. Student organizations that serve or permit possession of alcoholic beverages at student organization functions, on or off campus, may be disciplined if violations of alcoholic beverage laws or of college regulations occur. Individual students who plan, sponsor, or direct such functions also may be subject to disciplinary action.

4.2.20. Possession/Distribution/Use of Illegal Drugs or Controlled Substances: Unauthorized possession, manufacture, sale, distribution, or use of illegal drugs, any controlled substance, or drug paraphernalia. This may also include being under the influence of illegal drugs or unauthorized controlled substances. More on TCC's alcohol and drug policy can be found within Policy 1103 – Alcohol and Other Drugs.

4.2.21. Tobacco/Smokeless Tobacco/E-Cigarettes: Smoking or inhaling any substance, by any method, including but not limited to tobacco products, e-cigarettes, and aromatic smoking products, such as clove, herbal cigarettes, etc., and using/consuming any type of tobacco products, including but not limited to chewing tobacco and snuff, is prohibited inside all college-owned and managed facilities, including parking garages, covered walkways, temporary enclosed structures, trailers, and tents as well as structures placed on college property by contractors or vendors, in college-owned or leased/rented vehicles, within interior spaces on-board college-owned or leased vessels (smoking may be permitted on exterior decks as designated by the vessel's master), on loading docks at college facilities; within 25 feet of all entries, outdoor air intakes, and operable windows of

college-owned or managed buildings, and in outdoor areas during a college event or activity scheduled in the area, such as at student activities or athletic events. For more information, please review TCC's Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products Policy, 1107.

4.2.22. **Gambling:** Engaging in gambling, which is unauthorized by law, unless exempted by a special permit.

4.2.23. **Violation of State or Federal Law:** A violation of any state or federal criminal law is a violation of the TCC Code and could be adjudicated through TCC's conduct process.

4.2.24. **Minors on Campus:** Minors are not permitted to be on Tidewater Community College property without direct supervision by a parent or guardian, with the exception of college-sponsored childcare centers and minors who are enrolled in Tidewater Community College courses or other approved activities. Minors are not permitted in classrooms at any time unless enrolled in the course or approved by the course faculty member or by administrative staff.

4.2.25. **Copyright Infringement:** Conduct or activities that violate federal copyright laws including, but not limited to, written or electronic media.

4.2.26. **Animals:** Unapproved animals are not permitted in TCC buildings or at TCC- sponsored activities on or off campus unless stated otherwise. Exceptions to this include Service Animals that support people with disabilities. Students with disabilities that have nonservice animals (i.e. emotional support or therapy animals) may be allowed as an accommodation after registering with the Office of Educational Accessibility.

4.2.27. **Misuse of College Funds:** Misusing college funds includes, but is not limited to, misrepresenting requests for funds, and appropriating funds for personal use. Committing college funding, including student clubs or organizations, without written approval, will result in the student being responsible for the money owed, the student being removed from the club or organization, and disciplinary action being taken. No student shall enter into a contract with an outside agency using the name of the college. Contracts entered into in violation of this rule shall be the personal responsibility of the student.

4.2.28. **Solicitation:** College policy requires that individuals or organizations seeking the use of campus facilities or scheduling activities to solicit funds must first obtain written approval from the appropriate college official. College rules and regulations govern fundraising activities, the money collected, and the use of the money collected by the fundraising activities. Misrepresentation or misuse will result in the student being responsible for the money owed to an institution or individual, the student being removed from the club or organization, and the student facing disciplinary action. The student is also accountable for compliance

with state and federal laws and regulations.

4.2.29. Parking: Students are expected to comply with parking regulations. Parking spaces for persons with disabilities and visitors' areas are reserved for those purposes. Vehicles improperly parked in those areas may be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense.

5. Outcomes

The following outcomes may be imposed by the college, should a student be found in violation of this code or any college policy:

1. Dismissal from the college, which includes barring from readmission
2. Disciplinary suspension for a specified period of time
3. Disciplinary probation
4. Official Warning
5. Restitution for damages
6. Withhold of transcript or degree
7. Suspension of eligibility for college activities
8. Suspension from a specific class or campus activity, or the use of specific offices or services
9. Educational and reflective outcomes
10. Such other outcome(s) as may be mutually determined.

6. Guiding Principles

1. The college intends that proceedings under the code not only resolve charges of misconduct but also have educational benefits for the students involved. Accordingly, every effort will be made to ensure that students are encouraged to speak for themselves throughout the process of addressing alleged Code violations. Students may have advisors, including at their own expense, attorneys, who accompany them at any or all stages of the process. A student with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation to participate fully in the conduct process. A student who cannot effectively communicate in the English language may seek a reasonable accommodation from the Office of the Campus Dean of Student Life and Conduct to allow an advisor or interpreter to present or translate the proceedings.
2. Except when a student poses a serious and substantial risk of harm to self, to others, to property, or to the continuing function of a program or the college, outcomes listed in a student's decision letter may be dropped if the student requests an appeal, as the appeal will render a new case decision. Coursework performed while conduct proceedings are underway, however, shall be considered conditional.

Conditional work may be affected or eliminated based on a final finding of the conduct process or outcome imposed. This may result in loss of course credit, a delay in the awarding of a degree, or revocation of a degree that was awarded prior to a final decision in the conduct proceedings.

3. In instances when a student poses a serious and substantial risk of harm to self, others, property, or to the continuing function of a program or the college, the faculty member in

charge may remove a student from class or class-related activity for a temporary period of time until TCC Student Conduct is connected to the case. The faculty member should immediately notify Student Conduct for a swift response. Student Conduct will determine whether a violation of this code occurred. Interim actions can also be assigned by Student Conduct in cases that pose a clear, present, and immediate threat of harm to self, others, property, or continuing function of a program or the college.

Findings of responsibility for violations of this code become part of a student's record only after a final determination is reached. Before a final determination is reached and after possible code violation charges are assigned, participation in the conduct process becomes part of a student's record until a final determination is made.

4. The college strives to provide an educational and professional environment that allows individuals to engage in their daily activities in a safe, healthy, and secure manner. Local, state, or federal law enforcement officials will be notified of anyone violating local, state, or federal laws. Violators shall be subject to prosecution by the appropriate law enforcement officials. Anyone found in violation of college regulations shall be subject to disciplinary action by the college through due process procedures for student conduct violations.

7. Procedures

For detailed information regarding the college's procedures for student conduct, please refer to the TCC Handbook, under Student Disciplinary Procedures.

8. Sexual Harassment/Sexual Misconduct

Tidewater Community College is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment free from sexual harassment or other forms of inappropriate behavior. As a result of this commitment, Tidewater Community College investigates all reports of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct. Incidents of alleged sexual harassment and/or sexual misconduct should be reported to any TCC employee, including the college's Title IX Coordinator, by submitting the online reporting form. For more information on TCC's Title IX Policy, please review Policy 1108 – Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking.

As a recipient of federal funds, Tidewater Community College is required to comply with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. ("Title IX"), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities, admission and employment. Under certain circumstances, sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, and similar conduct constitutes sexual discrimination prohibited by Title IX. Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX may be referred to the College's Title IX Coordinator or to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. **The Title IX Coordinator is Dr. Jeanne Natali, whose office is located at 1700 College Crescent Drive, Student Center, Room 105, Virginia Beach, VA 23453, and may be contacted by phone at 757-822-7193 or by email at jnatali@tcc.com.**

9. August 2024 VCCS Addendum

Tidewater Community College may assign outcomes to students who have been found in violation of the below behaviors. Violations of expectations are subject to the TCC Student Conduct process, which is detailed in the TCC Handbook. Examples of such violations are outlined below.

9.1.1 Disruptive Acts:

- a. Disrupting or obstructing the normal learning, living, or work environments of other members of the College community or the functions or activities of the College (as well as activities conducted on the College's property with its permission) is prohibited. Examples include: blocking entrances, corridors or exits; interfering with ongoing educational activities, cultural events, or recreational, extracurricular or athletic programs; unauthorized presence in a building after normal closing hours or after notice that the building is being closed; interfering with vehicular or pedestrian traffic; creating unsanitary conditions; and interfering with any other effort to protect the health and safety of members of the College community or larger public.
- b. No person may obstruct, disrupt, or attempt by physical force to cancel or discontinue speech by any speaker or the observation of speech by any person intending to see or hear a speaker.

9.1.2 Violations of Laws, Regulations, and Ordinances: Prohibited conduct includes violations of federal, state, or local laws, regulations, orders, or ordinances.

- a. Students have a continuing duty to promptly report to TCC Department of Public Safety any arrests for violations of federal, state, local, or international law, excluding minor traffic violations that do not result in injury to others. This duty applies regardless of where the arrest occurred (inside or outside the Commonwealth of Virginia) and regardless of whether the College is in session at the time of the arrest. An arrest includes the issuance of a written citation or summons regardless of whether the student is taken into custody by law enforcement. Charges related to driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs are not "minor traffic violations" and must be reported.

9.1.3 Masking to Conceal Identity: Consistent with Virginia Code § 18.2-422, any individual who is present on College property or attending a College event who is wearing a mask, hood, or other device whereby a substantial portion of the face is hidden or covered so as to conceal the identity of the wearer, must present a valid college or government issued identification document containing both the person's legal name and photograph when requested by any authorized college staff employee or otherwise establish the individual's identity to the satisfaction of the insert authorized college employee.

9.1.4 Encampments

- a. The construction or occupation of a Camping Tent is prohibited.
 - i. "Camping Tent" means any collapsible tent or structure, typically having as its basic components a flexible material supported by a framework,

- designed, intended, or used as temporary shelter while camping or on recreational outdoor outings. Camping Tents may include tents known as “pup tents,” “dome tents,” “cabin tents,” “hiker tents,” and “backpacking tents.”
- ii. A “Camping Tent” does not include a tent with all sides entirely open and where there is an unobstructed view into such tent from the outside at all angles. All other conduct provisions apply to the use of open tents.
 - iii. Only tents approved in advance pursuant to TCC 3204 policy shall be permitted. No Camping Tents shall be permitted at any time on college property.
- b. Camping is prohibited on property owned, leased, or operated by the College, Virginia Community College System, or their foundations.
 - i. “Camping” means the act of using any part of the property or facilities for living accommodation purposes, such as establishment of temporary or permanent living quarters, sleeping outdoors overnight or making preparations for overnight sleeping (including the laying down of bedding), storing personal belongings, using any tent, shelter, or similar structure regardless of size for sleeping; sleeping in, on, or under parked vehicles, or setting up temporary or permanent sleeping areas outdoors or in structures not designated for human occupancy.
 - ii. “Camping” does not include the use of College, VCCS, or their foundations’ property that has been wholly or partially designated as sleeping or relaxation areas; a tailgating activity in conjunction with a College, VCCS, or foundation event; or the use of temporary hammocks or lounge furniture for recreation or studying activities outdoors on College, VCCS, or foundation owned property during the hours of 8:30 am – 5pm, Monday-Friday.
 - c. These prohibitions shall not apply to the College, the Virginia Community College System Office, or the College or System foundations or to Non-Camping Tents erected for their use.
 - d. These prohibitions shall not apply to federal, state, or local governments or their agencies or to Non-Camping Tents erected for their use.

Applicability:

1. The Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, including this Addendum, shall apply both to the conduct of individual students as well as student organizations.
2. Each recognized student organization shall represent that its activities and the activities of its members will not violate federal, state, or local law; or the College’s Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, including this Addendum.
3. The Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, including this Addendum, applies to all student activities within College, VCCS, or their foundations’ programs or activities wherever located. The Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, including this Addendum, also applies to all student conduct occurring on the College campus and on any property owned, leased, or operated by the College, VCCS, or their foundations. The Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, including this Addendum, additionally applies to any property used as a student residence and in regard to which

students have expressly agreed to abide by or provided written consent to be governed by College policies. Violations of other College or VCCS policies may result in disciplinary action under the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.