

2611 – Student Code of Conduct

Barton County Community College will establish and maintain a fair and equitable procedure for addressing student disciplinary matters ensuring that the rights of the students, the College community, and the community-at-large are protected.

PURPOSE:

The objectives of the disciplinary process at Barton County Community College are:

1. To protect members of the campus community from harm due to the indiscretions of the few members of the community who are unable, or unwilling to respect the rights of others;
2. To help ensure order in the College community;
3. To create an environment that enhances the opportunity for learning;
4. To protect the rights of members of the College community and the community at large; and
5. To assure students due process when they have been charged with violating College rules and regulations for which findings of responsibility may lead to suspension or expulsion and/or dismissal from a college program or service.

Student Rights:

To protect students from capricious disciplinary action, all proceedings which may lead to suspension or expulsion and/or dismissal from a college program must be conducted in a manner which insures the charged student due process. The basis of due process is the method by which substantive rules are effectuated in a society. The key is how rules are implemented so that fair play and justice are generally recognized as being present. The following elements must be included to ensure due process:

1. Jurisdiction: The parties must be subject to the power wielded by the disciplinary body.
2. Notice: A concise, specific statement, in writing, of the charges (the specific facts and acts). A time and place for any conduct meetings and any appeal hearings must be specified.
3. Testimony: The right personally to give testimony and offer evidence and to have others give testimony and offer evidence.
4. Impartiality: An impartial body to determine the facts and whether they (the facts) fit the rule. "Impartial" does not necessarily mean that they have no knowledge of the facts. Impartial means to base decisions on evidence and objective criteria rather than the basis of bias, prejudice, or preference.

5. Student Advisor: The student is allowed to bring an advisor or support person to any conduct meetings or appeal hearings or have one appointed for the student if so requested.
6. Documentation: Conduct processes including conduct meetings and appeal hearings will be documented.

DEFINITIONS:

The following terms used in this Code are defined:

1. "College" means Barton County Community College.
2. "Faculty member" means any person employed by the College to conduct classroom, lab, interim experiences, or clinical activities. As necessary, faculty may tutor students.
3. "College official" includes any person employed by the College, performing assigned administrative or professional responsibilities.
4. "Student" includes all persons taking courses at the College, both full- and part-time, as well as those participating in all outreach programs, off-campus programs, and such other activities as may be sponsored by the College.
5. "Basic violations" are unacceptable behaviors that show inattention or indifference for the rights of the campus/college community. These are considered lower-level rule violations. Basic violations are differentiated from capital violations, although multiple basic violations occurring at once or repeated basic violations may be elevated to capital violations.
6. "Capital violations" are unacceptable behaviors that show deliberate disregard for the rights of the campus/college community. These are considered more severe rule violations that could potentially bring significant disruption or harm to members of the campus/college community or the campus/college community at large.
7. "College premises" includes all land, buildings, facilities, and other property in the possession of or owned, used, rented or controlled by the College.
8. "College campuses" includes the land and buildings on which Barton Community College's traditional Barton campus exists, the Golden Belt One Stop Facility, as well as the Grandview Plaza, Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth campuses, and all locations where the College offers educational programming and services.
9. "College-sponsored activity" means any activity on or off campus that is initiated, aided, authorized, or supervised by the College.
10. "Policy" is defined as the written regulations of the College as found in, but not limited to, the College website, the Student Code of Conduct, Student and Housing Handbooks, College Catalog, Policy and Procedural Manuals, etc.

11. "Student advisor" is an individual whose role is to support, and advise, the student.
12. "Bystander engagement" is the purposeful intervention of someone who is present during and witness to an incident.
13. "Preponderance of evidence" is the standard of proof established for conduct investigations. The preponderance of evidence (i.e. just enough evidence to make it more likely than not) standard differs from the standard used in criminal investigations which is "beyond a reasonable doubt."

Bystander Engagement: The welfare of members of our community is of paramount importance. At times, students on and off-campus may need assistance. The college encourages students to offer help and assistance to others in need without placing themselves in danger. Sometimes, students are hesitant to offer assistance to others, for fear that they may get themselves in trouble. (For example, a student who has been drinking might hesitate to help take a sexual misconduct victim to the Campus Safety Office.) The college applies a policy of limited immunity for students who offer help to others in need. While policy violations cannot be overlooked, the college will provide educational options, rather than punitive actions, to those who offer their assistance to others in need.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

The following constitute some of the conduct violations that may result in disciplinary action being taken against the student. The list is not intended to be all inclusive but is intended to be used as a guide.

1. Violation of federal, state and local laws that affect the student's suitability as a member of the college community.
2. Physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, coercion and/or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person, whether perceived or real.
3. Hazing. Hazing is illegal under the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act and has long been illegal under Kansas Statute 21-5418. Hazing is defined as an act which causes or creates a risk to the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation into, affiliation with, or maintenance of membership in a student organization or group. This organization or group can be two or more students and need not be an established or recognized organization. Consent or agreement of a student to be hazed is not a defense to a charge of hazing.
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, including knowingly receiving or possessing stolen property. This includes tampering with College safety and security equipment.

5. Manufacture, possession, control, sale, transmission of or use of any controlled substance not prescribed to the individual, or alcohol, or other illicit drugs on the College's campuses.
6. Violation of Barton's Weapons Policy. (See Policy 1160 – Weapons.)
7. Obstructing or restraining the lawful movement of another and thereby causing personal or campus disorder.
8. Obstructing or disrupting a police response or the response of College Safety Personnel.
9. Intentionally initiating or causing to be initiated any false report, warning, or threat of fire, explosion, or other emergency on College premises or at College-sponsored activities.
10. Fraudulent use or forgery of any College seal or document, including the Student ID.
11. Fraudulent or unauthorized use of college facilities or college resources, including computing resources.
12. Unauthorized possession, duplication, or use of keys to any College premises, or unauthorized entry to or use of College premises.
13. Intentionally impeding normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic on campus.
14. Disrupting, impeding or interfering with the operation of the College.
15. Disruption of the learning environment or any behavior that detracts from the goals of or diminishes the dignity, respect, or worth of other students on campus. This could include overt disrespect for the ideas and opinions of others; disruptive talk during class, etc.
16. Verbal or written communication that has the intent or effect of subjecting any individual or group to hatred, contempt, ridicule, racist slurs, or intimidation and thereby injures the person, property, or reputation of another.
17. Violations of federal and state laws pertaining to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation on the basis of any protected categories as set out in Policy and Procedure 1132, Civil Rights Equity.
18. Littering and posting of notices in non-designated spaces or without approval from the appropriate College personnel and unauthorized distribution or sale of goods on campus.
19. Violation of College traffic and parking regulations.
20. The use of tobacco products, including chewing tobacco, smoking, or vaping, outside of designated areas.

21. Possession or use of alcohol by any person on the College's campuses except as allowed for special events (See Policy 1220, Procedure 2215 Service of Alcoholic Beverages for Special Events.)
22. Leaving minors or animals unattended on campus.
23. Use of bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, and any other non-motorized vehicle or equipment (except wheelchairs or other assistive devices) outside designated areas.
24. Failure to comply with a directive of College officials or Campus Safety officers acting in the performance of their duties and/or failure to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so.
25. Tampering with the election of any College-recognized student organization.
26. Intentionally or maliciously furnishing false information to the College.
27. Unauthorized actions taken in the name of the College.
28. The possession of any flammable or explosive materials such as paint, gasoline, fireworks, etc., except for its intended use, by an employee or in a program approved by the College.
29. Gambling outside of legal allowance on campus or at any College sponsored activity except in the case of approved student activities sponsored by the Student Life Office.
30. All forms of academic dishonesty. (See Policy 1501, Procedure 2502 – Academic Integrity.)
31. General misconduct.
32. Violation of any other published College policies, rules or regulations.

Additionally, students are advised that specific career technical programs, as well as Barton athletic programs, communication and performing arts programs, and other student organizations publish student handbooks and program guidelines with policies and procedures associated with their respective programs. In addition to the guidelines and expectations outlined herein, students are expected to comply with the policies and procedures applicable to the programs with which they are affiliated. Students in these programs are entitled to the same due process as all other students.

Students attending Barton as part of an MOU with the Department of Defense to provide educational opportunities on a military installation are governed by any code of conduct or behavioral expectations dictated by the military. Any conduct violations, investigations, and/or action taken will be the purview of the appropriate military authority designated to handle such matters.

Conduct Procedure:

To ensure all students have an opportunity to defend themselves in the face of charges of conduct violations, Barton utilizes a defined conduct process. This process provides for student awareness and ensures that Barton follows established protocol in addressing violations to the Student Code of Conduct.

Whenever a complaint is made against any student for a conduct violation, the Vice President of Student Services or such other person as may be designated by the President shall conduct an investigation of the allegations as soon as possible (generally, for Offenses Against the Academic Community the President will designate the Vice President of Instruction). The Vice President of Student Services or designee is authorized to take any interim action necessary to maintain campus safety, integrity of the process, and/or protection of student rights and institutional rights during the formal investigation and determination process.

Notice of charges: The student shall be given written notice of the complaint and charges against the student within five (5) College business days of receipt of the complaint. If a student is under the age of eighteen (18) years, a copy of the notice may be sent to the parents or guardian of the student. Students are expected to respond to the notice within the timeframe identified in the notice (generally within 48 hours). This response typically results in the scheduling of a conduct meeting. Additionally, the student shall have five (5) College business days after receipt of the notice to respond in writing to the charges, should the student wish to provide a written statement. If it is necessary to mail notice to the student, the student shall have seven (7) College business days after the date of mailing to respond in writing to the charges.

Notice is considered given based on the date an email is sent from a Barton representative's Barton-issued email account to the student's Barton email address. This email may be sent through Barton's conduct software.

Student failure to respond to the notice within the timeline identified in the notice may result in the conduct process continuing without the student's participation. In this case, Administrative Adjudication will be based on the Incident Report, evidence gathered during the investigative process, and/or information other individuals provide during the investigation.

For basic violations of the Student Code of Conduct, Barton primarily utilizes a process of administrative adjudication. Within this process, the Vice President of Student Services or designee is assigned the case and becomes the Administrative Adjudicator. The Administrative Adjudicator investigates the case thoroughly and makes a determination as to whether college policy was violated. If the student is found responsible for the conduct violation, the Administrative Adjudicator determines appropriate sanctions.

For the lowest level basic violations (where a warning sanction may suffice), the full conduct process may be waived so long as the student has been made aware of the violation and been provided the warning.

Conduct meeting: The conduct meeting is an opportunity for the student to present evidence and offer additional information that may not have been available as part of the Incident Report.

Disciplinary Action: The Vice President or designee shall, as soon as possible after the investigation, render a decision that may include dismissal of the complaint or a finding of responsibility.

If the Vice President or other designee finds that the student has violated College policy, rules, or regulations, disciplinary action shall be taken. The Vice President or other designee shall impose sanctions as the Vice President or other designee determines is warranted taking into consideration the seriousness of the offense. The Vice President or designee will be guided by published sanctions and/or established precedence in determining sanctions. The Vice President or designee has the discretion to adjust sanctions based on exceptional circumstances.

For more complicated incidents, the Vice President or other designee may seek the input of a Review Board before determining discipline. The Review Board, if utilized, shall be chosen from members of the College Student Life staff. Individuals who serve on a Review Board would not later be eligible to serve on an Appeals Committee, should an appeal follow imposition of disciplinary sanctions. Permissible actions include but are not limited to: written reprimand, community service, fines, probation, full or partial suspension from classes, expulsion from housing, and/or expulsion from school.

Disciplinary action may also include a bar against readmission to the College.

Notice of the decision shall be served upon the student utilizing Barton's conduct software, from Barton representative's Barton-issued email account to the student's Barton issued email account, in person, by certified mail, or by regular mail. If a student is under the age of eighteen (18) years, a copy of the decision may be sent to the parents or guardian of the student.

Appeal Procedure:

Right of Appeal: Any decision of the Vice President of Student Services or designee may be appealed by the accused or the complainant within five (5) College business days of the receipt of the decision. Such appeals shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the President of the College.

A student who fails to file a written notice of appeal in the President's Office, within the times specified waives the right to appeal.

An appeal shall be conducted for one or more of the following purposes:

- To determine whether the original process was conducted in conformity with prescribed procedures. This gives the complaining party a reasonable opportunity to prepare and present evidence that the Student Code was violated, and gives 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 evidence, that is, whether the facts in the case were sufficient to establish that a violation of the Student Code occurred.

- To determine whether the sanction imposed was appropriate given the violation of the Student Code that occurred.
- To consider new evidence sufficient to alter a decision introduced in the original process, because such evidence was not known or was not reasonably available to the person appealing at the time of the original hearing.

If the President or designee determines, in the President or designee's sole discretion that the written appeal fails to meet the Standard for Appeal (noted above), the President or designee will inform the student in writing. If the written appeal submission fails to meet the Standard for Appeal, the matter is concluded, and no further action will be taken. If the President or designee determines that the request meets the Standard for Appeal, the President or designee will notify the student in writing and will refer the matter to the Appeals Committee Facilitator for action.

Status Pending Appeal: Any disciplinary action imposed shall remain in effect during the appeals procedure, unless otherwise directed by the President of the College.

Composition of Appeals Committee: The President of the College shall name an Appeals Committee Facilitator to conduct a formal Appeals Hearings in order to review the charges and imposed sanctions. The Appeals Committee shall be drawn from a pool of faculty and staff, selected by the Facilitator and approved by the President, who have agreed to serve as needed for appeals. Each committee shall consist of six (6) members, at least two of which shall be from the faculty and at least two of which shall be from the staff. At any hearing before the committee, at least four (4) members shall be present to constitute a quorum in order to transact the business of the committee. Any member of such committee directly involved in the outcome of a hearing, or who believes they have a conflict of interest rendering them to be perceived as being incapable of providing an impartial decision, shall disqualify themselves from the hearing and the Appeals Committee Facilitator shall appoint a replacement.

Appeals Committee Training: Upon selection to the committee pool and prior to each scheduled hearing, the Appeals Committee Facilitator will provide brief training for the committee members.

Hearing: The Appeals Committee shall set a hearing as soon as possible after the hearing has been approved. Notice of the time, date, and place of the hearing shall be given to all parties in writing no less than three (3) College business days prior to the hearing.

It is the hope of the College that disciplinary matters will be handled by members of the College community, and legal counsel will not ordinarily be present to represent the College. However, if the appealing student is to have an attorney present (which will be at the student's expense) at any hearing, the student must notify the President's Office not later than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled time of the hearing, in which event, the College may, in its discretion, be represented by counsel.

A student failing to appear before the Appeals Committee at the designated time, shall forfeit any right to appeal or seek further relief of the decision.

Proceedings before the Appeals Committee shall be recorded electronically or via written minutes. Recordings and communications related to the disciplinary procedure and resulting actions shall not be considered a public record as that term is defined by the Kansas Open Records Act.

Decision: Upon the conclusion of the hearings, the Appeals Committee, by majority vote, shall decide whether the student has violated the Student Code of Conduct and whether the sanction imposed fits the nature of the violation. The Appeals Committee may uphold, modify, or completely reverse the original decision as appropriate. In all appeals, any modification of the original sanctions may not result in more severe discipline for the accused student.

A written summary of the findings must be provided, and should the decision be modified, it should be in accordance with one or more of the conditions delineated in this code. The Appeals Committee shall render its decision in writing within three (3) College business days of the conclusion of the hearing. The findings of the Appeals Committee shall be forwarded to the President.

Notification of Decision: The President's Office shall inform the student in writing of the Appeals Committee's decision within three (3) College business days of the receipt of the Appeals Committee's decision. Notice of the decision shall be served utilizing Barton's conduct software, from a Barton representative's Barton-issued email account to the student's Barton issued email account, in person, by certified mail, or by regular mail.

The findings of the Appeals Committee shall be final.

Contact(s)

Vice President of Student Services

Related Form(s)

Relevant Policy or Procedure(s): [Policy 1610 – Code of Conduct](#)

Approved by: President

Date: 6/17/02

Revision(s): 9/2/02; 11/16/07; 1/23/12; 7/28/14; 5/25/17 (minor revision); 10/1/21 (update); 10/6/21 (change); 9/15/25