Publication Notice
This handbook is a general information publication only. This handbook does not constitute a contract, express or implied, between any applicant, student, or employee and San Jacinto College. Additionally, all information is subject to change without notice. Changes to the policies, regulations, and statements in this publication will be effective immediately unless otherwise specified and will apply to prospective students and those currently enrolled. Finally, this publication does not contain all policies or regulations that will affect the rights of students. For additional information on student policies, please refer to the policies of the Board of Trustees of San Jacinto College and the College Catalog, both of which are available at www.sanjac.edu.

Students should also refer to the most current version of the student handbook, at www.sanjac.edu/student-handbook.

Emergency Closings
Providing a safe and secure environment for our students, faculty, and staff is a top priority at San Jacinto College. In the event the College needs to be closed for any situation, such as inclement weather, students should refer first to their San Jacinto College email. Email is the primary form of communication in an emergency situation. Students should also refer to the College website at www.sanjac.edu or the Emergency Information Line at 1-888-845-5288 for the most immediate and current information regarding closure status. In addition, local television and radio stations may also broadcast bulletins announcing campus closings in emergency situations.

Students are encouraged to sign up for the SJC Alert Me system to receive voice and text messages in the event of a College closure. SJC Alert Me will provide San Jacinto College with another communication tool to keep students, faculty, and staff informed during threatening situations and weather-related closings. In order to receive voice and text messages, you must provide your telephone and/or cell phone number. There is no cost to sign up for this notification service. However, when the system sends a message to your personal phone, you are responsible for any charges from your phone service provider associated with receiving voice or text messages. Visit www.sanjac.edu/alert-me for more information.

San Jacinto College Community College District Vision and Mission Statements and Legal Notices

Our Vision
San Jacinto College will be the leader in educational excellence and in the achievement of equity among diverse populations. We will empower students to achieve their goals, redefine their expectations, and encourage their exploration of new opportunities. Our passions are people, learning, innovation, and continuous improvement.

Our Mission
Our mission is to ensure student success, create seamless transitions, and enrich the quality of life in the communities we serve.

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San Jacinto Community College District is an equal opportunity institution.
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Academic Calendar
www.sanjac.edu/important-dates

Administrative Directives
Students are expected to comply with legal directives of College officials acting in the performance of their duties.

Administrative Summons
A number of College administrative offices have a need to meet with students at various times in conjunction with College matters. When a student receives appropriate notice, the student is expected to report to the designated office at the time and date or within the time frame stated in the notice.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Awareness
The legal drinking age in Texas is 21 years or older.
The substance abuse policy at San Jacinto College prohibits possession, use, sale or distribution of any quantity, whether usable or not, of any drug, alcoholic beverage, narcotic or controlled substance as defined in the Texas Controlled Substance Act. For more information, consult the student discipline policy located in this handbook.

Substance Abuse Prevention Program
Substance Abuse Policy
The policy of the San Jacinto Community College District is to provide all students and employees with an environment that is free of substance abuse. The illegal use of controlled substances on college campuses subjects the College, its students and employees to unacceptable risks of accidents, interferes with the learning and working environments, and is inconsistent with the behavior expected of persons associated with the College.

The College firmly supports remedial assistance and, when necessary, disciplinary action for those individuals who violate conduct expectations, including those related to the use, possession, distribution, or possession for purposes of distribution, any controlled substances or illegal drugs on College property or at College-sponsored activities at off-campus locations.

Law enforcement officers are supported by the College to ensure compliance with all laws including those relating to alcohol and to the use, abuse, possession, or distribution of controlled substances or illegal drugs.

Health Risks Associated with Substance Abuse
Alcohol abuse can lead to alcoholism, premature death, and complications of the brain, heart, liver, and other body organs. It is a prime contributor to suicide, homicide, motor vehicle deaths, and other so-called “accidental causes” of death. Alcohol interferes with psychological functions, disrupts occupational and educational effectiveness, and is involved in most cases of child abuse and interpersonal difficulties.

Illicit drug use can result in a wide range of health problems including drug addiction, death by overdose or withdrawal, seizures, heart problems, infections, liver disease, and chronic brain dysfunction (i.e. memory loss, hallucinations, paranoia and psychosis).

Student Assistance Program
In recognition of these increasing problems within contemporary society dealing with alcohol and substance abuse, education has been, and will continue to be, the primary focus of the College’s efforts. Providing honest, factual information through organized educational programs will assist individuals in making reasonable decisions regarding the use of chemical substances. This includes information about illegal substances and their effects, and about the establishment of responsible drinking behavior for those who choose to use alcoholic beverages.

Students who desire confidential assistance from the College in dealing with a perceived alcohol or chemical substance abuse problem may self-refer for that assistance by making an appointment with a counselor in the Educational Planning & Counseling Center. Although the College does not conduct treatment or rehabilitation programs, College counselors are equipped to facilitate referrals to appropriately qualified providers of treatment programs.

Disciplinary and Legal Sanctions
Students, regardless of age, determined to be in violation of College regulations pertaining to controlled substances, including alcohol, are subject to severe disciplinary penalties, including permanent suspension from the College. When such violations also constitute violations of public law, charges will be filed by the College for prosecution by the appropriate law enforcement agency. Convictions under public law are punishable by fines, imprisonment, or both.
Anabolic Steroids and Growth Hormones

Anabolic steroids and growth hormones are for medical use only. State law prohibits the possession, dispensing, delivery, or administering of an anabolic steroid or growth hormone in any manner not allowed by state law. State law provides that bodybuilding, muscle enhancement, or increasing muscle bulk or strength through the use of an anabolic steroid by a person who is in good health is not a valid medical purpose. Only a medical doctor may prescribe an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone for a person. A violation of state law concerning anabolic steroids or human growth hormones is a criminal offense punishable by confinement in jail or imprisonment in the Texas Department of Corrections.

This notice is provided in accordance with the provisions of H.B. 1507, 71st Legislature, State of Texas.
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<th>Substance: Category and Name</th>
<th>Examples of Commercial and Street Names</th>
<th>Intoxication Effects/Potential Health Consequences</th>
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<td><strong>Depressants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid</td>
<td>Sodium Oxybate, Xyrem: GHB, Liquid Ecstasy, Liquid X</td>
<td>Reduced anxiety, feeling of well-being, lowered inhibitions, slowed pulse and breathing, lowered blood pressure, poor concentration/ fatigue, confusion, impaired coordination, memory of events, judgment; addiction, slurred speech, disorientation, drunken behavior, respiratory depression and arrest; death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benzodiazepines</td>
<td>Ativan*, Halcion*, Librium* Valium*, Klonopin*, Xanax*, Restoril*: candy, downers, sleeping pills, tranks, Rohypnol: (forget-me pil, R-2, roche, roofies, roofinol, rope, rophies)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbiturates</td>
<td>Amytal*, Nembutal*, Seconal*, Phenobarbital*: bars, reds, red birds, phennies, tooies, yellows, yellow jackets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>Beer, wine, liquor</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stimulants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>Blow, bump, coke, crack, flake, rock, snow, toot</td>
<td>Increased heart rate, blood pressure, metabolism; feelings of exhilaration, energy, increased mental alertness / rapid or irregular heart beat; reduced appetite, weight loss, heart failure, nervousness, insomnia, dizziness, irritability, nausea, euphoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphetamine</td>
<td>Adderall*, Dextedrines*: bennies, black beauties, crosses, hearts, LA turnaround, speed, truck drivers, uppers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>Desoxyn*: chalk, crank, crystal, fire, glass, ice, meth, speed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Methylphenidate</td>
<td>Ritalin*, Concerta*, Focalin*, Metadate*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicotine</td>
<td>Tobacco, cigarettes, dip, second-hand smoke</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Caffeine</td>
<td>NoDoz*, Vivarin*: RedBull, coffee, tea, colas, chocolates</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Opioids (Narcotics)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Codeine</td>
<td>Acetaminophen, Guaifenesin or Promethazine w/ Codeine, Robitussin A-C*, syrup, lean, purple stuff, syzurp, drank, barre, purple jelly, Captain Cody, Cody, schoolboy</td>
<td>Pain relief, euphoria, drowsiness / nausea, constipation, confusion, constricted pupils, sedation, respiratory depression and arrest, tolerance, addiction, unconsciousness, coma, death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fentanyl</td>
<td>Actiq*, Duragesic*, Sublimaze*: Apache, China girl, China white, dance fever, jackpot, murder 8, TNT, Tango and Cash</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>Diacetylmorphine: brown sugar, dope, H, horse, junk, skag, skunk, smack, white horse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morphine</td>
<td>MS-Contin, Roxano<em>I, Oramorph SR</em>, MSIR*, Roxanol*, Duramorph*: M, Miss Emma, monkey, white stuff</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Opium</td>
<td>Laudanum, Paregoric*: big O, black stuff, block, gum, hop</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxycodone</td>
<td>Oxycodone w/Acetaminophen, OxyContin*, Endocet*, Percocet*, Percodan*, Roxicet*: Oxy, O.C., killer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydrocodone</td>
<td>Hydrocodone w/Acetaminophen, Vicodin*, Vicoprofen*, Tussionex*, Lortab*, vike, Watson-387</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydromorphone</td>
<td>Dilauid*</td>
<td></td>
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## Cannabinoids

| Marijuana | Blunt, dope, ganja, grass, herb, joints, Mary Jane, pot, reefer, sinsemilla, skunk, weed, Boom, chronic, gangster, hash, hash oil, hemp, wet | Euphoria, slowed thinking and reaction time, confusion, impaired balance and coordination / cough, frequent respiratory infections; impaired memory and learning; increased heart rate, anxiety, panic attacks; tolerance, addiction |

## Hallucinogens

| Lysergic acid diethylamide (acid) | Acid, blotter, boomers, cubes, microdot, yellow sunshine | Heightened senses, teeth grinding, dehydration, altered states of perception and feeling: nausea; persisting perception disorder (flashbacks) |
| Phencyclidine (PCP) | PCP, angel dust, boat, hog, love boat, peace pill | |
| MDMA (methylenedioxy - methamphetamine) (DOB, DOM, MDA, Adam, clarity, ecstasy, Eve, lover’s speed, peace, STP, X, XTC) | |
| Ketamine | Ketalar*: cat Valiums, K, Special K, vitamin K |

## Inhalants

| Amyl and Butyl Nitrite | Pearls, Poppers, Rush, Locker Room | Stimulation, loss of inhibition; headache; nausea or vomiting; slurred speech, loss of motor coordination; wheezing / unconsciousness, cramps, weight loss, muscle weakness, depression, memory impairment, damage to cardiovascular and nervous systems, sudden death |
| Nitrous Oxide | Laughing gas, balloons, Whippets |
| Solvents | Adhesives, spray paint, hair spray, dry cleaning fluid, spot remover, lighter fluid, paint thinners, gasoline, glues |

## Other Compounds

| Anabolic steroids | Anadrol®, Oxandrin®, Durabolin®, Depo-Testosterone®, Equipoise*: roids, juice | No intoxication effects / hypertension, blood clotting and cholesterol changes, liver cysts and cancer, kidney cancer, hostility and aggression, acne; in adolescents, premature stoppage of growth; in males, prostate cancer, reduced sperm production, shrunken testicles, breast enlargement; in females, menstrual irregularities, development of beard and other masculine characteristics |
| Dextromethorphan | Found in some cough and cold medications; Dex, DXM, Robo, Skittles, Syrup, Triple-C, and Tussin. Terms for using dextromethorphan include: Robo-tripping, and Skittling, among others | Confusion, dizziness, double or blurred vision, slurred speech, loss of physical coordination, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting, rapid heart beat, drowsiness, numbness of fingers and toes, and disorientation. DXM abusers describe different “plateaus” ranging from mild distortions of color and sound to visual hallucinations, “out-of-body” dissociative sensations, and loss of motor control. |
## Penalties Under Texas Law

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<th>Offense</th>
<th>Minimum Punishment</th>
<th>Maximum Punishment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturer, delivery or intent to deliver of controlled substance</td>
<td>Confinement in state jail for 180 days to 2 years and fine not to exceed $10,000.</td>
<td>Life imprisonment or term of 15 – 99 years and fine not to exceed $250,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(drugs)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession of controlled substance (drugs)</td>
<td>Confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days and/or a fine not to exceed $2,000.</td>
<td>Life imprisonment or term of 10 to 99 years and fine not to exceed $100,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery of marijuana</td>
<td>Confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days and/or not to exceed $2,000.</td>
<td>Life imprisonment or term of 10 – 99 years and fine not to exceed $100,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession of marijuana</td>
<td>Confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days and/or not to exceed $2,000.</td>
<td>Life imprisonment or term of 5 – 99 years and fine not to exceed $50,000.</td>
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<td>Driving while intoxicated (includes intoxication for drugs and/or</td>
<td>Confinement in jail 72 hours – 180 days and/or fine not to exceed $2,000;</td>
<td>Imprisonment of 2 – 10 years; fine not to exceed $10,000; suspension of driver’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alcohol) – does not include assault or manslaughter while driving</td>
<td>suspension of driver’s license for 90 days to 1 year.</td>
<td>license for 1–2 years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>intoxicated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Intoxication</td>
<td>No minimum punishment listed</td>
<td>Fine not to exceed $500.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Possession of alcoholic beverage in motor vehicle</td>
<td>No minimum punishment listed</td>
<td>Fine not to exceed $500.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase, consumption or possession of alcohol by a minor</td>
<td>Fine not to exceed $500.</td>
<td>Confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days and/or fine of $250–$2,000.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sale of alcohol to minor</td>
<td>No minimum listed</td>
<td>Confinement in jail not to exceed one year and/or fine not to exceed $4,000.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturer, distribution, or dispensing drugs (includes marijuana)</td>
<td>Imprisonment of not more than 1 year, and fine of not more than $100,000 for an individual and $250,000 if not an individual.</td>
<td>Life imprisonment. Fines can reach $8 million for an individual and $20 million if not an individual.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession of drugs (including marijuana)</td>
<td>Imprisonment of not more than 1 year, and minimum fine of $1,000</td>
<td>Imprisonment of 5 to 20 years; certain offenses can result in fines in excess of $5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation of a common carrier under the influences of alcohol or drugs</td>
<td>No minimum listed</td>
<td>Imprisonment for up to 15 years. Fine up to $250,000 for an individual.</td>
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## Penalties Under Federal Law

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<th>Offense</th>
<th>Minimum Punishment</th>
<th>Maximum Punishment</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturer, distribution, or dispensing drugs (includes marijuana)</td>
<td>Imprisonment of not more than 1 year, and fine of not more than $100,000 for an individual and $250,000 if not an individual.</td>
<td>Life imprisonment. Fines can reach $8 million for an individual and $20 million if not an individual.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession of drugs (including marijuana)</td>
<td>Imprisonment of not more than 1 year, and minimum fine of $1,000</td>
<td>Imprisonment of 5 to 20 years; certain offenses can result in fines in excess of $5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation of a common carrier under the influences of alcohol or drugs</td>
<td>No minimum listed</td>
<td>Imprisonment for up to 15 years. Fine up to $250,000 for an individual.</td>
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Assembly/Gatherings
In accordance with the College’s philosophy pertaining to freedom of inquiry and expression, a variety of outdoor campus areas are available for students to freely gather and engage in a broad range of expressive activities without prior approval. Additionally, certain indoor facilities and outdoor spaces are available for reservation by registered students and recognized student organizations. Authorized activities may not disrupt the academic and business operations of the College. For more information, please contact the student life department on your campus.

Campus Posting Regulations
Unless the context specifies a different meaning:

• “Sign” is defined as any printed material included but not limited to decals, photographs, posters, placards, index cards, notebook paper, handbills, brochures, announcements, and advertisements. A “properly posted” sign is one which has been displayed in accordance with posting regulations.
• “Banner” is defined as any sign larger than 22” x 28”.
• “Posting” is defined as any means for publicly displaying a sign other than carrying it by hand.
• “Authorizing Official” means the campus dean of student development, the coordinator of student life, the director of campus services, or their delegate.

Approval Required:
• All signs must be approved and stamped with an expiration date by the Authorizing Official prior to posting. Posting period may not normally exceed 14 days. Persons or organizations who post are responsible for removal of the signs within 24 hours after the expiration date.
• Only currently enrolled students, registered student organizations, College employees, recognized employee organizations, College departments, contracted vendors, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies may post a sign on College property. Only authorized College departments and registered student organizations may post a banner.
• Improperly posted signs will be removed and discarded without notice. Persons or organizations responsible for improperly posted signs are subject to disciplinary action.

General purpose bulletin boards are under the jurisdiction of the campus dean of student development. Special purpose bulletin boards are under the jurisdiction of the College department or student organization that maintains the bulletin boards. No sign may be posted on a special purpose bulletin board without the permission of the department or organization that maintains it.
• These posting regulations shall not be construed to prohibit occupants of private offices or College departments or contracted vendors from posting signs necessary to facilitate college conducted/sponsored operations or to prohibit display of bonafide works of art or decorations consistent with other College policies and regulations.

Size/Location Restrictions:
• Signs must be posted only on bulletin boards or on display stands approved by the authorizing official. Only thumbtacks or pushpins may be used to attach signs to bulletin boards. Display stands may not be placed in any location not approved in advance by the authorizing official. Postings on glass and wall surfaces are not allowed. Postings are not allowed on trees or lamp posts.
• Signs must be no larger than 22” x 28” and no smaller than 3” x 5” unless otherwise approved by the Authorizing Official. Signs containing personal or commercial solicitations (buy-sale-trade) may not be larger than 5.5” x 8.5”. Signs containing personal and commercial solicitations must be located only on bulletin boards specifically designated for “buy-sale-trade” postings.
• Signs must not be posted so as to overlap or conceal other properly posted signs. Properly posted signs may not be removed without permission from the Authorizing Official or the person or organization authorized to post the sign.
• There will be a maximum of one sign per announcement/event/topic per bulletin board.
• The posting of banners is generally restricted to the interior and exterior of the student center building. The authorizing official must approve the precise location and method of attachment in advance. No sign may be posted on the grounds or exterior of any building or structure.

Content Restrictions:
• All signs must be in the English language or contain English translation of non-English language passages. All signs must include the name of the responsible organization or individual posting it.
Plagiarism is offering the work of another as one's own, intentionally or unintentionally, without proper acknowledgment. Students who fail to give appropriate credit for ideas or material they take from another, whether a fellow student or a resource writer, are guilty of plagiarism (i.e., stealing the words or ideas of another).

The College may contract with companies or organizations that provide plagiarism-detection services. Such companies may receive students' work for the purpose of comparing the students' work with a reference database. Students enrolling at San Jacinto College agree as a condition of their enrollment that their work may be submitted to such companies for the purpose of plagiarism detection and that the company may retain a copy of the work for plagiarism-detection purposes. Such companies will not copy, use, or distribute the students' work.

Collusion
Learning is an active process for all students; completion and submission of original work is essential to the learning process. Collusion is unauthorized collaboration in preparing any work offered for credit. Collusion includes, but is not limited to, knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, sharing, transporting, or soliciting, in whole or in part, any information or materials to be submitted as a student's own work. Collusion also includes impersonating another student for the purpose of taking a course or exam. A student who provides access to the materials is also guilty of collusion and subject to the same penalties. Therefore, students should take reasonable precautions to protect their work from being compromised.

Responding to Violations
Faculty have the responsibility to initiate disciplinary action in response to violations of the rules regarding academic honesty. A faculty member is responsible for collecting any evidence of cheating at the time it occurs. A student may not withdraw from the course during the investigation of an incident of academic dishonesty or when a course grade of F has been imposed. A record will be kept of any imposed penalty or disciplinary action.

Penalties
If, in the judgment of the instructor, cheating, plagiarism, or collusion has occurred, he or she may assess a penalty with a recorded reprimand:

- recommendation for suspension from the College or expulsion from a program, which is submitted to the provost; the provost's decision is final.
- failure of the course; the student may appeal the grade through the Final Grade Appeal process.
• failure of the assignment by the instructor; the instructor’s decision is final.
• reduced grade on the assignment by the instructor; the instructor’s decision is final.
• a reasonable penalty assessed by the instructor; the instructor’s decision is final.

The instructor will notify the student of his or her decision concerning the student’s grade and whether or not further disciplinary action is recommended before filing the report as indicated below. If a student will not meet with the instructor or if notification cannot take place because of a student’s unavailability or incorrect contact information, the process proceeds as specified. Faculty should also communicate with their department chairs/program directors and deans regarding any violation of the college honesty code. Should the instructor recommend suspension or expulsion of the student, the provost has the responsibility and authority to determine whether the student will be suspended or expelled.

Reporting Cheating, Plagiarism, and Collusion
The instructor will prepare an Academic Dishonesty Incident Report for the provost, the dean, department chair and/or program director. The report indicates the nature of the incident and the resulting penalty. The student has the privilege of making a written declaration on his or her own behalf to the instructor. Copies of this declaration, which are not construed as an appeal, but for information only, will be filed with the provost.

College Survival Tips
Terms You Need to Know

A.A.
Associate of Arts (university transfer) is designed for students who plan to transfer to a four-year or upper-level college or university.

A.A.S.
Associate of Applied Science (not traditionally intended for transfer) is awarded to students who complete the requirements as outlined in the technical programs section of the Catalog.

A.A.T.
Associate of Arts in Teaching (university transfer) is a Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved collegiate degree program consisting of lower-division courses intended for transfer to baccalaureate programs that lead to initial Texas teacher certification.

A.S.
Associate of Science (university transfer) is designed for students who plan to transfer to a four-year or upper-level college or university and major in mathematics, one of the sciences (biology, chemistry, geology, physics, biotechnology, or related field), engineering, or computer science.

Accreditation
Professional organizations have established rules for presenting and running a strong defensible academic program at a college. Without institutional accreditation, the credit hours and the degrees granted by an institution are not acceptable at other schools.

Academic Advisement
Process of advising students about classes that must be taken to fulfill degree and/or transfer requirements.

Advanced Placement
Earning of college credit prior to enrollment at the College by passing examinations (AP, CLEP tests) by the College Entrance Examination Board.

Audit
Regular credit course taken for no credit.

Blue Book
Collection of blank pages bound together between a blue cover and used specifically for examinations. Blue books are sometimes required by a professor to provide a uniform format for the presentation of answers. They are sold in the bookstore.

Catalog
General information publication printed by colleges that contain admissions requirements, outlines of degree programs, and course descriptions.

Certificates
Awarded to students who complete required courses with a minimum overall grade point average of 2.0.

Commencement
Traditional ceremony in which students are recognized by the College as having completed all the necessary requirements for a degree.

Concurrent Enrollment
Occurs when a student is enrolled at two or more state-supported colleges or universities at the same time.
Continuing & Professional Development (CPD)
Non-credit classes, seminars, and conferences designed for adults and pre-college aged students who desire to improve their occupational, cultural, or social education. Schedules of course offerings are available in the Continuing & Professional Development division on each campus, or online at cpd.sanjac.edu

Corequisite
Required course that must be taken concurrently with, or prior to, another course.

Credit Hour
Academic credit given for a class, usually equal to the number of hours per week. There are a number of exceptions. A typical course is worth three credits; a lab is usually worth one.

Dean’s List
List of students who have completed at least 12 term hours of courses, made no failing grades, and earn a 3.5 GPA.

Drop Date
Last day on which a class may be dropped to receive a W (withdrawal) on your transcript. After this date a student will receive an F for the course.

Educational Planning
Educational Planning is an advising session between the student and an educational planner/counselor about the student’s academic goals and provides an opportunity for students to create an educational plan. See Academic Advisement.

Generated I.D. Number (G00)
Identification number assigned to you by San Jacinto College that provides you access to various services and to the San Jacinto College computer systems. This number should be used in lieu of your Social Security Number in order to protect your identity while enrolled at the College.

Grade Point Average (GPA)
Grade Point Average is an indicator of a student’s academic performance. Numerical values, or points, are assigned to each letter grade.

To compute GPA:
Divide total grade points earned by total number of term hours completed.

Honor Societies
Greek letter organizations honoring students who have achieved distinction in academic areas of service.

In Good Standing
Student who maintains a 2.0 GPA and who has met all obligations to the College is considered in good standing.

Major
Primary academic program a student chooses to pursue based on his personal and career goals for the future.

My San Jac GPS
My San Jac GPS (Graduation Plan Strategy) is a Web-based application allowing students to track their academic progress towards degree completion, plan class schedules for future semesters, apply transfer credit and/or coursework to meet program requirements, and construct “What-if” scenarios when considering program changes. The system is designed to aid and facilitate academic advising, but it is not intended to replace face-to-face advising sessions. My San Jac GPS is available to all SJC credit students. To access the system, students should log into their S. O. S. account.

Prerequisite
Requirement that must be met before a course can be taken.

Probation
Academic warning that satisfactory progress has not been maintained and unless immediate corrective action is taken, the student risks suspension.

Recreational Sports
Variety of competitive individual, team and dual sports and recreational activities offered to students free of charge.

San Jacinto College District
Structure through which the College receives funding. The San Jacinto College District consists of the Central Campus, South Campus, North Campus, and nine extension centers. One Board of Trustees governs the District.

Scantron Form
Special form used for recording answers during an examination. Answers are recorded using a No. 2 pencil, allowing the examination to be computer-scored. Scantron forms are sold in the College bookstore.

Secure Online System (S.O.S.)
Secure Online System allows you to register for classes, apply for and monitor your financial aid, check your grades, add and drop classes, access the Class Schedule and Catalog, and obtain unofficial transcripts and degree evaluations.

Student Account Suite
Student Account Suite allows you to check your balance, make a payment toward your balance, view your payment history, store your payment method for automatic payments on the due dates, allows you to provide permission to others to view your bill and make payments, and enroll in a payment plan and view your current payment plan.
Term
There are varying lengths of academic terms including but not limited to 16-week, 13-week, and 8-week courses.

Suspension
Academic suspension means that a student is ineligible to register for classes for at least one long term.

T.B.A.
“To be arranged (assigned, announced).”

Transcript
Official record of a student’s grades, credits, hours, etc., from any school or college. Official and unofficial transcripts can be obtained through the Secure Online System (S.O.S.) or by going to the enrollment services office. We now offer official transcripts online.

Warning
At the end of the first term in which the overall institution GPA is less than 2.0, a student will be placed on academic warning status.

Withdrawal
Removal from a class and/or college via completion of proper forms in the enrollment services office or via the Secure Online System (S.O.S.).

Policy on Communicable Diseases
Any time any student of the College has, or suspects that he or she has, a communicable disease, the student is required to immediately report this information to one of the following individuals:

- Dean of Student Development
- Director, Safety, Health, and Risk Management
- Director, Emergency Management

These individuals can help provide information, education, counseling, and testing referrals.

Communicable diseases include, but are not limited to, measles, influenza, hepatitis-A, hepatitis-B, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV infection), AIDS or AIDS-Related Complex (ARC), meningitis, meningococcal infections, and tuberculosis. For a complete list of Texas notifiable conditions, please go to the following link:

https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/investigation/conditions/

A complete list of the communicable diseases reportable to the health authority, and therefore subject to this policy, is listed below. For the purposes of this policy, the term “HIV infection” shall include AIDS, AIDS-Related Complex (ARC), and a positive test for the antibody to human immunodeficiency virus.

The College’s decisions involving persons who have communicable diseases shall be based on current and well-informed medical judgments concerning the disease, the risks of transmitting the illness to others, the symptoms and special circumstances of each individual who has a communicable disease, and a careful weighing of the identified risks and the available alternatives for responding to a student with a communicable disease.

The College shall not discriminate in enrollment against any student solely on the ground that the student has a communicable disease. Members of the student body of the College shall not be denied access to College facilities or campus activities solely on the grounds that they have a communicable disease.

The College reserves the right to exclude, or restrict, a person with a communicable disease from College facilities, programs, and functions, if the College makes a medically-based determination that the person constitutes a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

The College shall comply with all pertinent statutes and regulations that protect the privacy of persons in the College community who have a communicable disease.

The College shall ensure that procedural safeguards sufficient to maintain the strictest confidence about persons who have a communicable disease infection are in effect in all offices of the College.
The following diseases are reportable:
acquired immune deficiency syndrome; amebiasis; anthrax; botulism - adult and infant; brucellosis; campylobacteriosis; chicken pox; Chlamydia trachomatis infection; cholera; coccidioidomycosis; dengue; diphtheria; encephalitis (specify etiology); gonorrhea; Hansen's disease (leprosy); Haemophilus influenzae infections; hepatitis, viral- type A, type B, type D (delta agent), type non-A/ non-B, and unspecified types; histoplasmosis; HIV infection; influenza and flu-like illness; legionellosis; leptospirosis; listeria infection; Lyme disease; malaria; measles; meningitis- bacterial, aseptic/viral, fungal and other (specify etiology, all types); meningococcal infections; mumps; pertussis; plague; polymyelitis; paralytic; psittacosis; Q fever; rabies in man; Reye syndrome; Rocky Mountain spotted fever; rubella; rubella congenital syndrome; salmonellosis; shigellosis; syphilis; tetanus; toxic shock syndrome; trichinosis; tuberculosis; tularemia; typhoid fever; typhus fever- endemic (murine) and epidemic; vibrio infections; viral hemorrhagic fever; and yellow fever.

Credit Card Account
Verification-Authorization
An individual who uses a credit card to pay tuition or fees authorizes the College to communicate with the credit card issuer and/or financial institution for the limited purpose of verifying information related to use of the credit card at the College, such as verification of account number, verification of a transaction, or verification of a student's signature.
San Jacinto College will not be responsible for multiple holds being placed on your credit card or debit card by your bank or the card issuer.

Delinquent Accounts
Currently enrolled students who are delinquent in repaying a loan, are responsible for a returned check, or have failed to pay appropriately and on time any other debts to San Jacinto College (not including library and traffic fines) will receive warning notices informing them that they must pay their debts by a certain date or be withdrawn from all classes. If they do not pay by the designated date, the College may withdraw them from all classes, and they may not be reinstated during that term.
Students must pay all debts—including tuition, fees, fines, returned check penalties, College generated loans and restitution for loss of or damage to College property—before they may re-enroll, receive a diploma, or have a request for an official transcript honored.

Delinquent accounts sent to a collection agency may be reported to a credit bureau.
In the event of failure to pay the Installment Payment Plan (IPP) or Financial Aid Short Term Loan (FASTL) at its maturity, and if the same is placed in the hands of an attorney or collections agency, the student shall be responsible for all expenses and expenditures, including cost of attorney and/or collection services incurred, protecting the College's interest, rights, and remedies on the IPPs or FASTL or returned checks.
The College charges a late fee of $25 for late payment of any IPP's or FASTL's. The College assesses a $30 processing fee for each stopped-payment or returned check. Returned checks include electronically converted checks that have been rejected by the College bank. An individual who has had a check returned must then pay the College by cash, cashier's check, money order, or credit card.
A student who is in default on a government student loan for attendance at San Jacinto College may not receive an official academic transcript or diploma unless the student has made six consecutive voluntary monthly payments on the defaulted loan.

Disability Services
The Office of Disability Services assists students with disabilities to receive accommodations. Accommodations may include, but are not limited to, extended testing time, books in alternative format, resource referrals, specialized technology and software, and the coordination of interpreting services. Students should contact the Disability Services Counselor at their campus for additional information. Child care assistance is available through the Carl Perkins Grant for eligible students who are enrolled in certificate of technology and/or associate of applied science degree programs on the South Campus only.

Central Campus
McCollum Administration Building
281-476-1888

North Campus
Welcome Center
281-459-7174

South Campus
Welcome Center
281-922-3444
First Aid Stations
(FOR MINOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE)
Locations subject to change

Medical Emergencies, Call Ext. 5555 or 281-476-9128
First Aid stations are located in most campus buildings and are identified by appropriate signage. Should you become ill, notify the nearest professor or staff member. For major life-threatening situations contact the college police department at ext. 5555 or 281-476-9128.

The College is not responsible for medical expenses incurred by students while on campus or at College-sponsored activities.

Any student knowledgeable of a current or potential hazard is asked to contact the safety office to complete a safety incident report.

Gainful Enterprise and Solicitation
No person is permitted to engage in gainful enterprise or solicitation on the campus without permission of the dean of student development.

Persons wishing to solicit funds, sell printed matter, products, services or other items, or distribute commercial literature of any kind, post or distribute advertising material dealing with commercial items or services, must secure approval in advance from the dean of student development. Activities related to the sales of goods and/or services must be confined to areas designated by the dean of student development.

The College, a recognized student organization or College-related organization, must sponsor all of the activities. In addition, the individuals engaged in such posting, selling, or soliciting must be currently enrolled San Jacinto College students or employees of the College, or duly approved agents authorized to distribute material(s) or solicit sales on behalf of the College or a recognized College organization.

Newspapers may be sold or distributed only in racks provided by the publisher in outside locations designated by the dean of student development.

HIV and AIDS Information
What is HIV?
HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. HIV may live in the human body for years and can be spread to other people even before any symptoms appear. HIV weakens the body making it incapable of fighting diseases and infections. As these conditions get worse, a person is diagnosed as having AIDS.

Currently, there is no known cure for AIDS.

How is HIV Spread?
These are the most common ways in which HIV is spread:

- Having unsafe sex—whether vaginal, anal or oral—with someone who is infected with HIV. Unsafe sex means letting someone else’s blood, semen or vaginal fluid get into your body.
- Sharing drug needles or syringes with an infected person.
- From an infected mother to her baby during pregnancy or childbirth, and, rarely, through breast feeding.

How You Won’t Catch HIV
You can’t just “catch” HIV like a cold or flu, because the virus is a different type. You won’t get HIV:

- Through the air or sitting next to someone at work, school, etc.
- From saliva, sweat, tears, urine, or excrement
- Being bitten by mosquitoes or any other insect
- Donating blood

What Behavior Puts You At Risk?
The following behaviors are risky when performed with an infected person. You can’t tell by looking if a person is infected.

Risky Behavior

- Sharing drug needles and syringes.
- Anal sex, with or without a condom.
- Vaginal or oral sex with someone who uses drugs or engages in anal sex.
- Sex with someone you don’t know well (a “pickup” or prostitute) or with someone you know who has had several sex partners.
- Unprotected sex (without a condom) with an infected person.

Safe Behavior

- Not having sex
- Sex with one mutually faithful, uninfected partner
- Abstain from intravenous drug use
Why Get Tested for HIV?

- You think you may be infected and you want to know for sure so that you can go on to consider getting medical help.
- Knowing your antibody status will keep you from infecting others through having unsafe sex and/or sharing needles.
- You are thinking about having a baby or breastfeeding your baby.
- You would feel less stress if you knew for certain whether you are infected.

HIV counseling and testing are available at many public health clinics at little or no cost. You do not have to use your real name and all information is confidential. For HIV counseling and testing site locations, consult a counselor in the Counseling Center or call:

1. Houston AIDS Hotline: 713-524-AIDS
2. Texas AIDSLine: 1-800-299-AIDS
   For Hearing Impaired: 1-800-252-8012
3. National AIDS Hotline: 1-800-CDC-INFO

Identification

Persons on College property or utilizing its services may be required to furnish acceptable proof of identity to College officials. Students are therefore encouraged to carry a validated student I.D. card with them at all times. I.D. cards will also be used as a library card to obtain usage of the materials in the College library and to obtain admission to college events. If lost, College identification cards can be replaced at the Enrollment Services Office for a fee of $10 payable at any campus Business Office.

Official Communications

The College considers the following as official notifications: Communications to the entire student body properly delivered through San Jacinto College email, text message, voicemail, and/or posted on the official San Jacinto College website, Blackboard, campus bulletin boards, or published in the Catalog, Student Handbook, or the school newspaper.

Email service is provided to all San Jacinto College students. This account will be used by the College as the primary mail account for student communications and is tied to Blackboard courses for communications with faculty and other students. An email address will automatically be generated for a student who has registered and paid for a class at the College. This email service is for student use only. Features of the service are available at www.sanjac.edu/email.

Open Records

How to Request Public Information

While there is no strict form required to request public information, there are certain guidelines that must be met.

1. Your request must be in writing. Only written requests trigger the College's obligation under the Public Information Act.
2. Your request should be for documents or other information that is already in existence. The College is not required to answer questions, perform legal research, or comply with a continuing request to supply future information. The College is not required to create a document, report, or other information not in existence under the Public Information Act.
3. Requests should be addressed to the College Public Information Officer. Requests made by facsimile or electronic mail must be addressed to the Public Information Officer in order to trigger an obligation under the Public Information Act.

Contact Information for the San Jacinto College Public Information Officer

Teri Crawford
Vice Chancellor for Marketing, PR, and Government Affairs
4624 Fairmont Parkway, Suite 210
Pasadena, TX 77504
Teri.Crawford@sjcd.edu

Please copy Ms. Dana Cragin at Dana.Cragin@sjcd.edu if sending the written request via electronic mail.

Police Services

Campus Police and Emergency Numbers

The San Jacinto College Police Department operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To request assistance or police services on any San Jacinto College campus:

- Call from any campus phone: 5555
- From any cell phone: 281-476-9128
- For non-emergency: 281-476-1820
- Activate a blue light emergency phone

To view our active shooter video, click the photo above.
Caution: This video contains scenes that may be disturbing to young or sensitive viewers.
Police General Information
All San Jacinto College police officers are commissioned by the Board of Trustees under the provisions of Section 51.203 of the Texas Education Code and are licensed peace officers under the Rules and Regulations of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education under Article 2.12 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

Anyone who operates motor vehicles on campus will be required to comply with The State of Texas Traffic Code and the San Jacinto College Traffic Rules and Regulations. Traffic laws and parking regulations are enforced 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

San Jacinto College assumes no responsibility for the care and/or protection of any vehicle or its contents while the vehicle is operated or parked on campus.

Pedestrians have the right of way at all times.

Escorts
Escorts are available for members of the College community, if they feel uncomfortable walking on campus. This service is provided as officers are available and there may be delays on occasions when police officers are busy with other requests for service.

Emergency Messages
If an emergency of a personal nature occurs and a San Jacinto College community member needs to be contacted, the San Jacinto College police department may be contacted and an officer will make an attempt to locate and notify the community member of the emergency.

Motorist Assistance
Officers are equipped to help San Jacinto College community members with automobile jump starts and when their keys have been locked in their vehicles. These services are performed as a courtesy and are provided as officers are available. There may be some delay when officers must first complete higher priority calls.

Parking
All vehicles parked on San Jacinto College property are required to be registered and display a San Jacinto College parking permit unless the driver is a visitor with legitimate business at a campus. San Jacinto College citations are issued for failure to display a decal and for parking violations. Parking decals are available at any campus business office.

The student, once registered and paid, is required to submit the license number, and make and model of the vehicle being registered.

Student
All persons enrolled at San Jacinto College, including those in noncredit and other special courses are considered students and are required to obtain a parking permit. Parents or friends who drive a vehicle with a student parking permit must park in a student lot.

Student Responsibility
The student is responsible for any vehicle registered/operated or parked in his/her name at San Jacinto College, regardless of the operator or state of vehicle ownership. A citation is not excused on the plea that another person was driving the vehicle.

Vehicles shall be registered at the business office on any campus. The student, at the time of registration, is required to submit the license number, and make and model of the vehicle being registered. Intentional falsification of vehicle registration to obtain a parking permit will result in disciplinary action and or/criminal charges.

Lost or stolen permits should be reported immediately to the San Jacinto College police department.

Ticket/Citation Appeal
A student or staff member may file a ticket appeal if he/she feels the ticket/citation is issued in error. The student or staff member must file an appeal within 10 school days. Appeal forms may be found online at www.sanjac.edu/police or in person at a San Jacinto College police department office. The student or staff member may check for a disposition on the appeal 72 hours after the appeal is submitted to their S.O.S. account, or at the San Jacinto College police department office.

Visitor
One who is neither a student nor an employee of the College nor is he/she a person who uses parking facilities for the benefit of a student or employee. Reserved parking spaces have been provided for visitor’s convenience on all three campuses and are designated.
Search and Seizure
Students shall not be subject to illegal search and seizure while on College property.

Students and Social Media
Social media is a great way for students to stay connected. The following guidelines are designed to help you navigate the social Web at San Jacinto College and in your personal life.

Participate and Connect
We can’t wait to hear from you! Visit www.san jac.edu/social-media, or on any of our social media sites, and follow us on the ones that interest you the most. Let us know if you have any questions or what type of information you would like to see on our social media sites.

Utilize social media to connect with friends, family, and classmates. Social media provides a great opportunity for you to connect and engage with the world around you.

Be careful what you share
Never give out personal information on social media sites such as social security numbers, G number, passwords, PIN numbers, account numbers, your address, or phone number. San Jacinto College will never request this type of information from you through a social media site.

You can’t take it back
Once you post something in social media, you can’t take it back. Always remember that social media sites are not necessarily “private.” Regardless of your privacy settings, anyone you are connected to might share something you have posted online. Before you post, remember that many employers, colleges, and universities are turning to social media sites to help determine admissions and employee selections. Each day there are more court cases utilizing social media sites as supporting evidence. So, please be careful what information you share online.

San Jacinto College does not monitor the personal social media sites of our students. However, we do monitor the College name (San Jacinto College) and variations of it online. Students may be subject to disciplinary action, as outlined in the San Jacinto College student handbook, based on information posted on social networking sites. San Jacinto College reserves the right to turn cases of serious incidents over to the proper authorities. Examples of this may include, but are not limited to, threats against the College, its students, or employees.

Classroom Activities
Please do not access social media sites during class times, unless instructed to do so by your professor. Limit your activity on social networking sites on public computers during times of high traffic; other students may need the machines to complete course work.

Social Media Monitoring
Does the College monitor my social media accounts?
No, not at all. We wouldn’t want to monitor your social media accounts even if we could. Your information is yours, and it’s private. We want to keep it that way. Becoming a fan of the College’s Facebook page does NOT mean that we can access your Facebook account.

However, we DO monitor the College’s name online – just like any major company monitors what’s being said about its brand. There are keyword search engines (we use Social Searcher and Topsy) that allow users to keyword search through any social media posts that are shared publicly. If your Facebook profile and Twitter profiles are set to be publicly shared they can appear in these searches.

We routinely monitor for the College name and variations on it, such as:
- San Jacinto College
- SJCC, SJCN, SJCS etc.

We use this information to respond with assistance if we can, or to retweet tweets mentioning the College. Good or bad, we want to know what’s being said about the College. This information helps us tweak our services so that we can better assist our students.

In the event that a threat is made on a social network site concerning the College, we take this very seriously (as per our social media guidelines). Our students’ safety is our top priority. Threatening posts are taken seriously and passed on to the proper authorities so that the appropriate action can be taken.

Student Insurance
The College is not responsible for medical expenses incurred by students while on the campus or at College sponsored activities. College student health insurance is available for purchase through private companies. Students are urged to carefully study the specific terms of the policy before purchasing coverage.
**Policy on Student Records**

**Student Records**

Records of present or former students of the College are confidential and are not public information. Therefore, the following regulations regarding student records shall apply.

1. **Type of Records Maintained**
   a. Records maintained are:
      • Academic progress
      • Permanent academic data
      • Attendance records
      • Standardized test results
      • Psychological tests and evaluations
      • Discipline records
      • Book records
      • Office information
      • Counselor’s information
      • Other records related to a student’s day-to-day status
      • Any other information in a file assigned to a student
   b. Notes and observations recorded by an individual teacher or other employee and kept for personal use are not student records except under the following conditions:
      • The information is shared with someone other than a substitute for the employee.
      • The information is used in preparation of student records.
   c. Each student record shall be identifiable as to the source.

2. **Definition of Terms**

   A school official has a “legitimate educational interest” if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the College.

   For purposes of this policy, a “school official” includes the following:
   - a person employed by the College in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff);
   - a person or company with whom the College has contracted as its agent to provide a service (such as an attorney, auditor, health care professional or diagnostician, computer services professional, or insurer);
   - a person serving on the Board of Trustees;
   - a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or a student assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks;
   - representatives of hospitals and clinical sites with whom the College has a contractual relationship that permits students to receive clinical training as part of their educational programs; and companies or organizations with whom the College has contracted to provide plagiarism-detection services.
   - Such companies may receive a student’s work product for purpose of comparing the student’s work with a reference database.

   a. The following terms are interpreted as indicated:
   - Student Records: any personally identifiable information concerning a student maintained by the College.
   - Eligible Student: a student who attends or has attended the school from which records are requested.
   - Custodian: the Chancellor of the College.
   - Custodian’s Agent or Designee: provost, vice president of student services, deans of technical education, registrars, and those persons appointed by any of these to safeguard or to use student records.
   - Directory Information
      1. Name
      2. Address
      3. Email address
      4. Telephone listing
      5. Age
      6. Degrees earned and dates
      7. Major program of study
      8. Classification
      9. Dates and terms of attendance
      10. Number of term hours in progress
      11. Previous educational institutions attended
      12. Eligibility for and honors and awards received with dates that the honor or award was received
      13. Eligibility for and participation in officially recognized activities and sports
      14. Weight and height of members of athletics teams and sports statistics
      15. Enrollment status (full-time or part-time)
3. Review of Records
   a. A student’s file may, at any time, be reviewed and records no longer pertinent to the student may be destroyed. An inaccurate or inappropriate entry into the records may not be corrected or removed when an eligible student has made a request to review the record and the request has not yet been honored.
   b. Request for examination of personally identifiable information must be made in person in writing by the eligible student to the responsible agent. The request shall identify the specific record(s) to be examined. Requests shall be honored as soon as practical, but the request must be honored within 45 days.
   c. Requests for copies of student records may be made by an eligible student to the appropriate agent.
   d. A log of requests for a student’s records shall be maintained in the student’s file indicating all requests, date of requests, by who made, and whether or not each request was honored.

4. Accuracy of Information
   a. If an eligible student believes that information in his or her educational records is inaccurate, or misleading, or otherwise violates the student’s privacy, a request for correction may be given in writing to the custodian of the record or other school official who is responsible for the record. If the correction is not made within a reasonable length of time (a maximum of 30 school days) the student may request a hearing. The dean of student development shall serve as the hearing officer; however, if the dean of student development is the custodian of the record in question or otherwise has a direct interest in the outcome of the hearing, then the provost shall serve as the hearing officer.
   b. A hearing must be held within a reasonable length of time (a maximum of 30 school days) after the request has been made. The hearing officer shall provide the eligible student and the custodian of the record reasonable notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing. In advance of the hearing, the custodian of the record shall prepare a packet containing copies of the contested records and any other relevant records or documents, including any applicable policies and procedures. The custodian of the record shall prepare a memorandum summarizing the reasons why he or she believes that the challenged record is not inaccurate or misleading or otherwise a violation of the student’s privacy. The custodian shall provide the packet and memorandum to the student and hearing officer at least one school day prior to the hearing. The student shall have a full and fair opportunity to present his or her own evidence related to the accuracy of the record. The student, at his or her own expense, may be represented by counsel or any other individual.
   c. The hearing officer shall prepare a written ruling within a reasonable time after the hearing (a maximum of 30 school days). The ruling must be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing. The ruling must include a summary of the evidence and the reasons for the ruling.
   d. If the hearing officer concludes that no correction to the record is warranted, the eligible student is to be notified and informed of the right to place in the records a statement either commenting on or setting forth a reason for disagreeing with the school’s decision.
   e. If the eligible student has a complaint following a hearing, it may be filed with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S., Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5901.
   f. A hearing pertaining to student records may be scheduled to challenge the accuracy of recording but not the assignment or merits of a grade.

5. Release of Records:
   a. With the exceptions recognized in this policy, the release of student records shall require written approval of an eligible student.
   b. In all instances, legal directives and requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 and the Texas Public Information Act pertaining to student records shall be followed.
6. Accessibility of Records
Student records may be disclosed without consent of the student to the following:

- Officials, faculty, and staff of the College who have a legitimate educational interest in the student’s record.
- Officials of other schools in which the student seeks or intends to enroll or where the student is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student’s enrollment or transfer.
- Individuals needing the information in connection with a student’s application for or receipt of financial aid.
- State or local officials to whom educational data must be reported.
- Organizations (ACT, CEEB, ETS) developing, validating, or administering predictive tests or student aid programs on behalf of educational agencies or institutions. Such data are not to be released in any identifiable form and will be destroyed by the organization after the research has been completed.
- Accrediting agencies.
- Parents of a dependent student as defined in Section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.
- In compliance with judicial order or pursuant to any lawfully issued subpoena.
- Representative of the Comptroller General of the United States, Department of Education, administrative heads of educational agencies, or state education authorities.

7. Policy Availability and Notice
A copy of this policy will be made available upon request to eligible students.

Surveys and Petitions
No individual or organization may conduct a survey or poll of students, employees, or campus visitors, or circulate or post a petition or otherwise solicit signatures on a petition on College property without prior approval of the dean of student development. (Faculty-assigned surveys or polls to be conducted within the classroom are exempt from this policy.)

Technology Expectations for Students
Courses at San Jacinto College will require the use of some or all of the following:

1) Computer with Internet access (computers are available on campus for students in the open lab and campus libraries)
2) A San Jacinto College email address
3) Blackboard learning management system
4) Productivity software: word processor, presentation tools, spreadsheet, etc.
5) Windows Media Player
6) Adobe Acrobat Reader

In addition to the recommended software listed, some courses might require the use of additional software. Check the course syllabus to determine what software you may need to access.

Students taking exams in the Blackboard system should make arrangements to test on a machine using a hardwired Internet connection to avoid being dropped due to loss of network access during the test.

Tobacco Use Policy
San Jacinto College is a smoke-free and tobacco-free institution, except in designated areas. The website (www.sanjac.edu/tobacco) has maps of designated areas, along with the policy and other information.

“Smoking” means inhaling, exhaling, burning, vaporizing, using any form of tobacco (synthetic or other plant-based substances), using liquid nicotine, or using electronic devices.

“Tobacco Products” means all forms of tobacco and nicotine-delivery devices including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes, and electronic and smokeless tobacco products, including liquid nicotine and chewing tobacco. This definition does not apply to smoking cessation items such as chewing gum, patches, or medication.

Unattended Children on Campus
Students should not bring children on campus and leave them unattended. See campus child care facilities for enrollment information.
Student Rights and Responsibilities

San Jacinto College holds that the student, upon enrollment, neither loses the right nor escapes the duties of citizenship. The student-citizen must exercise liberty with responsibility.

Student Rights

Academic Evaluation
Students have the right to be apprised of the methodology by which they will be evaluated in their formal course work. Also, students shall have appeal rights to challenge improper academic evaluation.

Intellectual Property Rights
Students shall retain their intellectual property rights on projects produced as a result of their individual initiative with incidental use of College facilities and resources. If the student is working on a project initiated and funded by San Jacinto College, ownership resides with the College.

Freedom of Association
Students bring to the College a variety of interests. Students have the freedom to organize and join associations to promote their common interests in accordance with the policies and procedures of the College.

Freedom of Inquiry and Expression
Students and student organizations will be free to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately. They will be free to support causes by orderly means which do not disrupt the regular and normal operation of the institution, and which comply with the regulations that relate to student conduct. At the same time, it should be made clear to the educational community and public that in their public expressions or demonstrations, students or student organizations do not represent the institution and speak only for themselves.

Freedom from Illegal Discrimination
It is the policy of the San Jacinto Community College District not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, pregnancy, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, genetic information, marital status, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. The following official has been designated to respond to inquiries regarding the College’s non-discrimination policies: Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives, 8060 Spencer Highway, Pasadena, Texas 77505, allatia.harris@sjcd.edu, 281-459-7140.

Freedom from Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking
It is the policy of the College to provide training, procedures, and resources to prevent the occurrence of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking and to provide an equitable complaint process that provides for prompt investigation of complaints and the imposition of sanctions against students who are found in violation of this code.

Student Responsibilities

In all aspects of student life, the student body collectively and individually has the responsibility of participation as citizens of the academic community in a mature fashion. Students must not confuse liberty with license. In voluntarily enrolling at the College, students have the responsibility to comply with all state and college regulations governing student conduct and academic affairs. Students assume responsibility for their behavior and acknowledge and share the following responsibilities:

- Students must recognize that the Board of Trustees is the policy making authority for the operation of the San Jacinto Community College District. The Board delegates to the College administration the authority to implement Board policy through procedures, regulations, guidelines, and handbooks.
- Students must understand that while education is a shared activity, the ultimate responsibility for learning rests with the students’ motivation and abilities.
- Students are responsible, collectively and individually, for allowing other students to continue their pursuit of education. Students must refrain from interfering with the rights of other students in their educational pursuits or with employees in the exercise of their duties.
- The right to disagree is well established. However, students must make sure that disagreement is factual and is presented with respect for those with whom they are disagreeing, including faculty, staff, administration, and students. When approaching the administration about any matter, students must go through established channels of communication and authority.
• Students must comply with the policies, rules, regulations, and generally accepted practices of the College until these practices may be changed by orderly procedure.

• Students also have the responsibility to comply with all state and federal regulations governing their participation in higher education. Such regulations and laws as may exist or that may be subsequently enacted and adopted shall have precedence over the provisions of this document of student rights.

In addition to membership in student associations and organizations, students shall be given the opportunity to serve on campus and College committees as deemed appropriate by the College.

**Retained Rights and Responsibilities**
The enumeration of the above rights and responsibilities shall in no way be interpreted as being all-inclusive and denying the existence of other rights and responsibilities which a student holds as a student or citizen.

**Involvement in Decision Making**
San Jacinto College provides an opportunity for student involvement in the decision making process through the respective forms of student government on the three campuses. As constituents of the educational community, students may express their views on issues of institutional policy and on matters of general interest to the student body.
1.0 Values

1.1 San Jacinto College (the College) is committed to maintaining an excellent teaching and learning community. As its central purpose, this community promotes intellectual investigation through vigorous discussion. Essential values that support this purpose include civility, dignity, diversity, education, equality, freedom, honesty, and safety.

1.2. The establishment and maintenance of a community where there is freedom to teach and to learn is dependent on maintaining an appropriate sense of order that allows for the pursuit of these objectives in an environment that is both safe and free of detractive disruption. When students voluntarily enroll in the college community, they accept the duty and responsibility of abiding by the regulations and accepted practices of the College. Each member of the San Jacinto College community is expected to exercise responsibility and to govern his or her conduct with standards of good taste and ethical judgment even when others disregard those standards.

1.3 Within the College, entities (such as divisions, departments and programs, professional and student organizations) have developed guidelines and regulations that outline standards of conduct governing their constituents and sometimes provide procedures for sanctioning violations of those standards. This Code of Student Conduct (the Code) does not replace those standards, nor does it constrain the procedures or sanctions provided by those policies. This Code describes possible behaviors that are inconsistent with the essential values of the College community; it outlines procedures to respond to such behaviors; and it suggests possible sanctions that are intended to educate and to safeguard members of the College community.

1.4 The College has an enduring commitment to provide students with a balanced and fair system of resolution. This Code will not deprive students of the appropriate due process protections to which they are entitled. This Code is one of the College’s administrative procedures and should not be equated with procedures used in civil or criminal court.

1.5 It is the policy of The San Jacinto College District not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, pregnancy, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, genetic information, marital status, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

2.0 Definitions

2.1 College: The term “College” means San Jacinto College, including all of its branch campuses, satellite campuses, learning centers, distance learning, and District offices.

2.2 Student: As used in this code, the term “student” refers to a person who is currently enrolled in courses at San Jacinto College, whether full-time or part-time. Some portions of this Code also confer rights and obligations upon former students.

2.3 College Community: Any college employee or enrolled student, whether full or part-time, or any person or organization doing business with the college under contract or on a regular basis.

2.4 Notice: Any correspondence deposited with the United States Postal Service by certified mail, addressed to the last known address of the addressee as shown on the college records, personally delivered to the addressee, or delivered to their San Jacinto College email address.

2.5 College Policy: Any provision of a rule, regulation, resolution, or guideline adopted or approved by the Board of Trustees.

2.6 College Procedure: Any provision of a rule, regulation, guideline, handbook, manual, operating letter, or published directive issued by the Administration.

2.7 College Official: Any person employed by the College who is performing assigned administrative or professional responsibilities.

2.8 College Premises: Property owned, controlled, used, leased, or occupied by The San Jacinto College District, including vehicles and property physically removed from a campus.
2.9 **College-Affiliated Activity**: Any activity on or off campus that is initiated, aided, authorized, or supervised by The San Jacinto College District.

2.10 **Hearing**: A conference between a charged student and the Dean of Student Development or other College official which provides 1) an opportunity for the accused student to respond to allegations of misconduct, 2) to present any evidence that he/she may desire, and 3) to be notified of possible sanctions that can be imposed.

2.11 **Organization**: Any number of students who have complied with the formal requirements for registration at San Jacinto College.

2.12 **Administrative Summons**: A written notice to a student to report to a college administrative office at a designated date and time.

2.13 **Public Law**: Local, state and federal laws.

2.14 **Dean of Student Services**: San Jacinto College official designated by the Vice President of Student Services to impose sanctions upon students found to have violated the Student Code.

2.15 **Conduct Appellate Board**: Persons appointed by the campus Provost to conduct a hearing or consider certain appeals from students who have been accused of violating the Student Code.

2.16 **Commercial Solicitation**: Activities related to the sale of goods and/or services for the benefit of an individual, business, or investors.

### 3.0 Prohibited Conduct
Any student found to have committed the following acts is subject to disciplinary sanction(s), condition(s), and/or restriction(s). Misconduct or prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to:

#### 3.1 Endangerment and Unwelcome Physical Contact

3.1.1 Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person on College property or at College sponsored and supervised functions, including physical abuse or assault, fighting, threats to use force, and acts of intimidation or harassment.

3.1.2 Action(s) that endanger the health, safety, or well-being of another person or group.

3.1.3 Action(s) that is likely to endanger one’s own health or safety.

3.1.4 Interference with the freedom of another person to move about in a lawful manner or to participate in the activities of the College.

3.1.5 Physical contact with another when the actor knows or reasonably should know that the other person will regard the contact as offensive or provocative.

### 3.2 Harassment
“Harassment” as used in this section refers to repetitive or persistent conduct that goes beyond annoyance, frustration, or offensiveness. The actions must be severe or pervasive, and the effect of the conduct must be to deny or limit a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the College’s activities, programs, and services. This section does not apply to harassment based on sex, race, ethnicity, color, sexual orientation, citizenship, age, pregnancy, marital status, veteran status, national origin, religion, or disability. Separate procedures govern harassment based on a protected status.

3.2.1 Harassment may be physical, verbal, graphic, written, or electronic. Harassment may be threatening or intimidating, or it may be distracting and disruptive (e.g., persistent attempts to prevent someone from studying; flashing a light in someone’s eyes; cruel but non-threatening practical jokes).

3.2.2 “Harassment” includes, but is not limited to persistent and unwelcome communications by telephone, in writing, or by electronic device, including social media cyber-bullying, in a manner that is reasonably likely to threaten, harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass.

3.2.3 The term “harassment” as used in this section generally excludes acts or decisions of College officials in the performance of their duties (e.g., assignment of a low grade or denial of financial aid).
3.3 Stalking
Stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others (including a member of the person's household) or to suffer substantial emotional distress. "Course of conduct" means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the accused stalker directly or indirectly, or through a third party, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property.

Stalking may be physical, such as following another person in a vehicle, and it may be electronic, such as making direct or implied threats by phone or electronic message. Stalking also may include leaving unwanted objects for the victim at the victim's home, car, or workplace.

3.4 Disruption
Conduct that impairs, interferes with, or obstructs the orderly educational processes and functions of the College, including teaching, studying, research, College administration, public-service functions, and extracurricular activities. The prohibition applies to acts that occur whether inside or outside the classroom setting.

3.4.1 Engaging in activities that intentionally, substantially, and materially interfere with the activities of other members of the College community, that cause substantial disorder, or that disrupt the regular operation of College activities or instruction.

3.4.2 Inciting and/or participating in campus demonstrations which disrupt the normal operations or activities of the College.

3.4.3 Obstructing or interfering with the freedom of pedestrian or vehicular movement on campus.

3.4.4 Using a cell phone or other electronic device in class in a manner that is disruptive to the teaching/learning environment. Students may be subject to permanent removal from class for violating a previous directive to refrain from using such devices.

3.4.5 Classroom behavior that interferes with (i) the instructor's ability to conduct the class or (ii) another student's ability to receive information from the instructor or to benefit from the program. A faculty member may temporarily suspend a student from his/her classroom for the remainder of the class whenever the student is disrupting the class to a point that there is no longer a meaningful learning environment. Additionally, in campus locations outside the classroom, faculty members and professional staff members are authorized to take appropriate remedial action upon observing a student engaging in conduct that violates this Code (e.g. requesting a student to cease disruptive behavior). The faculty member or staff member shall identify himself or herself to the student.

3.4.6 Violating the College's policy on free expression. (See Freedom of Inquiry and Expression under Student Rights and Responsibilities in the Student Handbook).

3.4.7 Engaging in conduct that interferes with or obstructs the student disciplinary process.

3.5 Hazing
Prohibited acts for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition of continued membership in a group or organization or as part of any activity of a recognized student organization or student group includes any act that inflicts or intends to inflict physical or mental harm or discomfort or which may demean, disgrace, or degrade any person, regardless of location, intent, or consent of participant(s). Although hazing is related to a person's initiation or admission into, or affiliation with, any student group or organization, a hazing charge may be upheld even without direct proof that a person's initiation or continued membership is contingent upon participation in the activity. In addition to violating this code of conduct, hazing also is a violation of Texas law (Texas Education Code § 37.151 and 51.936). Hazing includes, but is not limited to:

a) Striking a student, abandoning a student in an unfamiliar location, blindfolding a student or tying a student's hands, or planning hazing activities to be performed by others.

b) Forced consumption of any food, alcohol, drugs, or any other substance.

c) Forced physical activity, such as calisthenics.

d) Deprivation of food or sleep.

e) Any activity that is intended to subject the individual to embarrassment or humiliation.
3.6 Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Domestic Violence

It is the policy of San Jacinto College to provide a campus environment free of sexual harassment and sexual violence and other behaviors of a sexual nature that are hostile, unwelcome, or intimidating. The definitions within this Code are not intended to be mutually exclusive and, in some instances, the definitions may overlap. For example, an act of sexual assault may constitute sexual harassment, while an act of dating violence also may constitute a sexual assault. In the event of overlapping definitions, this code of conduct shall be construed to provide students with the maximum protection required by law.

3.6.1 “Consent”: A critical factor that distinguishes acceptable sexual behavior from unacceptable sexual behavior is the consent of the parties involved. Consent is a clear, knowing and voluntary permission by words or action to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Consent is communicated through mutually understandable words or actions that indicate willingness by all of the involved parties to engage in the same sexual activity, at the same time, and in the same way. Clear and open communication is an essential element to conveying and understanding consent. Ideally, consent is given verbally; however, consent (or lack of consent) also may be expressed through gestures and body language. Consent cannot be freely given if the person’s ability to understand and give consent is impaired. Examples of those who cannot give consent include but are not limited to:

1. The individual is under the age of 17 and is not the spouse of the actor;
2. The individual is unconscious;
3. The individual is impaired due to ingestion of a substance such as drugs or alcohol;
4. The actor compels another to submit to or participate in a sexual act by using physical force or violence against the other person or by threatening to use force or violence against another person;
5. The other person has not consented to the sexual act with the actor and the actor knows the other person is unaware that the sexual act is occurring;
6. The other person is mentally impaired or has a mental disability; or
7. The actor has misrepresented or concealed his or her true identity to the individual.

3.6.2 “Sexual harassment” includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome requests for sexual favors, unwelcome verbal comments of a sexual nature, and unwelcome physical contact or touching of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment is wrongful regardless of whether the parties are of the same sex or of the opposite sex. Sexual harassment occurs when:

(i) Submission to such conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of employment, instruction, or participation in other college activities;
(ii) Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for personnel or academic decisions that affect the individual who has been subjected to sexual advances; and/or
(iii) Such conduct has the effect of unreasonably interfering with the individual’s work on academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or learning environment.

Whether sexual harassment has occurred depends on a totality of the circumstances, including the severity and frequency of the conduct.

The definition of sexual harassment also encompasses gender-based harassment, such as actions or comments that target a student’s failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity.

Examples of prohibited sexual harassment include sexually offensive comments and gestures; requests for sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment; requests for sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats of adverse consequences if the recipient does not comply; unwanted flirtation or repeated requests for social/sexual encounters or favors the recipient deems unwelcome; slurs and name-calling; graffiti, pictures, or posters of sexual nature; suggestive or unwelcome physical contact, such as grabbing, touching, or patting; sending offensive emails or text messages; leering, simulating sexual activity, or pointing to a person’s intimate body parts; and acts of sexual violence, including sexual assault, sexual coercion, and rape.
3.6.3 “Sexual Assault” and “Aggravated Sexual Harassment”

Sexual assault is defined as intentionally or knowingly causing physical sexual contact or sexual penetration of another person without that person’s consent. “Sexual contact” includes any touching of the anus, breast, or any part of the genitals of another person with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person. Sexual assault is without consent of the other person if the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by use of physical force or violence, or threat of force or violence, and the other person believes the actor has the present ability to execute the threat; or the other person cannot consent due to age, mental impairment, or other circumstance (see definition of consent in Section 3.6.1).

Aggravated sexual assault is defined as sexual assault in which the actor causes serious bodily injury or attempts to cause the death of the victim or another person in the course of the same criminal episode. Other factors may cause an assault to become an aggravated assault, including actions or words that place the victim in imminent fear that the victim or another person will be killed or subjected to serious bodily injury or kidnapping. Aggravated sexual assault also occurs when the actor uses or exhibits a deadly weapon in the course of the same criminal episode; when the actor acts in concert with another who commits a sexual assault directed toward the same victim and occurs during the same criminal episode; or when the actor assaults a victim who is younger than 14 years of age or who is an elderly or a disabled individual.

A sexual offense may constitute sexual assault even if no force was used during the offense and even if the victim experienced no physical injury.

3.6.4 Under federal law, the term dating violence means violence committed by a person (A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and (B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (i) the length of the relationship, (ii) the type of relationship, and (iii) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. San Jacinto College will consider the reporting party’s characterization of the relationship when making a determination that an act of violence is “dating” violence.

Under Texas law, dating violence means an act, other than a defensive measure to protect oneself, by an actor that is committed against a victim: (A) with whom the actor has or has had a dating relationship; or (B) because of the victim’s marriage to or dating relationship with an individual with whom the actor is or has been in a dating relationship or marriage; and that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the victim in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault.

A “dating relationship” means a relationship between individuals who have or have had a continuing relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on consideration of: (1) the length of the relationship; (2) the nature of the relationship; and (3) the frequency and type of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. A casual acquaintanceship or ordinary fraternization in a business or social context does not constitute a “dating relationship.”

Under federal law, the term dating violence means violence committed by a person (A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and (B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (i) the length of the relationship, (ii) the type of relationship, and (iii) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. San Jacinto College will consider the reporting party’s characterization of the relationship when making a determination that an act of violence is “dating” violence.

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A “dating relationship” means a relationship between individuals who have or have had a continuing relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on consideration of: (1) the length of the relationship; (2) the nature of the relationship; and (3) the frequency and type of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. A casual acquaintanceship or ordinary fraternization in a business or social context does not constitute a “dating relationship.”
3.6.5 The term “domestic violence” refers to a pattern of abusive behavior between two individuals formerly or currently in an intimate relationship, including through marriage, cohabitation, dating, or within a familial or household arrangement. Abuse may be in the form of physical assault, sexual assault, bodily injury, emotional distress, physical endangerment, or when the imminent threat of any of these instances puts the victim in fear of their occurrence.

Under Texas law, domestic violence or domestic assault occurs when the actor commits an assault against a family member, household member, or a current or past dating partner. The offense occurs when the actor intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to another person or threatens another person with imminent bodily injury. It also occurs when the actor intentionally or knowingly causing physical contact with another that the actor knows or reasonably should know the victim will find provocative or offensive. A person commits aggravated domestic assault if he or she intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes serious bodily injury to a family member, household member, or a current or past dating partner, or uses or exhibits a deadly weapon in the course of committing the assault crime. Domestic violence does not include defensive measures to protect oneself. The term domestic violence also may encompass “dating violence” as defined in the Texas Family Code.

Under federal law, “domestic violence” encompasses a felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed: (i) by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim; (ii) by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; (iii) by a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; (iv) by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred; (v) by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the laws of the jurisdiction where the crime occurred. “Domestic violence” encompasses acts that one might not characterize as violent in a nondomestic context. Additionally, domestic violence requires more than just two people living together; the individuals must be spouses or have an intimate relationship.

3.6.6 Obscene, lewd, or indecent behavior includes but is not limited to, exposure of one’s sexual organs or the display of sexually-oriented and/or obscene materials to a third party or in a public place on campus.

3.6.7 “Sexual misconduct” is behavior or conduct of a sexual nature that is unprofessional and/or inappropriate for an educational environment. This category encompasses (i) conduct of a sexual nature that is objectively offensive but that may not be sufficient to satisfy the legal definitions of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or domestic violence, and (ii) conduct of a sexual nature that is consensual between two or more parties but that is nonetheless inappropriate in an educational environment, such as engaging in sexual activity on campus or displaying sexually oriented objects or materials in the presence of third parties while on campus.

Under federal law, “domestic violence” encompasses a felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed: (i) by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim; (ii) by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; (iii) by a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; (iv) by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred; (v) by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the laws of the jurisdiction where the crime occurred. “Domestic violence” encompasses acts that one might not characterize as violent in a nondomestic context. Additionally, domestic violence requires more than just two people living together; the individuals must be spouses or have an intimate relationship.

Obscene, lewd, or indecent behavior includes but is not limited to, exposure of one’s sexual organs or the display of sexually-oriented and/or obscene materials to a third party or in a public place on campus.

“Sexual misconduct” is behavior or conduct of a sexual nature that is unprofessional and/or inappropriate for an educational environment. This category encompasses (i) conduct of a sexual nature that is objectively offensive but that may not be sufficient to satisfy the legal definitions of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or domestic violence, and (ii) conduct of a sexual nature that is consensual between two or more parties but that is nonetheless inappropriate in an educational environment, such as engaging in sexual activity on campus or displaying sexually oriented objects or materials in the presence of third parties while on campus.
3.7 Dishonesty
Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, or other forms of academic dishonesty are decided by the Instructional Affairs Division. See the Student Handbook for detailed explanation of academic dishonesty and violations.

3.7.1 Making, possessing, or using any falsified College documents or records; altering any College document or record, including identification cards; providing false information on an admissions application; providing false information to College officials, faculty members, or college offices, including disciplinary hearing bodies; intentionally withholding material information from College officials; making a false report to College police.

3.7.2 Knowingly passing insufficient fund checks or fraudulent money orders in payment of any financial obligation to the College.

3.7.3 Falsely claiming to represent the College or a registered student organization of the College.

3.7.4 Stealing or misappropriating of registered student organization funds.

3.7.5 Misrepresenting facts for academic advantage, including, but not limited to, providing false grades or resumes; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual; and providing false or misleading information in an effort to injure another student academically or financially.

3.8 Firearms, Fireworks, Explosives, Weapons
Possessing, using or storing firearms, weapons, ammunition, fireworks, dangerous chemicals, incendiary devices or explosives on College-controlled property or at College events or programs, except as may be authorized by College administration or by federal, state or local law or regulations. Prohibited weapons include but are not limited to, firearms, pellet guns, sling shots, martial arts devices, switchblade or other types of knives, and clubs.

3.9 Alcohol and Substance Use
3.9.1 Possessing, using, distributing, manufacturing or selling alcohol, dangerous drugs, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia on College property or at College-authorized or College-sponsored activities, even if the activity is not conducted on campus.

3.9.2 Over-the-counter drugs are not prohibited when taken in standard dosages or as prescribed by a physician. Prescription drugs are not prohibited when taken by the person to whom the drugs were prescribed and in accordance with the physician’s prescription. The non-standard or unauthorized use of over-the-counter and prescription drugs is strictly prohibited. It is a violation of the College’s policy for a student to intentionally misuse and/or abuse prescription medication. Misuse and/or abuse include taking a medication prescribed for another person or taking a medication in an amount or in a manner that was not prescribed.

3.9.3 Alcohol possession or usage, regardless of age, is strictly prohibited at any on or off-campus College-authorized or College-sponsored activity or during College-sponsored travel.

3.10 Fire and Safety
3.10.1 Removal, damage, or unauthorized tampering with or activation of fire, safety or any emergency warning equipment, including but not limited to fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, and emergency exists.

3.10.2 Falsely reporting bombs, fires or other emergencies to a College official.

3.11 Gambling
Gambling of any form on college property or at a college sanctioned event is prohibited.

3.12 Property Violations
3.12.1 Vandalizing, damaging, destroying or defacing public or private property on College premises or at a College-sponsored activity; littering.

3.12.2 Stealing; attempted theft; or the unauthorized removal, borrowing, or use of any college property or the property of others.

3.12.3 Trespassing and/or unauthorized presence in any College building or at a College-sponsored activity.
3.13 Misuse of Computing Resources, Technology, Cell Phones, or Cameras

3.13.1 Unauthorized access or entry into a computer, computer system, networks, software or data.

3.13.2 Unauthorized alteration of computer equipment, software, network, or data.

3.13.3 Unauthorized copying or distribution of computer software or data.

3.13.4 Use of computing facilities and resources that interferes with the work of another student, faculty member or College official.

3.13.5 Viewing, downloading or printing pornographic materials, photographs or videos is strictly prohibited on College premises.

3.13.6 Use of computing facilities and resources to send obscene or defamatory messages.

3.13.7 Any violation of the College’s written computer use guidelines.

3.13.8 Unauthorized accessing of College telephones to change a voice mail greeting.

3.13.9 Sending an email or text message using an email address or phone number belonging to another person with the intent to cause the recipient to reasonably believe that the other person sent or authorized the communication.

3.13.10 Forwarding confidential information without authorization.

3.13.11 Taking an unauthorized photo of confidential information, such as a test answer key, a confidential student records, a confidential health records, or confidential financial information or account numbers.

3.13.12 Using a cell phone or other recording device to make an unauthorized recording of another person’s intimate body areas or of another person who is undressing or using restroom facilities.

3.13.13 Using a cell phone or other recording device to copy another student’s academic work.

3.13.14 Using a recording device to secretly record a conversation to which the student is not a party.

3.14 Failure to Comply

3.14.1 Failure or refusal to comply with an administrative summons or directive of a College official, including campus police officers, acting in the course of their employment.

3.14.2 Failure to present identification upon the request of a College official.

3.14.3 Conduct that is intended to hinder or obstruct enforcement of this code of conduct.

3.15 Other Violations

3.15.1 Violation of published College policies, rules, regulations including but not limited to, parking, smoking, solicitation, distribution of literature, and campus posting rules, all of which can be found in the Student Handbook.

3.15.2 Violation of federal, state or local laws.

3.15.3 Aiding or abetting any violation of federal law, state law or local ordinance.

3.15.4 Violation of a conduct rule published in a handbook applicable to a program in which the student is enrolled.

4.0 Disciplinary Procedures

4.1 Authority

Each campus appoints an administrator who is responsible for determining disciplinary sanctions to be imposed for violations of the Code of Student Conduct. The Dean of Student Development is the designated Student Conduct Administrator for each campus.

4.2 Complaints

Any member of the College community may file a complaint against a student alleging misconduct. Unless there are extenuating circumstances or unless the complaint involves allegations that are subject to the College’s Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Violence Procedure, complaints must be received by the Dean of Student Development within two (2) working days of the alleged incident.

The Incident Report must state the following information:

1. The name, address, telephone number and signature of the person filing the report.

2. Identification of the student(s) against whom the report is being filed.
3. Facts alleged, including the name(s) of the accused and witnesses, date, location, and description of the alleged act(s) of misconduct in sufficient detail to enable the Dean of Student Development to make a determination as to whether further fact-finding is necessary or if sufficient evidence exists for a hearing on the charge(s).

4. When applicable, a reference to the specific Code of Student Conduct provision alleged to have been violated.

Complaints alleging sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking are governed by a separate procedure found in this handbook.

4.3 Complaint Investigation and Conference with the Accused Student

The Dean of Student Development or his or her designee will make an initial determination as to whether there is sufficient basis to determine that a violation of the Code of Student Conduct may have occurred. The Dean shall interview the complainant and may interview other witnesses as necessary or appropriate. The Dean will meet with the accused student, describe the allegations against the student, and provide the student an opportunity to respond. If the Dean or designee determines that reasonable grounds support the complaint, the Dean or designee shall inform the accused student of this determination, the proposed penalty, and the student’s procedural rights.

If the Dean determines that there are insufficient grounds to establish that a violation of the code occurred, the complaint shall be dismissed. The Dean or designee shall inform the complainant and the accused student in writing if the complaint is dismissed.

When the accused student does not dispute the facts upon which the charges are based, the accused student may sign an acknowledgement and a written waiver of the hearing procedures. The Dean or designee will impose an appropriate sanction or sanctions given the nature of the charge, the evidence, and the student’s disciplinary history, if any. Although the student will waive the right to contest the charges, the student may seek review of the sanction under Section 5.0 by submitting a written appeal to the Vice President of Student Services. The Dean or designee shall notify the student in writing of the right to seek review of the sanction.

4.4 Emergency Suspension

In circumstances in which the conduct of a student constitutes an imminent threat or danger to the welfare or safety of the College Community, or danger to College property, any College administrator holding the rank of director or above may implement an emergency suspension.

(See Emergency Suspension, Section 6.0)

4.5 Disciplinary Sanctions

Sanctions are designed to promote the College’s educational mission. Sanctions also promote safety and may deter students from behavior that harms, harasses, or threatens people or property. Disciplinary sanctions will be based upon the seriousness of the offense, the student’s attitude, the impact of the misconduct on the College environment, the student’s overall record at the College (including prior discipline, if any), and statutory or other legal requirements, if any.

Possible disciplinary sanctions include, but are not limited to:

1. **Written warning**: A formal notice stating that the Code has been violated and that future violations will be dealt with more severely.

2. **Disciplinary probation**: A sanction that indicates that the individual’s standing with the College is in jeopardy and that further violations may result in suspension or expulsion.

3. **Restitution**: A sanction that requires the student to compensate an injured party for loss, damage or injury in the form of money, service, or material replacement.

4. **Community service**: Performance of a specified number of hours or tasks designed to benefit the College community and/or to help the student understand why his or her behavior was inappropriate.

5. **Class or workshop attendance**: Enrollment and completion of a class or workshop designed to help the student understand why his or her behavior was inappropriate.

6. **Educational project**: Completion of a project specifically designed to help the student understand why her or his behavior was inappropriate.

7. **Suspension of privileges**: Loss of privileges, such as loss of library privileges, computer privileges, parking privileges, or the privilege to attend athletic or other extracurricular events.
8. Removal from courses or activities: Removal from specific courses or activities, including revocation of eligibility to represent the College in athletic or other extracurricular activities.

9. Counseling: Mandatory counseling sessions or support group attendance

10. Failing grade: A failing grade may be given for a test, assignment, or course.

11. Restrictions on access: Restriction from entering specific College areas and/or all forms of contact with certain persons.

12. Suspension: Separation from the College for a specified period of time or until certain conditions are met.

13. Expulsion: Permanent separation from the College whereby the student is not eligible for readmission.


These sanctions do not diminish or replace the penalties available under generally applicable civil or criminal laws. Students are reminded that many violations of the code, including harassment and other discriminatory behavior, also may violate local, state and federal laws and may be subject the student to additional penalties.

4.6 Student Conduct Appellate Board

Students who have been proposed for expulsion, suspension in excess of five school days, revocation of a diploma/degree, withdrawal of a diploma/degree, or removal from campus pursuant to Sections 21.231-21.243 of the Texas Education Code may request a hearing on the proposed decision before a campus Student Conduct Appellate Board. The Board shall consist of three full-time faculty members and/or professional staff members appointed by the campus provost. One Board member shall serve as the chairperson. Board members shall be impartial. Employees who were witnesses to the incident under review or who were involved in the investigation or evaluation of the charges under review shall be ineligible to serve as Board members.

4.7 Hearings

When the Dean or designee has determined that there are sufficient grounds to conclude that a student has violated this code and the student disputes the charges, a disciplinary proceeding may be initiated by the student. The procedures available to the student will depend on the disciplinary consequences being proposed. Procedure A applies to expulsions, suspensions longer than five school days, revocation of degree, withdrawal of diploma, and removal from campus pursuant to Sections 21.231-21.243 of the Texas Education Code. Procedure B applies to all other disciplinary matters.

4.8 Hearing Procedure A: Student Conduct Appellate Board

Students who have been proposed for expulsion, suspension in excess of five school days, revocation of a diploma/degree, withdrawal of a diploma/degree, or removal from campus pursuant to Sections 21.231-21.243 of the Texas Education Code may request a hearing on the proposed decision before a campus Student Conduct Appellate Board. The Board shall consist of three full-time faculty members and/or professional staff members appointed by the campus provost. One Board member shall serve as the chairperson. Board members shall be impartial. Employees who were witnesses to the incident under review or who were involved in the investigation or evaluation of the charges under review shall be ineligible to serve as Board members.

4.8.1 Notification of Charges and Hearing Rights

(1) All charges shall be presented to the accused student in writing by hand delivery, regular first-class mail or via email to the email address for the student on file with the Registrar. A first-class letter will be deemed to have been received on the third day after the date of mailing, excluding any intervening Sunday or federal holiday. An email will be deemed to have been received on the second day after the sending of the message. The notice letter shall contain (i) a statement of the specific charges and a general description of the evidence in support of the charges; (ii) the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct that allegedly were violated; (iii) the proposed penalty; (iv) a copy of this procedure; and (v) contact information for the Dean or designee. A student’s failure to update his or her postal and email addresses with the Registrar’s office, refusal to accept delivery of a letter, or refusal or failure to open email will not constitute good cause for failure to comply with a notice.
(2) The accused student shall have four business days in which to request a hearing after receipt of the notice. The request must be made in writing and may be sent via hand delivery, U.S. mail, facsimile, or electronic mail. If the student does not timely request a hearing, the discipline may be imposed without further hearing.

(3) If the student requests a hearing, then the hearing ordinarily shall be held within 12 business days of the Dean or designee’s receipt of the request for hearing. Upon receipt of the student’s request for hearing, the Dean or designee shall promptly notify the student in writing of the date, time, and place of the hearing. The notice of hearing may be sent to the student by electronic mail, U.S. mail, or hand delivery. The notice letter shall identify the hearing panel members and shall summarize the procedural rights afforded to the student by this code. The letter shall provide a postal address and email address for the chairperson of the Appellate Board. The letter shall provide (i) the names of the Administration’s witnesses and a brief summary of their knowledge and (ii) a description of the documents or other evidence that the Administration intends to present at the hearing.

(4) Upon a showing of good cause, or upon the mutual agreement of the parties, the hearing may be rescheduled.

(5) In cases involving allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or domestic violence (see Sections 3.3 and 3.6), the Dean or designee shall, subject to the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, notify the Title IX Coordinator and the complaining party that the accused has requested a hearing and the date and time of the hearing. The complaining party shall receive written notice of the information required by Complaint Procedure 400.7. The notice to the complaining party shall include a copy of this procedure.

(6) At least three business days prior to the hearing, the Dean or designee will make available to the accused student copies of the documents that the Dean or designee intends to introduce at the hearing. This deadline does not apply to rebuttal evidence. This deadline may be modified for good cause.

(7) At least three business days prior to the hearing, the accused student shall provide the Dean or designee (i) the names of the student’s witnesses and a brief summary of their knowledge and (ii) copies of documents that the student intends to present at the hearing. This deadline may be modified for good cause.

(a) In cases involving allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or domestic violence (see Sections 3.3 and 3.6), if the complaining student desires to present witnesses or to introduce documents at the hearing, then the procedure regarding exchange of exhibits and witness list shall also apply to the complaining student. Prior to the hearing and subject to the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, the Dean or designee shall provide copies of the complaining student’s exhibits and witness list to the accused student’s and shall provide copies of the accused student’s exhibits and witness list to the complaining student.

(8) At least four business days prior to the hearing, the accused student shall submit in writing to the Dean or designee and to the chair of the Student Conduct Appellate Board (1) any objection that, if sustained, would warrant a postponement of the hearing, (2) any objection to an appellate board member on the ground of bias or lack of neutrality, and (3) the name of the advisor or attorney, if any, who will appear with the student. The student’s advisor or legal counsel may attend the hearing and confer with the student but may not participate or cross-examine witnesses. An advisor may not be a witness in the matter.

(a) In cases involving allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or domestic violence (see Sections 3.3 and 3.6), these procedural rights also shall be afforded to the complainant.

(9) The College retains the right to have legal counsel present at any hearing, but the attorney shall not participate or cross-examine witnesses.
(10) In the event that a student is a qualified person with a disability under federal law and is unable to represent himself or herself at the hearing because of his or her disability, the College, as a reasonable accommodation to the student, will permit the student to be represented by counsel at the hearing. If the student is represented by counsel, then the College also may be represented by counsel.

(11) If the student is proposed for discipline under Section 21.231-21.243 of the Texas Education Code (pertaining to the exclusion of students from campus to maintain order during periods of campus disruption), the student is entitled to be represented by counsel as provided in Section 21.243 of the Texas Education Code. If the student is represented by counsel, then the College also may be represented by counsel.

(12) The accused student may choose at any time to withdraw a request for a hearing on the charges by signing an acknowledgement form and a written waiver of the hearing procedures. The Dean or designee will impose an appropriate sanction or sanctions given the nature of the charge, the evidence, and the student's disciplinary history, if any. Although the student will waive the right to contest the charges, the student may appeal the sanction under Section 5.0 of this procedure.

(a) In cases involving charges of sexual conduct (Section 3.6), stalking (Section 3.3), or domestic violence (Section 3.6), if the accused student waives the right to contest the charges, the Dean or designee shall, subject to the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, notify the Title IX Coordinator and the complaining party of the disposition of the charge against the accused. The notice to the complaining party shall be issued to the accused student. The notice shall inform the complaining party that both the complaining party and the accused have a right to appeal the sanction.

4.8.2 Conducting the Hearing

(1) The Student Conduct Appellate Board shall hear the evidence. The Chairperson of the Appellate Board shall preside over the hearing and shall be responsible for preserving order and decorum.

(2) Hearings before the Appellate Board shall be closed to the public. The Board will make a record of the hearing either by tape recording or by a court reporter. No cameras or photographic equipment of any kind, nor any equipment designed or used to record or transmit sound, shall be permitted in the hearing room or in the hallways adjacent to the hearing room while the hearing is in progress or during any recess. This prohibition does not apply to any equipment under the direction of the Appellate Board to make the official recording of the hearing.

(3) If the student fails without good cause (as determined by the Appellate Board) to appear at the scheduled hearing after receiving proper notice, the Dean or designee may proceed with the hearing in the student's absence, and the student forfeits any right to appeal. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Administration shall provide written notice to the student of the action taken.

(4) The hearing will be conducted as an administrative hearing. Courtroom rules of evidence and judicial rules of civil procedure will not apply. Evidence, however, must be relevant to the proceeding and of the type that would be accepted by reasonable persons in the conduct of their important affairs. Objections shall be directed to the Chairperson. The Chairperson may limit cumulative, repetitious, or irrelevant testimony or documentary evidence and may impose reasonable time limits on the presentation of evidence by the parties. The Chairperson may impose reasonable restrictions to prevent the harassment or badgering of witnesses. Finally, although the legal rules of evidence do not apply, the Chairperson will give effect to legally recognized privileges, such as the attorney-client privilege. The Chairperson may seek legal advice before making a decision on the assertion of privilege by any party or witness, even if such would require a recess in the hearing.

(5) Both the accused student and the Administration will have an opportunity to make an opening statement, present witnesses, cross-examine the witnesses presented by the other side, present documentary or other tangible evidence, and make a closing statement. Witnesses shall be sworn in by the court reporter or other person authorized by law to administer oaths. Opening statements ordinarily shall be limited to five minutes per side.
(6) The Administration has the burden of proving the charges by a preponderance of the evidence, which means proof that leads a reasonable person to find that the facts are more likely to have occurred than not. The Appellate Board shall determine which evidence or testimony, if any, is probative and credible. The Appellate Board shall determine what weight, if any, to give to particular evidence or testimony.

(7) The Administration will present its witnesses and documentation first, followed by the presentation by the student. The Administration will be permitted to present rebuttal evidence after the student completes the presentation of his or her case.

(8) After each witness has been examined by both parties, members of the Appellate Board may question the witness. No Board member, however, is subject to questioning by either party or any witness.

(9) Each party may present a closing argument. The Administration may reserve time for rebuttal. Neither party may present new evidence during closing arguments. The Chairperson shall determine the number of minutes that the parties will be given for closing argument, taking into consideration the complexity of the case.

(10) Before opening statements, all witnesses shall be excluded from the hearing room, with the exception of the student (and his or her advisor) and the member of the Administration presenting on behalf of the Administration. Under this rule, no witness may be present to hear or read the testimony of another witness, and witnesses may not converse with each other or any other person about the case outside the hearing room while the hearing is in progress. Each party is responsible for providing a copy of this rule to that party’s witnesses. This rule does not preclude a witness from conferring with a party’s legal counsel, advisor, or representative. The Chairperson shall have the authority to impose appropriate sanctions and restrictions for a violation of these instructions, including prohibiting the witness from testifying at the hearing. The prohibitions in this section will remain in effect until closing statements are concluded.

(11) The Conduct Appellate Board shall deliberate in private. The Board shall issue written findings within 15 business days of the close of the hearing. The Board’s decision shall state whether the accused student has violated this Code and will set forth findings of fact in support of its conclusion. The decision of the Conduct Appellate Board will be communicated in writing to the student and the Dean of Student Development. The decision of the Conduct Appellate Board shall be based on a simple majority vote of the members of the Board.

(12) In cases involving charges of sexual conduct (Section 3.6), stalking (Section 3.3), or domestic violence (Section 3.6), the following additional procedures will apply:

(a) The complaining party, his or her advisor, and the Title IX coordinator may attend the hearing and shall not be excluded during the testimony of other witnesses;

(b) The complaining party has a right to have his or her past sexual history excluded from evidence or discussion;

(c) The complaining party will be given an opportunity to make an opening statement, if desired, and may proceed either before or after the Dean or designee has presented the Administration’s case;

(d) The complaining party has a right to question any witnesses;

(e) The complaining party has right to present witnesses and evidence;

(f) The Dean and accused may question any of the complaining party’s witnesses; however, should the complaining party testify, he or she may testify in a manner, as determined by the chair, that does not require the complainant to directly confront or be directly questioned by the accused student while still preserving the accused student’s right to challenge such testimony;
(g) The complaining party has a right to present rebuttal evidence and argument and to present a rebuttal to the Dean or designee’s proposed sanction or sanctions;

(h) The complaining party has the right to present a closing statement prior to the accused’s closing statement; and

(i) The complaining party will receive a copy of the Board’s written findings, subject to the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act.

4.9 Hearing Procedure B:
When the proposed discipline does not involve expulsion, suspension in excess of five school days, revocation of a degree, withdrawal of diploma, or removal from campus pursuant to Sections 21.231–21.243 of the Texas Education Code, the student may request a hearing on the proposed decision before an Impartial Hearing Officer. The hearing officer may be a member of the Student Conduct Appellate Board or other full-time faculty member or administrator appointed by the Vice President of Student Services. The Hearing Officer shall be impartial. Employees who were witnesses to the incident under review or who were involved in the investigation or evaluation of the charges under review shall be ineligible to serve as the Hearing Officer.

4.9.1 Notification of Charges and Hearing Rights
1) All charges shall be presented to the accused student in writing by hand delivery, regular first-class mail or via email to the email address for the student on file with the Registrar. A first-class letter will be deemed to have been received on the third day after the date of mailing, excluding any intervening Sunday or federal holiday. An email will be deemed to have been received on the second day after the sending of the message. The notice letter shall contain (i) a statement of the specific charges and a general description of the evidence in support of the charges; (ii) the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct that allegedly were violated; (iii) the proposed penalty; (iv) a copy of this procedure; and (v) contact information for the Dean or designee. A student’s failure to update his or her postal and email addresses with the Registrar’s office, refusal to accept delivery of a letter, or refusal or failure to open email will not constitute good cause for failure to comply with a notice.

(2) The accused student shall have four business days in which to request a hearing after receipt of the notice. The request must be made in writing and may be sent via hand delivery, U.S. mail, facsimile, or electronic mail. If the student does not timely request a hearing, the discipline may be imposed without further hearing.

(3) If the student requests a hearing, then the hearing ordinarily shall be held within 12 business days of the Dean or designee’s receipt of the request for hearing. Upon receipt of the student’s request for hearing, the Dean or designee shall promptly notify the student in writing of the date, time, and place of the hearing. The notice of hearing may be sent to the student by electronic mail, U.S. mail, or hand delivery. The notice letter shall identify the Hearing Officer and shall summarize the procedural rights afforded to the student by this code. The letter shall provide a postal address and email address for the Hearing Officer.

(4) Upon a showing of good cause, or upon the mutual agreement of the parties, the hearing may be rescheduled.

(5) At least three business days prior to the hearing, the accused student shall submit in writing to the Dean or designee and the Hearing Officer (1) any objection that, if sustained, would warrant a postponement of the hearing, (2) any objection to the Hearing Officer on the ground of bias or lack of neutrality, and (3) the name of the advisor or attorney, if any, who will appear with the student. The student’s advisor or legal counsel may attend the hearing and confer with the student but may not participate or cross-examine witnesses. An advisor may not be a witness in the matter. Likewise, the College retains the right to have legal counsel present at any hearing, but the attorney shall not participate or cross-examine witnesses.
(6) In the event that a student is a qualified person with a disability under federal law and is unable to represent himself or herself at the hearing because of his or her disability, the College, as a reasonable accommodation to the student, will permit the student to be represented by counsel at the hearing. If the student is represented by counsel, then the College also may be represented by counsel.

(7) The student may choose at any time to withdraw a request for a hearing on the charges by signing an acknowledgement form and a written waiver of the hearing procedures. The Dean or designee will impose an appropriate sanction or sanctions given the nature of the charge, the evidence, and the student’s disciplinary history, if any. Although the student will waive the right to contest the charges and to participate in a hearing, the student may seek review of the sanction under Section 5.0 of this procedure. The Dean or designee shall notify the student in writing of the right to appeal the sanction.

(8) In cases involving allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or domestic violence (see Sections 3.3 and 3.6), the Dean or designee shall, subject to the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, notify the Title IX Coordinator and the complaining party that the accused has requested a hearing and the date and time of the hearing. The complaining party shall receive written notice of the information required by Complaint Procedure 400.7. The notice to the complaining party shall include a copy of this procedure.

4.9.2 Conducting the Hearing

(1) An Impartial Hearing Officer shall hear the evidence. The Impartial Hearing Officer shall preside over the hearing and shall be responsible for preserving order and decorum.

(2) Hearings before the Hearing Officer shall be closed to the public. The Hearing Officer will make a record of the hearing either by tape recording or by a court reporter. No cameras or photographic equipment of any kind, nor any equipment designed or used to record or transmit sound, shall be permitted in the hearing room or in the hallways adjacent to the hearing room while the hearing is in progress or during any recess. This prohibition does not apply to any equipment under the direction of the Hearing Officer to make the official recording of the hearing.

(3) If the student fails without good cause (as determined by the Hearing Officer) to appear at the scheduled hearing after receiving proper notice, the Dean or designee may proceed with the hearing in the student’s absence, and the student forfeits any right to appeal. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Administration shall provide written notice to the student of the action taken.

(4) The hearing is an informal but orderly conference. Courtroom rules of evidence and judicial rules of civil procedure will not apply. Evidence, however, must be relevant to the proceeding and of the type that would be accepted by reasonable persons in the conduct of their important affairs. Objections shall be directed to the Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer may limit cumulative, repetitious, or irrelevant testimony or documentary evidence and may impose reasonable time limits on the parties’ presentations. The Hearing Officer may impose reasonable restrictions to prevent the harassment or badgering of witnesses. Finally, although the legal rules of evidence do not apply, the Hearing Officer will give effect to legally recognized privileges, such as the attorney-client privilege. The Hearing Officer may seek legal advice before making a decision on the assertion of privilege, even if such would require a recess in the hearing.

(5) The Administration has the burden of proving the charges by a preponderance of the evidence. The Hearing Officer shall determine which evidence or testimony, if any, is probative and credible. The Hearing Officer shall determine what weight, if any, to give to particular evidence or testimony.

(6) The Administration will make its presentation first, followed by the presentation by the accused student. The Administration will be permitted to present rebuttal evidence after the student completes the presentation of his or her case.

(7) Both the Administration and the student may present witnesses to address specific issues relevant to the matter. Witnesses shall be sworn in by the court reporter or other person authorized by law to administer oaths. The Hearing Officer may question any witness and may place reasonable limits on the length of a presentation by a witness. Cross-examination by the parties is not permitted.
(a) In cases in which the proposed sanction is a written warning, attendance at a meeting to receive information about the College’s expectations, or a change in instructors, the testimony of third parties will not be permitted during a party’s presentation unless the Hearing Officer determines that such testimony is necessary to aid the fact-finding process.

(8) The Hearing Officer may question either party. The Hearing Officer is not subject to questioning by either party or any witness.

(9) Each party may present a five-minute closing argument. The Administration may reserve time for rebuttal. Neither party may present new evidence during closing arguments.

(10) Before the parties begin their presentations, all witnesses shall be excluded from the hearing room, with the exception of the student and the member of the Administration presenting on behalf of the Administration. Under this rule, no witness may be present to hear or read the testimony of another witness, and witnesses may not converse with each other or any other person about the case outside the hearing room while the hearing is in progress. Each party is responsible for providing a copy of this rule to that party’s witnesses. This rule does not preclude a witness from conferring with a party’s legal counsel or representative. The Hearing Officer shall have the authority to impose appropriate sanctions and restrictions for a violation of these instructions, including prohibiting the witness from testifying at the hearing. The prohibitions in this section will remain in effect until closing statements are concluded.

(11) The Hearing Officer shall issue written findings within 5 business days of the close of the hearing. The Hearing Officer’s decision shall state whether the accused student has violated this Code and will set forth findings of fact in support of its conclusion. The decision of the Hearing Officer will be communicated in writing to the student and the Dean or designee.

(12) In cases involving charges of sexual conduct (Section 3.5), stalking (Section 3.2.3), or domestic violence (Section 3.6), the complaining party, his or her advisor, and the Title IX coordinator may attend the hearing and participate. The complaining party shall have the same rights and opportunity to make a presentation as does the accused student. The complaining party may proceed either before or after the Dean or designee has presented the Administration’s case. Subject to the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, the Hearing Officer shall communicate the Hearing Officer’s decision to the complaining student at the same time that the decision is communicated to the accused student.

5.0 Appeals

An accused student may appeal any ruling issued pursuant to Procedure A or Procedure B. The student may appeal a finding of misconduct, the sanction, or both. Additionally, in cases involving charges of sexual conduct (Section 3.5), stalking (Section 3.2.3), or domestic violence (Section 3.6), the complainant also will have a right to appeal a decision that is adverse to the complaining party.

The student shall complete an Appeals Hearing Request Form, which is available in the Office of the Dean of Student Development. The completed form must be submitted to the Vice President of Student Services and the Office of the Dean of Student Development within seven business days of notification of an adverse disciplinary decision from the Conduct Appellate Board or the Hearing Officer. The written appeal must state the specific grounds in support of the appeal and must provide argument in support of reversal or modification of the decision. No new evidence or information may be submitted. The student must provide a copy of the appeal to the Dean or designee. The Dean or designee may submit a written response within seven business days of receipt of the appeal. The Dean or designee must provide a copy of the written response to the student. The Vice President of Student Services shall determine whether oral argument is needed. If the Vice President determines that oral argument is needed, then the Vice President shall notify the student and the Dean or designee of the time, date, and location of the argument.

The appeal shall be based on the hearing record developed at the first level. The Vice President of Student Services shall communicate his or her decision within 15 business days of the student’s request for the appeal. If the Vice President of Student Services is unavailable for any reason to hear the appeal, the Vice President shall designate an impartial administrator to hear the appeal. A timely appeal to the Vice President suspends the imposition of the sanction but other interim action may be taken as authorized by this Code.
The Vice President of Student Services or designee may reject, accept, or modify the ruling from the Appellate Board or Hearing Officer. The decision of the Vice President or designee from an appeal based on Procedure B is final and non-appealable. The decision of the Vice President or designee from an appeal based on Procedure A may be appealed to the Provost or designee. The student must file the appeal within seven business days of receipt of the Vice President or designee's decision. The written appeal must state the specific grounds in support of the appeal and must provide argument in support of reversal or modification of the Vice President or designee's decision. No new evidence or information may be submitted. The student must provide a copy of the appeal to the Dean or designee. The Dean or designee may submit a written response within seven business days of receipt of the appeal. The Dean or designee must provide a copy of the written response to the student. No oral argument will be provided. The Provost shall communicate his or her decision in writing within 20 business days of the provost's receipt of the appeal.

6.0 Emergency Suspension
Pending a hearing or other disposition of charges against a student, the Provost, Vice President of Student Services, Dean of Student Development, or their designees may take such immediate interim disciplinary action as is appropriate to the circumstances, including suspending the right of the student to be present on campus and to attend classes or activities, when the continuing presence of the student poses a potential danger to persons or property or poses a potential threat of disrupting the academic process or any activity authorized by the college. The Administration shall promptly send written notice to the student via hand delivery, electronic mail, or first-class U.S. mail.

In determining whether an emergency suspension is warranted, the Administration shall consider the reliability of the evidence or report of wrongdoing and whether the continued presence of the student on campus reasonably poses a threat to the physical or emotional well-being of any individual, including the student, or for reasons relating to the safety and welfare of any College property, or any College function. A student who is suspended on an emergency basis is entitled to a hearing at his or her request. If the suspension is longer than five days, Procedure A shall apply; otherwise, Procedure B shall apply. The hearing shall be held as soon as practicable, generally within 10 business days of the Administration's receipt of the student's request.

San Jacinto College Complaint Procedures for Students
The College maintains several distinct procedures designed to provide efficiency and expertise in the resolution of student complaints. In situations in which a student alleges multiple, related complaints involving separate procedures (for example, a grade appeal and a discrimination complaint), the Administration reserves the right to process the complaints separately or to consolidate them. When complaints are consolidated, the Administration shall use the procedure that will provide the student with the maximum amount of process.

Grade Appeals
Complaint Procedure 100
Grade determination and awarding of a final grade in a course is clearly the responsibility of the instructor. Final grade reports should be available to the student within a reasonable time following the end of the course, typically within 7 days. When a student becomes aware of a final grade that is believed to be incorrect, the student may appeal the final grade received in the course. The student shall initiate the appeal process as soon as possible following the receipt or electronic posting of the grade. The appeal process shall be initiated no later than 30 days after the end of that semester and must be resolved within 120 days following the initiation of the appeal.

Students may not use this procedure to challenge the substance or content of an exam, test item, test answer, or assignment. At no step in the process are the instructor’s questions or individual test items to be scrutinized. Only course syllabus (e.g., grading system), and letter or numerical grades as recorded in the instructor’s grade book will be examined.
The procedures for appealing a grade shall be as follows:

1. **Student meeting with Instructor:** The student and instructor shall discuss the grade that the student believes is incorrect. At this meeting, only the grades on tests, projects, reports, etc., and the grading system listed in the syllabus will be discussed and recalculated as necessary. Whenever possible, the matter should be resolved at this meeting. If the instructor cannot resolve the problem immediately, the student will be notified of the availability of a copy of the grade appeal procedures in the office of the appropriate dean. If, upon receipt of the instructor’s written decision, the student is dissatisfied with the decision, the student may request a meeting with the department chair to appeal the decision of the instructor. (NOTE: In the event there is no department chair, the student may request a meeting with the dean who will conduct the meeting in accordance with steps No. 1 and No. 2 of this procedure.) The student must make the appeal within five (5) working days after notification by the instructor.

2. **Student meeting with Department Chair/Program Director:** The department chair must arrange a meeting no more than five (5) working days after receiving a request from the student, unless exceptional circumstances warrant additional time. This meeting will include the student, the instructor, and the department chair. Providing sufficient evidence of discrepancies or errors in the grade will be the responsibility of the student. If insufficient evidence is offered, the appeal will be denied. The student will be given an opportunity to present his/her case. The instructor will be given a chance for rebuttal.

On hearing the evidence from both sides, the department chair will take one of the following actions:

A. If, in the opinion of the department chair, the student failed to provide sufficient evidence of discrepancies or errors in the grades, the student will be notified in writing that the appeal is denied. The department chair will inform the student of the right to appeal the decision and about the procedures for appeal. At the same time, the department chair will notify the instructor in writing of this decision. The notification must be given within five (5) working days of the hearing.

B. If, in the opinion of the department chair, the student provided sufficient evidence of discrepancies or errors in the grades, the instructor will be notified within five (5) working days of the meeting. At the same time, the department chair will notify the student in writing of this decision. The instructor will, in turn, inform the department chair in writing within five (5) working days whether he/she will change the grade. If the instructor changes the grade, the instructor notifies the student in writing, and the matter is closed.

If the instructor chooses not to change the grade, the department chair will be notified of the decision in writing within five (5) working days after having received the recommendation from the department chair. Within five (5) working days after being informed of the instructor’s decision to deny the grade change, the department chair will notify the student that the appeal is denied and inform the student of further rights to appeal and the procedure for doing so. All time limits stated are in working days.

All time limits may be extended by mutual consent or by the dean due to exceptional circumstances.

3. **Student Meeting with Dean.** Within five (5) working days after receiving notification from the department chair that the appeal has been denied, a student may request a meeting with the dean who will take either action A or action B as described in step No. 2 above. (NOTE: In the event there is no dean or in the event that the dean conducted the initial meeting, the student will proceed to step 4.)
4. Student Meeting with Academic Appeals Committee. Within five (5) working days after receiving written notification from the dean that the appeal has been denied, a student appealing a grade in a course may request a hearing before an Academic Appeals Committee. This request will be in writing to the provost. The committee will consist of one full-time instructor to be named by the student, one full-time instructor to be named by the instructor, and one full-time instructor to be named by the provost. The provost will request that the student and instructor submit the name of their nominees within five (5) working days after notification of all parties involved. Upon receiving the names of those nominees, and appointing a third instructor to the committee, the provost will set the time, date, and place of the closed hearing and notify all parties. This will be done within five (5) working days after having received the names of both nominees. A student may present written evidence relevant to the grade appeal and may be advised at the hearing by one or more persons of his/her own choice. The student may have a maximum of two (2) persons in the room at a time. The Academic Appeals Committee may request information from the instructor and/or other persons familiar with the matter. Within five (5) working days after this hearing, the Academic Appeals Committee will notify the student, the instructor, and the provost in writing of its findings: (1) A grade change is justified and will be made; or (2) A grade change is not justified and will not be made.

If the decision of the Academic Appeals Committee is to change the grade, the provost will have five (5) working days to make the grade change. The decision of the Academic Appeals Committee will be final.

The same appeal process will be followed when the instructor is not accessible or no longer employed by San Jacinto College by excluding the step involving the instructor.

General Complaints
Complaint Procedure 200

200.1 Scope
San Jacinto College complies with the U.S. Department of Education’s “Program Integrity” regulations, which require each state to have a student complaint procedure in order for public and private higher education institutions to be eligible for federal Title IV funds. Current, former, and prospective students may initiate a complaint with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, after exhausting the institution’s grievance/complaint process, by sending the required forms either by electronic mail to StudentComplaints@thecb.state.tx.us, or by mail to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Office of General Counsel, P.O. Box 12788, Austin, Texas 78711-2788. Facsimile transmissions of the forms are not accepted.

A general complaint is a College-related problem, decision, or condition that a student believes to be unfair, inequitable, or adversely affecting the student’s education at San Jacinto College or that affects the student’s ability to use College services and programs. A student may not use Procedure 200 to complain about decisions affecting other students or persons. Finally, Procedure 200 may not be used to address matters for which special procedures are published. In particular, this general procedure may not be used to address grade appeals; harassment and discrimination complaints under Complaint Procedure 300 or 400; traffic appeals; FERPA complaints (see Student Records policy); or student discipline complaints, hearings, or appeals.

Barring exceptional and unforeseeable circumstances, students should file their complaints within 10 school days after the problem, decision, or condition arose. Complaints filed more than 10 school days after the conclusion of the semester and the posting of the student’s final grades generally may not be accepted.
Steps

STEP 1. Students who wish to file a complaint should, when necessary, consult with an educational planner or counselor for guidance on how to identify the individuals to whom the student should direct the complaint under Step 2 or Step 3.

STEP 2. The student should first discuss the complaint with the College employee most directly responsible for the condition which brought about the complaint. Most matters will be resolved at this level.

STEP 3. If the discussion at Step 2 does not resolve the matter to the student's satisfaction and the student wishes to pursue the matter, the student may discuss the matter with the next level of supervisory authority.

STEP 4. If the discussion at Step 3 still does not resolve the matter to the student's satisfaction, the student may file a written complaint. The written complaint shall identify the requested remedy. If the general complaint is against another student or involves the application of a College policy or procedure, the student shall file the complaint with the dean of student development. The dean of student development will take appropriate action on matters within his or her jurisdiction or route the complaint to the appropriate senior administrator for action. If the general complaint is against a College employee, the dean of student development will forward the complaint to the Employee Relations Department. The dean and the Employee Relations Department shall confer and determine an appropriate investigation plan. The official conducting the review or investigation shall prepare a written communication regarding the disposition of the complaint.

STEP 5. If the response at Step 4 does not resolve the matter to the student's satisfaction, the student may seek further review by submitting a written request to the campus Provost.

Discrimination and Harassment Complaints

(Excludes Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct)

Complaint Procedure 300

300.1 General Statement of Purpose

It is the policy of San Jacinto College to provide an educational, employment, and business environment free of discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, pregnancy, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, genetic information, marital status, or veteran status. Trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and other agents of the College will not engage in conduct constituting unlawful harassment or discrimination.

The College will promptly investigate all allegations of harassment and discrimination and take appropriate disciplinary action against individuals who engage in prohibited conduct. Disciplinary action may include dismissal of employees, expulsion of students, and removal of visitors. The policy against discrimination applies to all programs and activities, including:

- Admission to programs of study
- Access to enrollment in courses
- Career placement services
- Counseling and guidance materials, tests, and practices
- Technical education
- Physical education
- Competitive athletics
- Graduation requirements
- Student rules, regulations, and benefits
- Treatment as a married and/or pregnant student
- Housing
- Financial assistance
- Health services
- School-sponsored extracurricular activities
- Other aid, benefits, or services

These rules apply to harassment or discrimination that occurs on campus or off campus at College-sponsored or College-affiliated activities.
All administrators, faculty, and staff are encouraged to promptly report incidents of discrimination, harassment, and violence. Additionally, the College has designated certain College employees as responsible officials who have mandatory reporting duties. The following employees have a duty to report alleged instances of unlawful discrimination or harassment that come to their attention:

- Chancellor, Vice Chancellors, Vice Presidents, Provosts, and Deans
- Registrar
- Faculty and Department Chairs
- Police Department personnel
- Counselors
- Risk Management personnel
- Human Resources personnel
- Athletics personnel
- Directors and Managers

The College has appointed several harassment prevention coordinators to facilitate the College’s compliance with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. A list of the coordinators is found in Section 400.2 of Complaint Procedure 400.

300.2 Scope of this Procedure
This procedure applies to all harassment or discrimination complaints based on a protected status except those involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. Complaints involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking are addressed in Complaint Procedure 400.

This procedure, however, does apply to sexual discrimination complaints, such as a complaint alleging denial of admission into a program because of gender. In the event that a sexual discrimination complaint overlaps with a sexual harassment complaint, or in the event it is difficult to determine whether a sexual discrimination complaint encompasses sexual harassment, Procedure 400 will be used.

300.3 What is Discrimination?
Discrimination is the act of treating similarly situated persons differently based on their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, veteran or military status, genetic information, or any other basis protected by law.

For students, this prohibition applies to College operations and activities such as admission, housing, discipline, counseling, scholarship and loan programs, co-curricular experiences, and athletics.

300.4 What is Discriminatory Harassment?
Harassment is physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct directed at a person because of his or her race, color, national origin, sex (gender), religion, disability, age, veteran status, genetic information, or any other protected status and that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

1. Affects a person’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;

2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student’s academic performance or an employee’s work performance; or

3. Otherwise adversely affects a person’s educational or employment opportunities.

Examples of prohibited harassment include, but are not limited to, offensive or derogatory comments, jokes, or slurs because of the individual’s protected status or because of the individual’s need for an accommodation based on disability or religion; actions that are designed to humiliate or embarrass; physical aggression or assault; display of graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property when motivated by the individual’s protected status.

300.5 Complaint Process
Students may use this procedure to file a complaint against another a student, a College employee, College contractors, or third parties who are visiting the College or participating in a College activity.

A student may, at any time, personally approach the individual whose conduct is offensive, unwelcome, or intimidating and request that such conduct stop. However, if this action is not feasible or unsuccessful, or if a student feels uncomfortable taking this approach, the student may seek an informal or formal resolution at any time. No student is ever required to make a report to the person who is engaging in discrimination or harassment.

A student may seek resolution or general information about this complaint procedure by contacting any member of the Title IX/Discrimination Prevention Team listed on page 43.
300.5.1 Formal Complaint Process
Although students may file a complaint at any time, the College encourages students to report their concerns as soon as possible after the alleged incident(s) so that prompt action can be taken to investigate and resolve the complaint. A delay in reporting may result in a loss of evidence or witness availability. Students are encouraged to file complaints during the same semester that the alleged incidents occurred or within 30 days of the conclusion of the semester.

Content of complaint: Students are encouraged to submit written complaints that describe all incident(s) or action(s) considered by the complainant to be harassing, discriminatory, or violent. Complainants should provide the following information:

- Contact information, including address, telephone, and e-mail;
- Name of person(s) directly responsible for alleged violation(s);
- Date(s) and place(s) of alleged violations;
- Nature of alleged violation(s);
- Detailed description of the specific conduct that is the basis of alleged violation(s);
- Copies of documents, emails, text messages, photos, or other physical evidence pertaining to the alleged violation(s);
- Names of any witnesses to alleged violation(s);
- Action requested to resolve the situation;
- Complainant’s signature and date of filing; and
- Any other relevant information.

The student’s failure to provide a written complaint or to provide the information requested above may adversely impact the College to conduct a complete and thorough investigation and may limit the College’s ability to take appropriate corrective action.

Where to file the complaint:
Complaints alleging misconduct by a student shall be filed with any member of the Title IX/Discrimination Prevention Team who addresses student concerns.

Complaints alleging misconduct by an employee or campus visitor shall be filed with any member of the Title IX/Discrimination Prevention Team who addresses employee concerns.

To ensure that all student complaints are properly processed, any College administrator who receives a complaint under this procedure shall promptly notify the Title IX coordinator and the Vice President of Student Services in writing.

Title IX/Discrimination Prevention Team:
Interim Vice President of Student Services
Joanna Zimmermann (students) – Co-Lead Title IX Coordinator
8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505
joanna.zimmermann@sjcd.edu, 281-476-1863

Vice President, Human Resources
Sandra Ramirez (employees) – Co-Lead Title IX Coordinator
4620 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, TX 77504
sandra.ramirez@sjcd.edu, 281-991-2648

Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives
Allatia Harris (equity in athletics)
8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505
allatia.harris@sjcd.edu, 281-459-7140.

Director of Employee Relations
Vickie Del Bello (employees)
4620 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, TX 77504
vickie.delbello@sjcd.edu, 281-998-6357

Interim Dean of Student Development - Central Campus
Shelley Rinehart (students)
8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505
shelley.rinehart@sjcd.edu, 281-998-6150, ext. 1012

Dean of Student Development - North Campus
Clare Iannelli (students)
5800 Uvalde Road, Houston, TX 77049
clare.iannelli@sjcd.edu, 281-459-7653

Interim Dean of Student Development - South Campus
Debbie Smith (students)
13735 Beamer Road, Houston, TX 77089
deborah.smith@sjcd.edu, 281-922-3455

Provost - Central Campus
Van Wigginton
8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505
van.wigginton@sjcd.edu, 281-542-2000

Provost - North Campus
William Raffetto
5800 Uvalde Road, Houston, TX 77049
william.raffetto@sjcd.edu, 281-459-7101

Provost - South Campus
Brenda Jones
13735 Beamer Road, Houston, TX 77089
brenda.jones@sjcd.edu, 281-922-3403
300.5.2 Processing the Complaint
The Title IX coordinator or designee will evaluate the complaint to determine whether it is covered by this procedure. A formal investigation will be initiated if a complaint is within the scope of this policy and articulates sufficient specific facts, which if determined to be true, would support a finding that the College's policy was violated. The College may decline to process a complaint under a variety of circumstances, including (i) the complaint is vague and does not describe conduct covered by this procedure; (ii) the student declines to cooperate in the College's investigation; or (iii) the complaint has been withdrawn or the requested remedy has already been implemented or was offered and rejected. If the College declines to process a complaint pursuant to this procedure, the College shall send the student a written notification explaining the reasons.

If the College administration proceeds with a complaint investigation, the Title IX coordinator or designee shall determine whether interim action is needed pending completion of an investigation (e.g., a no-contact order, temporary reassignment, or suspension). The Title IX coordinator or designee will assign an impartial investigator to investigate the complaint. In cases in which the accused is a student, the investigator typically will be the dean of student development. In cases in which the accused is an employee, the Employee Relations Department typically will conduct the investigation. In some instances, a team from Student Services and Employee Relations will conduct the investigation together.

The Title IX coordinator or designee shall notify the complainant and the alleged offender of the name and contact information of the investigator(s). The alleged offender shall receive written notice of the allegations and shall be informed of his or her right to submit a written response to the allegations within 10 school days, unless unusual circumstances warrant additional time. The written notice shall inform the alleged offender that retaliation against the complaining party is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.

300.5.3 Investigating the Complaint
Barring unusual circumstances (e.g., multiple complainants, a complaint filed the day before the winter break), the investigation ordinarily will be completed within 60 calendar days. An investigation shall proceed even if criminal charges also are pending against the accused.

The investigator shall interview the complainant, the accused, and other individuals determined by the investigator to possess relevant information. The complainant and the accused each will be permitted to provide documentation or other tangible evidence to the investigator.

During meetings pertaining to the investigation and complaint process, the complaining party and the accused may be represented or accompanied by an advisor. Advisors, however, may not actively participate in meetings or interview witnesses.

The investigator shall prepare a written report that summarizes the findings and states whether a preponderance of the evidence establishes a violation of the College's policies. The investigator will consider the totality of circumstances, including the context and duration of the conduct and its severity. Facts will be considered on the basis of what is reasonable to persons of ordinary sensitivity.

If the accused is a student, a draft of the proposed findings shall be submitted to the vice president of student services or designee. If the accused is an employee or visitor, the proposed findings shall be submitted to the appropriate leader, which ordinarily will be the provost, vice president of human resources, or other vice president. If a complaint is directed at an administrator who would otherwise act on the complaint, then the function assigned to that person will be assigned to another person.

The administrator receiving the proposed findings will provide copies to the accused and the complaining student. Student identifiable information, if confidential by law, will be redacted. The accused and the complaining student will each have 10 working days to provide comments and suggested corrections to the administrator. After receiving the comments from the parties (or if no comments are submitted), the administrator will confer with the investigator to discuss the proposed findings and to review the investigation record. The administrator shall determine whether additional investigation is needed; whether to dismiss the complaint due to insufficient evidence; or whether to proceed with a disciplinary consequence or other corrective action. The action shall be reasonably calculated to prevent a reoccurrence of the misconduct and/or to ameliorate its impact. The administrator's final determination shall be sent to the accused, the complaining student, and the Title IX coordinator. The final determination may be redacted to protect student information that is confidential by law under the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act. All deadlines in this procedure may be extended by mutual agreement or for good cause.
300.6 Review and Appeals
If the investigation does not result in the assignment of disciplinary consequences against the accused employee or accused student, the complaining student may submit a written appeal to the provost or designee. The provost or designee shall provide written notice to the accused of the appeal. The provost or designee shall review the record and issue a written response within 20 school days. A copy of the response shall be provided to both parties.

If the accused is a student and is proposed for major discipline (expulsion, a suspension exceeding five days, or revocation or withdrawal of a degree), he or she may request a hearing to challenge the charge and the sanction under Section 4.8 of the student code of conduct. If the proposed discipline involves a consequence that is less than expulsion, a suspension exceeding five days, or revocation or withdrawal of a degree, the student may request a hearing under Section 4.9 of the student code of conduct. If the student desires to challenge the sanction but not the charge, then the student may seek review by filing a request with the provost or designee. The provost or designee shall review the record and issue a written response within 20 school days. A copy of the response shall be provided to both parties.

If the accused is an employee and is assigned a disciplinary consequence, he or she may seek review in accordance with the employment policies of the College.

300.7 Retaliation Prohibited
Every student has the right to file a complaint or to participate in an investigation without being subjected to retaliation. Retaliation is an adverse action taken by an employee or student against an individual who makes a good faith report of discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct or who participates in an investigation pertaining to a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct. For an action or decision to be considered adverse, it must be materially adverse and be of the type that would dissuade a reasonable person from exercising his or her rights to file a complaint or to participate in an investigation. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances. Any employee or student who engages in retaliation may be subject to disciplinary action.

300.9 Office for Civil Rights
Students who have experienced discrimination or harassment based on a protected status may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education. (http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html).

Complaints Alleging Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking

Complaint Procedure 400

400.1 Scope
This procedure addresses sexual harassment, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, or stalking (see Sections 3.3 and 3.6 of the code of conduct). Students may use this procedure to file a complaint against another a student, a College employee, College contractors, or third parties who are visiting the College or participating in a College activity. For ease of reference, the phrase “sexual misconduct” occasionally is used to encompass all categories addressed in this procedure.

Prohibited conduct may be verbal or physical, and proof of force or physical injury is not required. The parties may be the opposite sex or the same sex. In determining whether sanctionable conduct has occurred, the College may consider the on-campus impact of incidents that occurred off campus.

This complaint procedure constitutes a grievance procedure required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. As used in this procedure, “complaint” and “grievance” are synonymous.

400.2 Harassment Prevention Coordinators
Title IX is a federal statute that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in education programs. The College has appointed several Title IX Coordinators, or harassment prevention coordinators, who facilitate the College’s compliance with Title IX and other laws that prohibit discrimination. These officials can assist students with claims of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.
Title IX/Discrimination Prevention Team:
Interim Vice President of Student Services
Joanna Zimmermann (students) – Co-Lead Title IX Coordinator
8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505
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Vice President, Human Resources
Sandra Ramirez (employees) – Co-Lead Title IX Coordinator
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Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives
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Interim Dean of Student Development - Central Campus
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Dean of Student Development - North Campus
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Interim Dean of Student Development - South Campus
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In addition to the Title IX Coordinators, numerous other College employees are designated as “responsible officials” who have reporting duties under Title IX. The following employees have a duty to report alleged instances of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct:

- Chancellor, Vice Chancellors, Vice Presidents, Provosts, and Deans
- Registrar
- Faculty and Department Chairs
- Police Department personnel
- Counselors
- Risk Management personnel
- Human Resources personnel
- Athletics personnel
- Directors and Managers

400.3 Reporting Options
Students have several options when reporting sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. They may seek informal guidance from college counselors or other college officials, or they may file a formal college grievance. Students also may file a report directly with the College police or any local law enforcement agency. Students are not required to file a police complaint in order to receive assistance from the College. Additionally, reporting an offense does not commit the student to pursuing further legal action. Students who desire assistance in order to make a police report may contact the Dean of Student Development, the Counseling Office, or the Title IX Coordinator.

- San Jacinto College Police Department:
  From campus phone: 555;
  From cell phones: 281-476-9128;
  Non-emergency: 281-476-1820;
  Hearing Impaired Phone Number for text messages: 713-469-1071.
- Houston Police Department: 713-884-3131 (non-emergency)
- Pasadena Police Department: 713-884-3131 (non-emergency)
  713-477-1221 (non-emergency)

400.3.1 Assistance for Victims – Confidential and Non-Confidential Options
Students who have experienced a sexual assault, sexual violence, stalking, domestic violence, or other crimes may seek advice, assistance, and resources from the Dean of Students, the Counseling Office, or the College’s Title IX Coordinator. Individuals within these offices can assist the complainant with accessing medical or counseling services, advocacy services, social support services, legal services, and police services. Even in the absence of a formal complaint, the
Confidential Communications: In response to an act of sexual harassment or sexual violence, a victim may be unsure whom to contact for information about options and resources. Some victims may prefer a confidential consultation before deciding on a course of action. Most San Jacinto College personnel will have a duty to report complaints that come to their attention. Below, this procedure addresses when confidentiality may be honored.

Confidential communications are those communications that cannot be disclosed to another person without the reporter’s consent, except under very limited circumstances such as an imminent threat or danger to self or others. Victims may speak confidentially with a licensed professional counselor in the College’s counseling center: North Campus: 281-998-6150 ext. 2317; Central Campus: 281-998-6150 ext. 1014; South Campus: 281-922-3444, pastoral counselors in the community, medical personnel, licensed social workers, and victims’ advocates. These individuals may assist victims in deciding whether to report, what options exist, and what resources are available. These individuals are not required to report incidents of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or sexual misconduct to the College’s Title IX coordinator.

Victims also may choose to speak confidentiality with advisors, educational planners, and front-desk staff in the counseling office. These individuals are not professional counselors but have been specially designated to serve as a resource where students may obtain information about this procedure and about support services. These individuals are not required to report the names of victims to the College’s Title IX coordinator. However, these individuals will be required to report de-identified information such as the date, time, and nature of the incident. The purpose of this general reporting obligation is to enable the College to identify patterns or trends involving sexual harassment or violence.

Non-Confidential Communications: “Responsible employees” as listed in Section 400.2 may be required to report of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, or sexual assault, even if when they have been requested by the person confiding in them to keep the discussion confidential. Non-confidential communications consist of those communications that will be disseminated to the Title IX Coordinator and others on a need-to-know basis in order to ensure that necessary steps are taken to protect the community as a whole and appropriate disciplinary measures are considered and taken. The employees identified in Section 400.2 have a reporting obligation. They must report to the Title IX Coordinator all relevant details of the occurrence, including names of those involved and relevant facts including date, time, and location.

When receiving a sexual misconduct report from a potential victim, responsible employees shall notify the victim that (i) the employee has an obligation to report the complaint to the Title IX coordinator and (ii) the victim may request confidentiality, which will be evaluated by the Title IX coordinator. The responsible employee shall also inform the victim that he or she may speak confidentially with a licensed professional counselor, pastoral counselor, or others identified in this procedure and that those communications will not be reported to the Title IX coordinator without the victim’s consent.

Requests for Confidentiality: To the greatest extent possible, the College shall maintain the confidentiality of information and records related to investigations of complaints based on sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation and comply with applicable law. A Title IX Coordinator will evaluate a student’s request for confidentiality in the context of the College’s responsibility to provide a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for the entire college community. The Title IX Coordinator will make every effort to respect a student’s request for confidentiality; however, there are situations in which the College must override a student’s request for confidentiality in order to meet its Title IX obligations. When weighing a student’s request for confidentiality that could preclude a meaningful investigation or potential discipline of the alleged perpetrator, the College will consider a range of factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, (i) circumstances that suggest there...
is an increased risk of the alleged perpetrator committing additional acts of sexual violence or other violence (e.g., whether there have been other sexual violence complaints about the same alleged perpetrator, whether the alleged perpetrator has a history of arrests, etc.); (ii) whether the sexual violence was perpetrated with a weapon; (iii) the age of the student subjected to the sexual violence; and (iv) whether the school possesses other means to obtain relevant evidence (e.g., security cameras or personnel, physical evidence).

If the College determines that it must disclose a complainant’s identity to an alleged perpetrator, it will inform the complainant prior to making this disclosure and take whatever interim measures are necessary to protect the complainant and ensure the safety of others.

Finally, while federal law requires San Jacinto College to include certain reported incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking among its annual campus crime statistics, such information will be reported in a manner that does not identify victims.

Complaints involving victims under the age of 18: Complaints involving abuse of minors must be reported to Children’s Protective Services or other law enforcement agencies. The phone number for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services is 1-800-252-5400.

400.4 Evidence Preservation in Sexual Assault Cases/Medical Exams
If a student experiences a sexual assault or other criminal offense, it is important that the student take action to preserve evidence. Such evidence will be helpful in the event that the victim seeks a protective order or desires to pursue a criminal prosecution. Victims of sexual assault should not wash, shower, bathe, or change clothes prior to a medical exam or treatment. If the victim needs to remove an item of clothing, it should be placed in a paper bag (not a plastic bag). Instead of changing clothes, the victim may separately bring a change of clothing to the hospital to wear after the examination. Evidence of violence, such as visible injuries or bruising or damage to a vehicle, will need to be photographed. Likewise, evidence of emails, text messages, or phone messages must be preserved and not deleted or altered.

Students who have just experienced a sexual assault or other sexual violence should call 911 and locate to a safe place. If the incident occurred on campus, the student should contact campus police. Campus police assistance is available 24 hours a day. Campus personnel may assist the victim in obtaining transportation to a hospital or clinic, a police department, or other location. Prompt medical attention in a case of recent assault is necessary to document and treat any injuries and screen for certain medical conditions and transmitted diseases. Victims may receive a medical exam with or without police involvement. A nurse examiner may perform a Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE). Such exams generally are available in hospital emergency rooms.

400.5 Filing a Complaint
400.5.1 Informal Resolution
A student may, at any time, personally address the individual whose conduct is offensive, unwelcome, or intimidating and request that such conduct stop. However, if this action is not feasible or unsuccessful, or if a student feels uncomfortable taking this approach, the student may seek an informal or formal resolution at any time. No student is ever required to make a report to an alleged offender.

A student may seek informal resolution by contacting the appropriate Dean or any member of the Title IX/Discrimination Prevention Team listed on page 49. Informal resolution may include a meeting between a College administrator and the accused to reinforce the requirements of the College’s policy against harassment. Informal resolution is not a precondition to filing a formal complaint. Additionally, if informal resolution is undesirable or ineffective, then the student may initiate a formal complaint at any time. Mediation shall not be employed in any instances involving sexual violence.

400.5.2 Formal Complaint Process
Content of complaint: Although students may file a complaint at any time, the College encourages students to report their concerns as soon as possible after the alleged incident(s) so that prompt action can be taken to investigate and resolve the complaint. A delay in reporting may result in a loss of evidence or witness availability. Students are encouraged to file complaints during the same semester that the alleged incidents occurred or within 30 days of the conclusion of the semester.
Students are encouraged to submit written complaints that describe all incident(s) or action(s) considered by the complainant to be harassing or violent. Complainants should provide the following information:

- Contact information, including address, telephone, and e-mail;
- Name of person(s) directly responsible for alleged violation(s);
- Date(s) and place(s) of alleged violations;
- Nature of alleged violation(s) as defined in this policy;
- Detailed description of the specific conduct that is the basis of alleged violation(s);
- Copies of documents, emails, text messages, photos, or other physical evidence pertaining to the alleged violation(s);
- Names of any witnesses to alleged violation(s);
- Action requested to resolve the situation;
- Complainant’s signature and date of filing; and
- Any other relevant information.

The student’s failure to provide a written complaint or to provide the information requested above may adversely impact the College to conduct a complete and thorough investigation and may limit the College’s ability to take appropriate corrective action.

**Where to file the complaint:**
Complaints alleging misconduct by a student shall be filed with any member of the Title IX/Discrimination Prevention Team who addresses student concerns.

Complaints alleging misconduct by an employee or campus visitor shall be filed with any member of the Title IX/Discrimination Prevention Team who addresses employee concerns.

To ensure that all student complaints are properly processed, any College administrator who receives a complaint under this procedure shall promptly notify the Title IX coordinator and the vice president of student services in writing.
400.5.3 Processing and Investigating the Complaint

The Title IX coordinator or designee will evaluate the complaint to determine whether it is covered by this procedure. A formal investigation will be initiated if a complaint is within the scope of this policy and articulates sufficient specific facts, which if determined to be true, would support a finding that the College's policy was violated. The College may decline to process a complaint under a variety of circumstances, including (i) the complaint is vague and does not describe conduct covered by this procedure; (ii) the student declines to cooperate in the College's investigation; or (iii) the complaint has been withdrawn or the requested remedy has already been implemented or was offered and rejected. If the College declines to process a complaint pursuant to this procedure, the College shall send the student a written notification explaining the reasons.

If the College administration proceeds with a complaint investigation, the Title IX coordinator or designee shall determine whether interim action is needed pending completion of an investigation (e.g., a no-contact order, temporary reassignment, or suspension). The Title IX coordinator or designee will assign an impartial investigator to investigate the complaint. The College administration shall appoint an impartial investigator who is not a member of the affected department (e.g., a complaint by a student athlete will be investigated by someone outside the athletic department). In cases in which the accused is a student, the investigator typically will be the dean of student development. In cases in which the accused is an employee, the Employee Relations Department typically will conduct the investigation. In some instances, a team from Student Services and Employee Relations will conduct the investigation together.

The Title IX coordinator or designee shall notify the complainant and the alleged offender of the name and contact information of the investigator(s). The complainant and the accused each will be permitted to provide documentation or other tangible evidence to the investigator. The complainant and the accused may suggest witnesses to interview; however, the decision whether to interview is a matter of professional judgment for the investigator in light of the issues at hand, in light of the information already obtained in the investigation, and in light of the resources available.

400.5.4 Time Frame for Investigation

Barring unusual circumstances (e.g., multiple complainants, a complaint filed the day before the winter break), the investigation ordinarily will be completed within 60 calendar days. An investigation shall proceed even if criminal charges also are pending against the accused. If the pendency of a criminal investigation causes delay in obtaining access to evidence, the investigator shall notify the complainant and the investigator shall notify the complainant and the accused. All deadlines in this procedure may be extended by mutual agreement or for good cause.

400.5.5 Interviews and Documentation

The investigator shall interview the complainant, the accused, and other individuals determined by the investigator to possess relevant information. The complainant and the accused each will be permitted to provide documentation or other tangible evidence to the investigator. The complainant and the accused may suggest witnesses to interview; however, the decision whether to interview is a matter of professional judgment for the investigator in light of the issues at hand, in light of the information already obtained in the investigation, and in light of the resources available.

400.5.6 Right to Representation

During meetings pertaining to the investigation and complaint process, the complaining party and the accused may be represented or accompanied by an advisor. Advisors, however, may not actively participate in meetings or interview witnesses.

400.5.7 Investigative Reports

The investigator shall prepare a written report that summarizes the findings and states whether a preponderance of the evidence establishes a violation of the College's policies. The investigator will consider the totality of circumstances, including the context and duration of the conduct and its severity. Facts will be considered on the basis of what is reasonable to persons of ordinary sensitivity.
If the accused is a student, a draft of the proposed findings shall be submitted to the vice president of student services or designee. If the accused is an employee or visitor, the proposed findings shall be submitted to the appropriate leader, which ordinarily will be the provost, vice president of human resources, or other vice president. If a complaint is directed at an administrator who would otherwise act on the complaint, then the function assigned to that person will be assigned to another person.

The administrator receiving the proposed findings will provide copies to the accused and the complaining student (with a copy to the Title IX coordinator). Student identifiable information, if confidential by law, will be redacted. The accused and the complaining student will each have 10 working days to provide comments and suggested corrections to the administrator. After receiving the comments from the parties (or if no comments are submitted), the administrator will confer with the investigator to discuss the proposed findings and to review the investigation record. The administrator shall determine whether additional investigation is needed; whether to dismiss the complaint due to insufficient evidence; or whether to proceed with a disciplinary consequence or other corrective action. The action shall be reasonably calculated to prevent a reoccurrence of the misconduct and/or to ameliorate its impact. The administrator’s final determination shall be sent to the accused, the complaining student, and the Title IX coordinator. The final determination may be redacted to protect student information that is confidential by law under the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act.

400.6 Review and Appeals

If the investigation does not result in the assignment of disciplinary consequences against the accused employee or accused student, the complaining student may submit a written appeal to the provost or designee. The appeal must be submitted within five school days or receiving notice of the disposition of the complaint. The provost or designee shall provide written notice to the accused of the appeal. The appeal will be based on the written record. Both parties will have five school days to submit written comments. The provost or designee shall review the record and issue a written response within 20 school days. A copy shall be provided to both parties.

If the accused is an employee and is assigned a disciplinary consequence, he or she may seek review in accordance with the employment policies of the College.

Any disclosure of the disposition or results from any proceeding involving a student will be governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
400.7 Victim Rights During Disciplinary Proceedings

In disciplinary hearings and appeals involving allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or domestic violence (see Sections 3.3 and 3.6), the administrator presenting the case shall, subject to the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, notify the Title IX Coordinator and the complainant that the accused has requested a hearing and the date and time of the hearing. The complainant shall receive written notice of the following rights and options:

(a) the right to attend and participate in the hearing;
(b) the right to have his or her past sexual history excluded from evidence;
(c) the right to provide testimony at the hearing in a manner that does not require the complainant to directly confront or be directly questioned by the accused student while preserving the accused's right to challenge such testimony;
(d) the right to receive assistance from the College's Title IX coordinator;
(e) the right to provide input to the administrator presenting the case regarding potential witnesses, evidence, and argument that may be presented at the hearing or during a subsequent appeal;
(f) the right to know the outcome of the hearing; and
(g) the right to information regarding the procedure for appealing the final disposition.

The notice to the complaining party shall include a copy of the applicable disciplinary procedure. Additionally, the notice shall inform the complaining party of his or her right to be accompanied during any disciplinary proceeding by an advisor of his or her choice. If the complaining party intends to attend the hearing and/or to bring an advisor, he or she shall notify the Dean or designee in writing at least three business days prior to the hearing. The student's advisor may not cross-examine witnesses or otherwise participate in the proceeding. An advisor may not be a witness in the matter. The Dean or designee shall notify the accused student and the chairperson of the Appellate Board of the complaining party’s intent to attend the hearing.

Retaliation Prohibited
Every student has the right to file a complaint or to participate in an investigation without being subjected to retaliation. Retaliation is an adverse action taken by an employee or student against an individual who makes a good faith report of discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct or who participates in an investigation pertaining to a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct. For an action or decision to be considered adverse, it must be materially adverse and be of the type that would dissuade a reasonable person from exercising his or her rights to file a complaint or to participate in an investigation. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances. Any employee or student who engages in retaliation may be subject to disciplinary action.

Impartiality of College Officials
To facilitate prompt responses to grievances or grievance appeals and to preclude conflicts of interest, the dean of student development, the provost, and/or the Chancellor may designate another College official to consider a grievance or grievance appeal and to render a decision.

Office for Civil Rights
Students may file complaints of discrimination and harassment with the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C., at the same time they file a grievance, during or after use of the grievance process, or without using the grievance process at all. If a student files a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, the complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after the occurrence of the possible discrimination.

Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act
In compliance with the Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act (Section 1601 of “Public Law 106-386”) and the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, all persons required to register as part of the State of Texas’ Sex Offender Registration Program are required to provide notice of their presence on campus to the Campus Police Department. Information on registered sex offenders can be obtained through the Texas Department of Public Safety Crimes Record Service at: http://records.txdps.state.tx.us/soSearch/default.cfm.
Campus Security and Fire Safety Report
The San Jacinto College Community District is committed to assisting all members of the SJC community in providing for their own safety and security. In accordance with the Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, the annual security compliance document is available on the San Jac Police Department website, www.sanjac.edu/safety. Crime statistics for the past three annual years are also available at: www.ope.ed.gov/security/index.asp.

A hard copy of the San Jacinto College Annual Security and Fire Safety Report is available for review at each of the three campus police departments.

Central Campus
8060 Spencer Highway
Building C34.105
Pasadena, Texas 77505

North Campus
Slovacek Student Center
5800 Uvalde Road
Houston, Texas 77049

South Campus
J.D. Bruce Student Center
13735 Beamer Road
Houston, Texas 77089

The website and report contain information regarding campus security and personal safety, including topics such as: crime prevention; College police law enforcement authority; crime reporting policies; disciplinary procedures; and other matters of importance related to security on our campuses. They also contain information about crime statistics for the three previous calendar years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus; in certain off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by San Jacinto College; and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from, the campuses.

Graduation and Completion Rates
In compliance with Public Law 101-542 (as amended by P.L. 102-26), San Jacinto College publishes a report of completion rates for full-time undergraduate students seeking an associate degree, a certificate of technology, or transfer to a four-year institution. This report is updated annually. The report is available separately for each San Jacinto College campus, and is stratified by gender, ethnicity, and varsity sport. The report is available upon request in the campus president's office. Current and prospective students and student-athletes are encouraged to avail themselves of the information in this report prior to enrolling or entering in any financial obligations with or through the College.

Accreditation Statement
The San Jacinto Community College District is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the associate degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of The San Jacinto Community College District.

Non-Discrimination Statement
The San Jacinto College District is committed to equal employment opportunity for all students, employees, and applicants without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, pregnancy, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, genetic information, marital status, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. No person including students, faculty, staff, part-time, and temporary workers will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination or harassment under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by the San Jacinto College District on the basis of the categories listed.

The following College officials have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the College's non-discrimination policies:

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Vice President of Human Resources
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