



Board Policy 5520 Student Discipline

Reference: *Education Code Sections 66017, 66300, 72122, 76030*

Students of the West Hills Community College District (WHCCD), by virtue of Board policies, are ensured certain rights and privileges, and at the same time, assume certain responsibilities and standards of personal conduct. Due process procedures have been established to ensure that individual rights and institutional standards are not abridged.

Generally, West Hills College jurisdiction and discipline shall be limited to conduct which occurs on one of the district's college premises, learning sites, or at official WHCCD off-campus activities. Any student found to have committed misconduct as described in this policy is subject to disciplinary sanctions. The Standards of Student Conduct and accompanying policies are published in the colleges' catalogs and other relevant print and electronic media.

The student discipline policy and procedures will apply to any student who deliberately prevents, physically or verbally:

- Students from pursuing their authorized curricular or co-curricular interests;
- Faculty and administrators from fulfilling their professional responsibilities;
- Classified employees from fulfilling their prescribed duties;
- Authorized guests from carrying out their prescribed duties;
- The safety of persons, or the security of college property.

Violation of Law and WHCCD Discipline

1. If a student is charged only with an off-campus violation of federal, state, or local laws, but not with any other violation of the Standards of Student Conduct (Board Policy 5500), disciplinary action may be taken and sanctions imposed for grave misconduct, which demonstrated flagrant disregard for the WHCCD community. In such cases, no sanctions may be imposed unless the student has been found guilty in a court of law or has declined to contest such charges, although not actually admitting guilt (e.g., "no contest" or "nolo contendere").
2. WHCCD disciplinary proceedings may be instituted against a student charged with violation of a law which is also a violation of the Standards of Student Conduct; for example, if both violations result from the same factual situation, without regard to the pendency of civil litigation in court or criminal arrest and prosecution. Proceedings under the Standards of Student Conduct may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings off-campus.
3. When a student is charged by federal, state or local authorities with a violation of law, WHCCD will not request or agree to special consideration for that individual because of his or her status as a student. WHCCD will cooperate fully with law enforcement and other agencies in the enforcement of criminal law on campus and in the conditions imposed by criminal courts for the rehabilitation of student violators.

Disciplinary Sanctions/Actions

Violations of the Standards of Student Conduct and/or regulations of the State of California are subject to the imposition of one or more of the following disciplinary sanctions/actions:

1. Verbal or Written Reprimand – Officially recognizes a violation of acceptable conduct and admonishes the offender to avoid future infractions.
2. Suspension is an action that excludes the individual from the campus community for a specified period of time.
3. Expulsion is an action by the Board of Trustees that permanently excludes the individual from the college community. Expulsion is recorded on the offender's permanent file.

See Administrative Procedure 5520

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