

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	STUDENT SERVICES <b>STUDENT RIGHTS</b>	Statement 6.00
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**Preamble**

Academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, and the development of students who promote the well-being of society. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. As members of this academic community, students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for explanation and truth.

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable functions of academic conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the community. All should exercise their freedom with responsibility and be mindful of the rights and protections entitled to them by the policies and procedures at SCC and the laws of the community in which SCC resides.

**Student Rights**

Students are free to pursue their educational goals. Appropriate opportunities for learning in the classroom and on the campus shall be provided by the College.

Students have the right to have their performance evaluated solely on an academic basis as defined by the course syllabus, not on opinions or conduct matters unrelated to academic standards.

Students have the right to freedom of expression, inquiry, and assembly without restraint or censorship subject to reasonable and non-discriminatory rules and regulations regarding time, place and manner.

Students have the right to form clubs, as defined through Student Life, to show solidarity to an academic program, societal issue or personal cause.

Students have the right to safeguard and protect their official college record, as defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. Students and former students have the right to review their official records and to request a hearing if they want to challenge the content of their record.

All rights and privileges guaranteed to every citizen by the Constitution of the United States and by the State of North Carolina shall not be denied to any student.

Should a student violate a College policy, College discipline will be initiated when the presence of the student on campus will (or has) disrupt the educational process. Students have the right to due process during these situations. Due process procedures are established to guarantee a student accused of a Standards of Student Conduct Violation (academic or non-academic) the right to a hearing, a presentation of charges, evidence of charges, the right to present evidence, the right to have a witness on one's behalf, the right to hear witness on behalf of the accuser, and the right to an appeal. If a student violates State or Federal law and the violation adversely impacts the College's pursuit of its recognized educational objectives, the College will enforce its own disciplinary sanctions, in addition to penalties incurred by legal authorities, to maintain a safe and orderly academic environment.

Adopted:                      October 27, 2015