

# Richard Bland College's Student Conduct Policy



## General Statement

When Richard Bland College grants admission to an applicant, it becomes the responsibility of that individual to become familiar with and abide by its rules and regulations while remaining enrolled at the College. Violations of the College's rules and regulations may result in disciplinary action being taken by the College.

The College considers particularly serious those acts that infringe on the rights of others, which violate the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, or which reflect intellectual dishonesty. Damage to state property, hazing, sexual misconduct and violations of state and other laws constitute unacceptable conduct. Intellectual dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, lying or stealing in regard to intellectual matters) constitutes unacceptable conduct.

All members of the College community are expected to understand that there is a distinction between College procedures for dealing with unacceptable conduct and the procedures under which civil courts operate. That distinction in no way suggests the College can or will act capriciously, ignore the individual's rights, or violate the rules of fair play in dealing with disciplinary matters. Students who think that the College has acted in such a manner have recourse to civil courts.

Unacceptable activities fall into two broad categories: those activities that do not involve intellectual dishonesty and those activities that do. All actions that do not involve intellectual dishonesty fall under the provisions of the General Student Disciplinary Policy; actions involving intellectual dishonesty fall under the provision of the Honor Code. The College reserves the right to immediately impose an interim suspension (the duration between the incident and the date of the hearing) upon a student whose conduct is, in its judgment, inappropriate). A student shall be immediately dismissed from the College if his/her behavior has, in its judgment, jeopardized the health and safety of any student (including him/herself), employee, or guest on campus.

There are times when the College is legally obligated to report certain incidences.

The College will react to inappropriate conduct by taking one or more of the following actions:

1. Refer the matter to civil authorities for investigation and possible prosecution. This step may be used both for cases involving intellectual dishonesty and those which do not.
2. Follow the procedure outlined in the General Student Disciplinary Policy described below. Such matters may also be referred to civil authorities as noted in 1) above.
3. Follow the procedure outlined in the Honor Code. Such matters may also be referred to civil authorities as noted in 1) above.

### Student Disciplinary Policy

Conduct under this category shall generally consist of conduct that adversely affects the College community's pursuit of its educational objectives. The College shall, in its sole discretion, decide what activities meet this criterion. (Conduct involving intellectual dishonesty will be subject to the provisions of the Honor Code.) The following misconduct is subject to disciplinary action:

1. Disrupting or obstructing teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other college activities.
2. Physically, verbally, and/or psychologically abusing or threatening abuse of any person on the College's premises or at of the College's activities. This includes hazing and sexual misconduct.
3. Participating in or inciting a riot or an unauthorized or disorderly assembly.
4. Inciting any disturbance including excessive noise in or near any building or other property owned or operated by Richard Bland College that disrupts its operations.
5. Seizing, holding, or damaging property or facilities of the College, or threatening to do so, or refusing to depart from any property or facilities of the College upon direction by college officials or other persons authorized by the President.
  1. Camping or constructing any form of shelter or sleeping out on the College's property is prohibited unless it is approved by the appropriate personnel.
  2. Gambling or holding a raffle or lottery on the campus or at any college function without proper college and other necessary approval.

3. Possessing, using, selling, or distributing alcohol or illicit drugs on college property or at college activities.
4. Possessing on college property or at any college activity any dangerous chemical, or explosive elements or component parts thereof, or rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver or other firearm or weapon not used for lawful college studies without an authorization by the President of the College.
5. Physically detaining or restraining other persons or removing such persons from places where they are authorized to remain, or in any way obstructing the free movement of persons or vehicles on the college's premises or at college activities.
6. Littering, defacing, destroying, or damaging property of the College or property under its jurisdiction or removing or using such property without authorization.
7. Overturning trash receptacles anywhere on owned or leased college property.
8. Willfully encouraging others to commit any of the acts that have been herein prohibited.
9. Attempting to commit or committing an unlawful act involving members of the College's community (this can also be a violation of state or federal laws).
10. Violating any local, State, or Federal laws.
11. Violating the College Computer Use Policy.
12. Violating college parking regulations.
13. Violating college fire regulations,(e.g., failure to comply with emergency evacuation procedures, tampering with fire protection apparatus or any emergency equipment on campus).
14. Returning to the building before the consent of a college official during a fire drill.
15. Stealing or attempted stealing of college or personal property on college premises.
16. Entering into or presence in any college building or facility without authorization.
17. Unauthorized possession of keys or access cards to any building on campus.
18. Violating college policy on demonstrations.
19. Violating college policy on solicitation and sales.
20. Violating college policy on sexual misconduct.
21. Possessing or producing illegal sexual materials.
22. Disorderly conduct or lewd, indecent, or obscene behavior on campus at any event sponsored by the College.
23. Excessive use of profanity/ offensive language.
24. Wearing inappropriate attire including articles or clothing with distasteful and controversial images and content.

25. Wearing articles of clothing that do not fit properly and conform to standards of safety and decency.
26. Using Pepper Spray, Mace, and similar products in ways that would violate the College's Disciplinary Policy. These items are intended to be used for self-defense purposes only.
27. Any other action which clearly is in violation of College policy and which adversely affects the educational mission of the College may be cause for disciplinary action.
28. Violating any written college policy included herein or as announced and publicized by authorized personnel.
29. Violating any term of an imposed sanction.
30. Providing false information to the College with the intent to deceive.
31. Falsely reporting the presence of any explosive devices with the intent to mislead, deceive or disrupt the operations or scheduled event sponsored by the College.
32. Falsely reporting a fire or any kind of emergency.
33. Purposely giving false information or testimony during an investigation or hearing of a disciplinary matter.
34. Falsifying official information of the College.
35. Providing false information or failing to provide current information with the intent to defraud or mislead the College.
36. Entering or providing false information on an official college document or in electronic format.
37. Altering, forging, misusing, or destroying college documents, records or identification.
38. Replicating or possessing altered college identification, access card, or parking permit.
39. Misrepresenting oneself as an official of the College.
40. Inappropriate behavior of a guest(s) on campus. Richard Bland College students are responsible for the behavior of their guests when they fail to comply with the regulations expressed herein.

### Policy Implementation

The Director of Student Services is responsible for the administration of disciplinary procedures. Allegations of a violation of College policy are accepted for consideration only when the apparent infractions occur on college property or other locations where the College provides services. Infractions of federal, state, or local laws occurring off campus shall be the concern of the civil authorities except when such actions: (1) directly affect the health, safety, or security of the college community, (2) affect the College's pursuit of its educational purposes, or (3) occur as a direct result of a college-connected disruption.

Individuals should submit reports of alleged student violations of published college regulations to the Director of Student Services in a timely manner.

It is the responsibility of the Director of Student Services to interpret the alleged misconduct with regard to published regulations and to identify specific charges that will be brought against the student(s) involved. The Director of Student Services should respond or bring charges within ten (10) working days from receipt of a report of violations. Disciplinary proceedings will be instituted only for charges of violating college regulations.

After reviewing allegations, specifying charges, and obtaining any necessary information, the Director of Student Services may take one of the following actions:

1. Discuss the case with the student, including in the discussion the nature and source of the charges and the student's rights and responsibilities. The student may then choose:
2. With the concurrence of the Director of Student Services, an administrative hearing by the Director of Student Services. Following this hearing, the Director of Student Services may impose a disciplinary action. (See next section on Student Conduct Advisory Board Disciplinary Actions.) If an action is imposed by the Director of Student Services, the student may appeal the action to the Assistant Provost of Student Affairs (see section on Appeals Procedures) within ten (10) working days of the receipt of formal written notification from the Director of Student Services.
3. A hearing before the Student Conduct Advisory Board may impose a disciplinary action. If an action is imposed by the Student Conduct Advisory Board, the student may appeal the action to the Assistant Provost for Student Affairs within ten (10) working days of the receipt of formal written notification from the Advisory Board. If the Assistant Provost for Student Affairs sustains the action of the Student Conduct Advisory Board, the student may appeal the action to the Provost and Dean of Faculty within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the formal written notification of the Assistant Provost for Student Affairs' Decision.

For clarification of the Student Conduct Policy, please contact:

Evanda S. Watts-Martinez,  
Director of Student Services  
Division of Student Affairs

804-862-6263  
[ewatts@rbc.edu](mailto:ewatts@rbc.edu)