

**Columbia College Bulletin**  
**Associate's to Bachelor's Degree Programs**  
**Remote Sites**  
**2016-2017**



# Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	3
General Information.....	8
Admissions.....	11
Financial Information.....	12
Financial Aid.....	14
General Academic Information.....	17
Registration.....	18
Credit Restriction Policies.....	20
Grading Policies.....	22
Student Records.....	25
Degree Completion.....	26
Academic Program.....	27
Division of Arts and Communication Studies.....	29
Division of Behavioral Study and Human Inquiry.....	30
Division of Business, Mathematics, and Sciences.....	31
Division of Education.....	32
Division of Languages and Literatures.....	33
Course Descriptions.....	33
Board of Trustees.....	45
Officers of the College.....	45
Faculty.....	45
Academic Director.....	48
Student Handbook.....	49
INDEX.....	88

The purpose of this Bulletin is to provide a general description of Columbia College and its various academic units and to provide detailed information regarding the undergraduate curricula offered. Inasmuch as the educational process necessitates change, the information and educational requirements in this Bulletin represent a flexible program that may be altered where such alterations are thought to be in the mutual interests of the College and its students. The provisions of the Bulletin do not constitute any offer of a contract that may be accepted by students through registration and enrollment in the College. The College reserves the right to change without notice any fee, provision, offering or requirement in this Bulletin and to determine whether a student has satisfactorily met its requirements for admission or graduation.

All academic units establish certain academic requirements that must be met before a degree is granted. Advisors, program coordinators, and the provost are available to help the student understand and meet these requirements, but the student is responsible for fulfilling them. If, at the end of a student's course of study, the requirements for graduation have not been met, the degree will not be granted. For this reason, it is important for each student to acquaint herself with all academic requirements throughout her/his college career and to be responsible for completing all such requirements within prescribed deadlines and time limits.

# Academic Calendar

## NOTES:

- Unless otherwise noted, the ending time for registration activities is 5:00 pm on the indicated date. The ending time for classes is the end of the last scheduled class meeting on or before the indicated date.
- The online programs in Criminal Justice and Emergency Management have different academic calendars. Check the Online Program or Graduate School Bulletins for more details.
- Fall, Spring, and Summer Breaks may be on different dates for A2B sites outside of Columbia. Contact the appropriate site coordinator for more details.

## FALL SEMESTER

Monday	August 22	Division Heads Workshop
Tuesday	August 23	Division Meetings
Wednesday	August 24	Fall Faculty Workshop
Thursday	August 25	State of the College Address
Friday to Monday	August 26 August 29	New First-Year Student Orientation
Sunday	August 28	Residence Halls Open at 1:00 PM for Returning Students
Monday	August 29	Check-in for All Students New Transfer Student Orientation
Tuesday	August 30	Sophomore Rally
Wednesday	August 31	<b>First Day of Classes for Fall Semester</b>
Friday	September 2	Late Registration Ends
Monday	September 5	<b>Labor Day</b> Classes which meet only on Mondays will be held as scheduled. No other classes will meet.
Tuesday	September 6	Drop/Add Ends at 11:59 PM (Course changes needing assistance or permission need to be completed by 5:00 PM.)
Wednesday	September 14	Ten-Day Enrollment Report Available
Wednesday Thursday to Sunday	October 19 October 20 October 23	Midterm Grades for Full-Term Classes Due <b>Fall Break</b> Weekend classes will be held as scheduled. No other classes will meet. Residence halls remain open.
Monday	October 24	Classes Resume
Monday	October 31	Course Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty Ends
Friday	November 4	Registration of all Returning Evening College students and Women's College Seniors for Spring Classes Begins

Wednesday	November 9	Registration of Women's College Juniors for Spring Classes Begins
Monday	November 14	Registration of Women's College Sophomores for Spring Classes Begins
Thursday	November 17	Registration of Women's College First-Years for Spring Classes Begins
Wednesday	November 23	Residence Halls Close at 10:00 A.M.
Wednesday to Sunday	November 23 November 27	<b>Thanksgiving Break (Classes Do Not Meet)</b> Offices closed November 24 - 27
Sunday	November 27	Residence Halls Re-open at 1:00 PM
Monday	November 28	Classes Resume and Offices Re-open Registration of Readmits, New Students, and Non-Degree Students For Spring Classes Begins Registration of Co-enrollments for Spring Classes Begins
Friday	December 9	<b>Last Day of Regular Class Meetings</b> Withdrawal From Entire Semester Ends
Saturday to Friday	December 10 December 16	<b>Exam Week</b> Classes that meet on weekdays before 8:00 AM or after 5:00 PM and classes that meet on weekends meet at their regular times. All other classes follow the schedule below.
Wednesday	December 14	Final Grades for Graduating Students Due
Friday	December 16	Residence Halls Close at 5:00 PM except for graduating students
Saturday	December 17	<b>Commencement</b> Residence Halls Close at 6:00 PM for graduating students
Tuesday	December 21	Final Grades for Fall Classes Due
<b><u>SPRING SEMESTER</u></b>		
Friday	January 6	Division Heads Workshop
Sunday	January 8	Residence Halls Open at 1:00 PM
Monday	January 9	Check In for All Students New Transfer Student Orientation Sophomore Rally
Tuesday	January 10	<b>First Day of Classes for Spring Semester</b>
Friday	January 13	Late Registration Ends Faculty Workshop
Monday	January 16	<b>MLK, Jr. Day</b> - Special events will be held. Students are expected to attend these events, so most classes will not meet. However, classes that meet in the evening or only on Mondays will be held as scheduled.

Tuesday	January 17	Drop/Add Ends at 11:59 PM (Course changes needing assistance or permission need to be completed by 5:00 PM.)
Tuesday	January 24	Ten-Day Enrollment Report Available
Friday	March 3	Midterm Grades Due Residence Halls Close at 5:00 PM
Monday to Friday	March 6 March 10	<b>Spring Break</b> Weekend classes will be held as scheduled. No other classes meet.
Sunday	March 12	Residence Halls Re-open at 1:00 PM
Monday	March 13	Classes Resume
Monday	March 20	Course Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty Ends
Monday	March 28	Registration of all Returning Evening Students and Women's College Seniors and Juniors for Summer and Fall Classes Begins
Monday	April 3	Registration of Women's College Sophomores for Summer and Fall Classes Begins
Thursday	April 6	Registration of Women's College First-Years for Summer and Fall Classes Begins
Friday to Sunday	April 14 April 16	<b>Easter Break</b> No classes meet. Residence halls remain open.
Monday	April 17	Registration of Readmits, New Students, and Non-Degree Students for Summer and Fall Classes Begins Registration of Co-enrollments for Fall Classes Begins
Tuesday	April 18	<b>SpearsFest</b> - Special events will be held during the day. Students are expected to attend these events so most classes will not meet. Classes that meet in the evening classes will meet this day.
Friday	April 21	<b>Last Day of Regular Class Meetings</b> Withdrawal From Entire Semester Ends
Saturday to Friday	April 22 April 28	<b>Exam Week</b> Classes that meet on weekdays before 8:00 AM or after 5:00 PM and classes that meet on weekends meet at their regular times. All other classes follow the schedule below.
Wednesday	April 26	Grades for Graduating Students Due
Friday	April 28	Residence Halls Close at 5:00 PM except for graduating students
Saturday	April 29	<b>Commencement</b> Residence Halls Close at 6:00 PM for Graduating Seniors
Tuesday	May 2	Final Grades for Spring Semester Due

## **SUMMER SESSIONS 2017**

Sunday	May 7	Residence Halls Open at 1:00 PM
Monday	May 8	<b>First Day of Classes for May Session</b>
Tuesday	May 9	Late Registration and Drop/Add for May Session Ends
Tuesday	May 16	<b>First Day of Classes for Remote-Site A2B Summer Session</b>
Thursday	May 18	Late Registration and Drop/Add for Remote-Site A2B Classes Ends
Friday	May 19	Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty for May Session Ends
Friday	May 26	<b>Last Day of Classes for May Session</b>
Saturday to Sunday	May 27 June 4	<b>Summer Break I</b> Weekend and A2B classes meet as scheduled. No other classes meet.
Monday	June 5	<b>First Day of Classes for Summer Session I and Extended Session</b>
Tuesday	June 6	Late Registration and Drop/Add for Summer Session I Ends Late Registration and Drop/Add for Extended Session Ends Final Grades for May Session Classes Due
Thursday	June 15	Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty for Summer Session I Ends
Thursday	June 22	Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty for A2B Classes Ends
Thursday	June 29	<b>Last Day of Classes for Summer Session I</b> Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty for Extended Session Ends
Friday to Sunday	June 30 July 9	<b>Summer Break II</b> Weekend and A2B classes meet as scheduled. No other classes meet.
Wednesday	July 5	Final Grades for Summer Session I Classes Due
Monday	July 10	Extended Session Classes Resume <b>First Day of Classes for Summer Session II</b>
Tuesday	July 11	Late Registration and Drop/Add for Summer Session II Ends
Thursday	July 20	Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty for Summer Session II Ends
Thursday	July 27	<b>Last Day of Classes for Remote-Site A2B Summer Session</b>
Wednesday	August 2	Grades for Graduating Students Due
Thursday	August 3	<b>Last Day of Classes for Extended Session and Summer Session II</b>
Friday	August 4	Residence Halls close at 3:00 PM except for graduating students
Saturday	August 5	<b>Commencement</b>
Tuesday	August 8	Final Grades for All Summer Classes Due

# General Information

## Institutional Mission Statement

Columbia College, a women's college related to The United Methodist Church, educates students in the liberal arts tradition. The College provides educational opportunities that develop students' capacity for critical thought and expression, life-long learning, acceptance of personal responsibility, and commitment to service and social justice. In furtherance of its mission, the College is responsive to the needs of students, the communities to which it belongs, and the greater global community.

Columbia College encompasses the Women's College established in 1854 and the Evening Program and Graduate School serving women and men. Columbia College is noted for faculty who foster academic excellence through collaborative teaching and learning; a vital learning community in which character, ethics, and values are cultivated; the study of leadership enhanced by opportunities for practical application; programs that capitalize on advances in technology; and learning environments that extend beyond the classroom.

## Evening College Mission Statement

The Evening College provides a high quality, rigorous and accessible liberal arts and professional education to women and men. Through flexible scheduling the Evening College offers a variety of majors adapted to the needs of professional adults. Evening College programs capitalize on the experiences the adult learner brings to the classroom. Faculty understand and are responsive to the needs of the adult learner. Evening College students join an engaged learning community characterized by a commitment to academic excellence and social responsibility. Graduates of the Evening College are leaders in their professions, communities, homes, and places of worship.

## Location

Columbia College is located in Columbia, South Carolina, a metropolitan area with a population of 650,000. The 50-acre campus is on the north side of the city, with Highway 21 bordering the College's west side. Columbia is the capital city of South Carolina, and as such it offers students advantages which many colleges do not. Cultural and historical attractions are plentiful, and the accessibility of both mountains and beaches makes it possible for students to enjoy a pleasant weekend off campus whenever they desire.

## Accreditation and Memberships

Columbia College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award bachelors and masters degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Columbia College. The Commission is to be contacted only if there is evidence that appears to support Columbia College's significant non-compliance with a requirement or standard.

The following provide independent accreditation to individual academic programs:

Council on Social Work Education  
National Association of Schools of Art and Design  
National Association of Schools of Dance  
National Association of Schools of Music  
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

Upon request, accreditation documents may be viewed in the Office of the Provost or the J. Drake Edens Library during normal business hours.

In addition to membership in the accrediting associations, Columbia College has membership in the following:

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of University Women  
American Council on Education



Consortium for International Students  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Independent Colleges and Universities of South Carolina  
National Association of Schools and Colleges of the United Methodist Church  
National Council of Church Related Colleges  
Southern Association of Colleges for Women  
Southern Conference of Church Related Colleges  
Southern Regional Honors Council  
The University Senate of the United Methodist Church  
Women's College Coalition

## **Affiliation and Governance**

Columbia College, a private college for women affiliated with the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, is a not-for-profit corporation chartered under the laws of the State of South Carolina. The purposes of the College are set forth in both the Charter and the By-laws that govern the College.

Columbia College is related to the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, which, through its local churches, provides a measure of financial assistance for the programs of the College on a voluntary basis. Income is also derived from endowment, tuition and fees, as well as gifts from individuals and foundations.

Columbia College is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees. The Board is solely responsible for the policies governing the operation of the College and for its legal and financial activities. Although the membership of the Board is elected by the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, the Board holds title to the College and exercises its own independent judgment with respect to its own affairs.

## **J. Drake Edens Library**

As the academic heart of the Columbia College campus, the J. Drake Edens Library provides professional guidance to students, faculty, and staff and houses materials to help students explore all aspects of the liberal arts. To support that research, the library maintains a core collection of books, periodicals, and media items.

The library provides students with access to tens of thousands of full-text articles through database subscriptions. Students can access these databases from anywhere by selecting the database, then entering their Columbia College e-mail address and password. Students can receive help from librarians in selecting keywords, choosing databases, or troubleshooting technical issues by e-mailing [refdesk@columbiasc.edu](mailto:refdesk@columbiasc.edu).

The Research and Instruction Librarians are eager to assist students, faculty, and staff with their research. The Reference Desk is located on the main floor, and librarians are available to help on an individual basis, including nights and weekends. Individual and group study rooms are available on the main and top floors of Edens Library. Computers are located near the Reference Desk, on the top floor, and in the Overton Media Center on the bottom floor.

On the lower level of Edens Library is Educational Technology. Educational Technology supports instruction at Columbia College through the use of technologies such as Google apps, SMART Boards, video editing, social media, and the campus's online learning management system, Koala Connection. Students, faculty, and staff are all welcome to make appointments to discuss the use of technology in the classroom. Educational Technology strives to troubleshoot technical issues as well as enrich curriculum through new tech tools. Many helpful resources can be found on Educational Technology's website and through its social media channels on Twitter, YouTube, and Pinterest.

## **International Student Information**

It is the policy of Columbia College to encourage and support the development of the many aspects of international/intercultural education. Therefore, the College has adopted the guidelines of the National Association of Foreign Student Affairs (NAFSA) and "is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students."

## **Alumnae Association**

The aim of the Columbia College Alumnae Association is to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between the College and the members of the Association, to promote universal and systematic gifts for College purposes, and to advance

the interests of the College. Established in 1882, the Association is the fifth oldest women's college alumnae association in the United States.

## **Nondiscrimination**

Columbia College does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its evening-weekend adult programs or graduate programs, nor on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any of its educational programs, admissions procedures, or employment practices.

## **Facilities and Services for Students with Disabilities**

Columbia College recognizes its responsibility to assist academically qualified students with disabilities in achieving their academic goals. The College makes every effort to ensure that its physical facilities are accessible to students with disabilities. Reserved parking spaces, properly equipped restrooms and ramps are available throughout the campus.

Columbia College is committed to ensuring access to academic programs and to non-academic programs where possible. Although the College will not lower its academic standards nor alter degree requirements, certain accommodations are available at no cost to students with disabilities, depending on their specific disability. Possible accommodations students may request include:

- Extension of the time allowed to earn a degree or substitution of one elective course for another.
- Adaptation of the manner in which specific courses, assignments, tests and examinations are conducted.
- Assistance with registration. Counseling, campus ministry and career and placement services are also available.
- The College will seek volunteers to assist as note takers, readers, typists and attendants but cannot guarantee provision of personal services at no cost to the students involved.

After admission to Columbia College, students with disabilities may be required to document their disability to receive the special considerations cited above.

## **Title IX Compliance Statement**

The Columbia College Board of Trustees confirmed at a meeting held at the College on October 23, 1975, that the College will continue to take such action and do such things as may be necessary to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 as amended and regulations issued pursuant thereto. The College has designated the Executive Committee of the College Board of Trustees as Compliance Officers to ensure that Columbia College remains an equal opportunity institution in all respects.

## **Complaint Process**

Concerns about Columbia College policies, procedures, or practices should be discussed with the appropriate faculty or staff member in person prior to a formal written complaint. Concerns about academic issues should be reviewed with the faculty member involved, the division head or area director, then the Provost, in that order. Concerns about administrative issues should be reviewed with the area director, then the Vice President for Finance. Concerns about student life should be reviewed with the area director, then the Dean of Students. Concerns about admissions or financial aid issues should be raised with the appropriate director and then with the Vice President for Enrollment Management.

If the problem cannot be resolved in person, written complaints should be sent to the Provost, the Vice President for Enrollment Management, or the Vice President for Finance as appropriate. The Provost will address both academic and student life complaints. The resolution of written complaints will be communicated to the complainant in a timely fashion. If the complaint is impossible to address quickly, the Provost or Vice President will keep the complainant informed as to the progress of the resolution.

## **Student Identification Cards**

All Columbia College students may apply for a student identification card (ID). The ID is used to check out library materials, obtain reduced rates at Columbia College events and theatre productions, and allow students access to certain academic buildings on nights. The ID is non-transferrable and must be carried at all times when on the main campus.

Identification cards are issued by the Columbia College Police Department (CCPD) during normal business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday). CCPD is located next to The Godbold Center. They can be reached at 786.3343.

## **Lost or Stolen Identification Cards**

Lost or stolen identification cards must be reported immediately to the Columbia College Police Department. If the card is not found by the end of the day, the student may have another identification card made. The cost for the replacement card is \$15.

## **Campus Shop and Bookstore**

The C-Square Bookstore, located in the Harrelson Student Center, provides new and used textbooks, rental as well as digital books. The Bookstore also sells insignia clothing and gift items, school supplies, computer software, food and sundries, and greeting cards. Book buy-back occurs every day of the year. Normal business hours are Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## **Admissions**

### **Admission**

Credentials necessary for admission to the Evening College at any site are the following: (1) a completed online application and (2) official transcripts from all colleges previously attended.

Students applying for the degree completion program must have earned an Associate's Degree from a regionally accredited college.

The Evening College reserves the right to deny admission to any student whose record indicates that she/he may not be a successful participant in the educational program or whose conduct as a whole is viewed by the College to be inconsistent with its goals, standards and/or ideals.

Columbia College reserves the right to determine which transfer courses meet the requirements and standards of the College.

### **Admission to Associate's to Bachelor's Degree Program**

In order to graduate from the program, students must have earned 72 semester hours of college-level work, including English 101, a laboratory science, and college-level mathematics, in addition to the Columbia College course work required for general education and the major. Students must either have this credit prior to enrollment at Columbia College or complete this work prior to graduation from Columbia College. Students must transfer in or take at Columbia College a mathematics course equivalent to a Columbia College mathematics course numbered 104 or higher prior to taking Psychology 300 for any major in which the student takes Psychology 300.

Each site has a specific set of bachelor's degree programs available at that site with specific Associate's degrees approved for each program. The Associate's degrees approved for each major program at each site are available from the Office of Professional Studies. If a student's Associate's degree is not on the approved list, it should be similar to the listed degrees and it must be approved during the application process. Not every bachelor's degree program is available at each site.

### **Admission of International Students**

Academically prepared women from countries other than the United States are encouraged to apply for admission. Applicants should be aware the curriculum is presented entirely in English. Students may apply as first year students or transfer students. Credentials necessary for international admission are the following: (1) a completed application form with accompanying essay, (2) English translated transcripts, records or certificates from each high school, college, or university previously attended (students attempting to transfer college or university credits must provide English translated course catalog descriptions for each class being considered), and (3) SAT, ACT, TOEFL, or IELTS scores (any of these is acceptable – a minimum TOEFL score of 550-paper, 213-computer, or 79-iBT; or a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 is required). International students who fail to meet the minimum TOEFL or IELTS score may enroll in an ESL Center or Language Program. An ESL level of 109 or successful completion of level 5 of Academic English is accepted in lieu of test scores for admission to Columbia College. There are ESL centers located throughout the United States (including one in Columbia, SC) and in over 50 countries throughout the world. Columbia College also maintains a partnership with Agape English Language Institute in Columbia, SC. Additional information about these centers or our partnership with Agape can be obtained by contacting the Office of Admissions.

Only after the above requirements are met will a letter of acceptance or denial be sent from Columbia College. If accepted, the student must complete the following three requirements before the Form I-20 (Certificate of eligibility of the

Immigration and Naturalization service of the United States Department of Justice) is released to the student: (1) official bank statement demonstrating that she has adequate financial resources to cover her share of all expenses for the entire period of study at Columbia College, (2) \$200 (US) non-refundable reservation deposit (these funds will be credited toward tuition and fees upon enrollment), and (3) physical examination report (the report must be completed and translated in English and signed by a physician).

There are other important financial requirements international students at Columbia College must take into consideration: (1) all international students must have an acceptable health insurance plan at their expense, (2) all international students must pay for books and miscellaneous expenses, and (3) all international students choosing to stay in the United States during any portion of the summer must secure and pay for rent and other expenses.

## Readmission of Former Degree Students

Students who elect to stay out a term or more must seek readmission and are subject to the requirements listed in the *Bulletin* of the year of readmission, unless they have been granted a leave of absence. Students must submit the online application and pay a \$50 non-refundable application fee by cash, check, credit card or money order.

These students will need to submit a formal application for readmission updating their educational and biographical data. If a student whose cumulative grade point average is below 2.00 is readmitted to the Evening College, she/he will remain on academic probation until her/his cumulative grade point average is 2.00. After an absence of at least three calendar years from the Evening College, the student may apply for academic renewal. Under academic renewal, a student will receive credit toward graduation for grades of "C" or above on courses previously taken at Columbia College but will not receive any grade points. Additional information is available in the Office of Admissions and the Office of the Provost.

## Financial Information

Financial Services Office  
3rd Floor, Allison Administration Building  
803.786.3244

## Application Fee

Applicants seeking admission to Columbia College as transfer students from other colleges may apply online at [www.columbiasc.edu](http://www.columbiasc.edu) at no charge. Applicants seeking to re-admit or seeking a second degree pay a \$50.00 application fee.

## Tuition

<b>Full-time</b> (12-18 s.h.)	\$5,925 per semester
<b>Part-time</b> (11s.h.or less)	\$395 per s.h.
<b>Technology Fee:</b>	\$152.50 per semester if enrolled for 6 or more undergraduate hours.
Full settlement of the comprehensive fee is required before a student may begin classes.	

## Special Charges

Extra Hours* (over 18 per semester).....	\$395 per s.h.
Part-time Students (limit 11 hours per semester. Full-time fees apply when registration exceeds 11 hours per semester) .....	\$395 per s.h.
Consortium fee.....	\$50

\* Charges for extra hours will be assessed unless official withdrawal occurs during the Drop/Add period.

**Credit cards:** Columbia College accepts American Express, VISA, and MasterCard for payment of fees. Students may pay online at [www.columbiasc.edu/admissions/payment.asp](http://www.columbiasc.edu/admissions/payment.asp).

**Payment Plans:** Students may enroll in the interest-free monthly payment plan offered through Tuition Management Systems, Inc. This four-month plan starts in August and allows students and families to spread all or part of their semester education expenses over the school term in equal monthly payments. Tuition Management Systems, Inc. charges a \$45 per semester enrollment fee, which also includes life insurance coverage for the unpaid balance. Call Tuition Management Systems (TMS) at 1.800.722.4867 or visit the web site, [www.afford.com](http://www.afford.com) for more information or to enroll.

Columbia College may restrict enrollment in this plan based on the student's payment history. **No other installment payment plan is available.**

## Special Alumnae Discounts

(1) Columbia College Degree Alumnae: Students who have graduated from Columbia College are eligible to receive tuition discounts of \$25 per undergraduate semester hour for courses taken in the fall and spring semesters. Discounts do not apply to summer sessions. (2) Columbia College Degree Alumnae: Students who have graduated from Columbia College and meet the program requirements are eligible to receive a \$750 tuition credit toward a Columbia College graduate degree. (3) No scholarship aid or tuition discount applies to audited courses or graduate study, other than mentioned above. For more information on tuition discounts and to apply for financial aid, contact the Office of Financial Aid located in the Allison Administration Building, Room 311 or call 803.786.3612.

## Refund Policy

Refund of any portion of tuition will be made only in the case of **official withdrawal** from the College through the Office of the Provost.

<b>When the Student Has Been Enrolled</b>	<b>Percentage of Tuition Refunded</b>
Through the end of add/drop:	100%
Through the next 2 calendar days:	75%
Through the next 7 calendar days:	50%
Through the next 7 calendar days:	25%

**Scholarship and grant aid from state or institutional sources are subject to the same withdrawal calculations.**

**Note that in accordance with federal regulations, students receiving federal financial aid funds are subject to Return of Title IV Policy depending on the date of their official withdrawal petition. Please contact the Office of Tuition Accounts for more information.**

Fees are nonrefundable.

## Personal Property Insurance

Columbia College is not responsible for damage or loss of personal property brought onto any campus. Students are advised to obtain adequate insurance coverage for their property.

## Miscellaneous

1. Students will be charged for the repair or replacement of grounds, buildings or equipment which may be damaged or lost through negligence, carelessness or willful intent on the part of the student or guests of students. A charge will also be made for vacated rooms left in an untidy condition.
2. Columbia College is not responsible for damages, losses, repairs, etc. to automobiles, personal belongings or other items brought to a campus by students, guests, employees or visitors. Students are advised to obtain adequate insurance coverage for their property.
3. Columbia College is not responsible for, and does not provide insurance coverage for, illnesses or accidents of students, guests or visitors.
4. Situations not specifically provided for in these regulations will be provided for in accordance with accepted practices and in keeping with principles which ensure fairness to all concerned. Charges in such instances will be agreed upon by all parties involved prior to registration or immediately upon a change in the student's status. Otherwise, charges which the College may levy will prevail.

# Financial Aid

## Office of Financial Aid

Third Floor, Allison Administration Building  
Room 309 – 803.786.3612

The Office of Financial Aid is dedicated to helping students and their families make attendance at Columbia College an academic and financial reality through financial aid planning. There are many different sources of financial aid available to qualified students. It is best to submit all required forms as soon as possible, since most aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis for qualified applicants. The Office of Financial Aid awards aid to qualified applicants regardless of race, religious creed, place of national origin, ethnic group or physical disability.

## Financial Aid Application

Applicants are required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form will determine how much the family or student is expected to contribute to the educational costs for the academic year. It is a fair and equitable system of establishing how much aid each student needs. By completing the FAFSA, a student applies for federal, state, and institutional aid. **The FAFSA or the Renewal FAFSA has to be filed each year to apply or reapply for assistance for the upcoming academic year. The FAFSA is available at [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov).**

The **priority** deadline for completion of the FAFSA is April 15, but students are encouraged to apply for financial aid as early as possible. Applications received after this date will be considered for aid as long as funds are available.

All students are strongly urged to check with the Office of Financial Aid concerning questions related to the financial aid process. In addition, students are advised to check with local service clubs, churches and employers about scholarships that might be offered. These scholarships often go unused.

## Procedure for Making Application

1. The student applies for admission to Columbia College and is accepted.
2. The student files the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). (All South Carolina residents must apply by June 30 for the South Carolina Tuition Grant by completing the FAFSA.)
3. In the event additional documentation is required, or errors were made on the FAFSA, student's will receive notification of additional requirements.
4. The student applying for assistance will receive an official award notification from the Office of Financial Aid.
5. Students are not required to return a copy of the award letter. All aid will be processed as offered unless the student returns a signed copy of the award with notations indicating a desire to decline or reduce a specific award.
6. VA students should notify the Columbia College certifying official or Michelle Poindexter in the Office of Tuition Accounts.

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

Pursuant to Federal Regulations, the Columbia College Financial Aid Office is required to monitor the academic progress of all students who apply for federal financial aid. Financial aid funds can only be awarded to students who are completing a minimum percentage of hours attempted, maintain a specific GPA, and who meet the college's standards for continued enrollment as defined in the "Academic Standing" section of the Columbia College Bulletin. If a student fails to meet any particular standard or combination of standards, he/she will become ineligible for federal financial aid. A student is considered making Satisfactory Academic Progress and eligible for financial aid if he/she:

- A. Is admitted and enrolled as a degree-seeking student.
- B. Meets Columbia College's standards for continued enrollment (See the "Academic Standing" section of Columbia College's Bulletin.)
- C. Maintains a 2.0 Cumulative GPA for all undergraduate work.
- D. Passes 67% of all attempted hours (includes all transferred credits).
- E. Undergraduate students have not exceeded 190 attempted semester hours.

**Special Note:** Certain scholarships and grants require a higher grade-point average or earned credit hours (i.e., SC Tuition Grant; Presidential, Trustees, and Founders Scholarships.)

**Full-time/Part-time**

For the purposes of Satisfactory Academic Progress, Columbia College does not distinguish between full-time and part-time enrollment. Students' progress is assessed on both a qualitative (GPA) and quantitative scale (percentage of hours completed). Basing the qualitative measure on percentage of hours completed negates any differences in enrollment status.

No undergraduate student exceeding 190 attempted hours is eligible for Title IV Federal or state aid.

**Re-admit and Entering Transfer Students**

Credit transferred from other institutions will count as both attempted and earned hours, but do not count towards the GPA requirement, for the purposes of the satisfactory academic progress and maximum timeframe policies. Re-admitting students will be assessed for eligibility upon re-application to Columbia College and will be considered eligible for Title IV Assistance if they have completed at least 67% of all the credits attempted and have a 2.0 cumulative GPA. New transfer students will be assessed for eligibility upon acceptance. All students receiving South Carolina Tuition Grant or LIFE Scholarship funds must meet the credit hour requirement for those program (full-time students must earn 24 semester credit hours per year for SCTG and average 30 credits per year for LIFE.) Courses taken at other institutions do count as required towards the credit hour and GPA requirements for the SCTG and LIFE scholarship.

**Repeats, Withdrawals, and Remedial Coursework**

Any academic course work including incompletes, withdrawals, repetitions and non-credit remedial courses that the student begins (registers) and is charged for by Columbia College will be counted as attempted credit hours. Non-credit remedial courses and repeated course work that the student successfully completes will be counted toward the minimum number of credits needed to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. Any incomplete grade changed to a passing grade will be counted toward the minimum hours needed if the change occurs prior to the first day of class.

**Maximum Timeframe**

Students are no longer eligible for aid if the number of attempted credit hours exceeds 150% of the published program length. The maximum number of attempted hours eligible to be covered by aid is 190 semester hours for a 127 credit hour bachelor's degree. Students that change majors or are starting a second bachelor's degree and have credits that do not count toward the new major or degree may be eligible for an "hours reset", depending on major program and reason for program change. Students will have the option to request a reset during the appeal process. An "hours reset" is not guaranteed.

**Frequency of SAP Assessment**

The Financial Aid Office will review the Satisfactory Academic Progress of undergraduate students after the Spring semester of each academic year for any student that attended any term of the academic year. Students who have not met Satisfactory Academic Progress after the designated checkpoint are placed in a Financial Aid Probationary status. Students on Probation are classified as ineligible for aid and are not eligible for Title IV federal aid programs or state funding. There is no warning period in which a student can receive aid for an additional semester if SAP requirements are not met.

All students, regardless of enrollment status, will also be reviewed at the end of the second academic year for compliance with the GPA requirement only. Failure to have a 2.0 at the two year checkpoint will result in a full SAP review and financial aid probation.

Students who are determined to be ineligible for federal financial aid under the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy may appeal this determination if the student feels extenuating circumstances are major factors in his/her inability to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards. Extenuating circumstances are documented conditions beyond the student's control (i.e., injury, illness, or family crisis). Appeals governing that circumstance will only be granted once. All appeals must be in writing and mailed to the Financial Aid Office.

**Financial Aid Appeals**

Students who do not meet these guidelines will be sent a letter and/or e-mail explaining that they are on financial aid probation. Students who feel there are extenuating circumstances which may affect the denial of financial aid have the right to appeal in accordance with the Financial Aid Appeal Process. In order to appeal, the student will need to submit a letter of explanation detailing the extenuating circumstance and what steps will be taken to ensure SAP requirements will be met by the end of the next term. All appeals must be submitted prior the first day of classes for the semester in which the student is seeking financial assistance. Appeal documentation will be reviewed by the Office of Financial Aid.

Appeals can only be granted if it is mathematically possible for the student to achieve both the quantitative and qualitative SAP standard by the end of the next academic semester. Any appeal that requires more than one semester to achieve SAP standards will be denied or re-evaluated under the Academic Plan process.

After a reinstatement is made, the Financial Aid Office will review the student's grades at the end of the reinstated period. The student will be required to successfully complete each semester with a "C" or better in each course attempted. If the student fails to meet this requirement, they will be denied financial aid for the upcoming semester and appeals will not be accepted a second time. Repeated appeals are considered a violation of the intent of the satisfactory academic progress guidelines. If a student's appeal is denied then the student will be required to successfully attain minimum SAP requirements using their own financial resources to continue enrollment. Once minimum SAP requirements have been met aid eligibility is reinstated.

Appeals for the upcoming Fall semester will be reviewed after Spring grades are available (if necessary) and prior to the last day of the add/drop period for the Fall semester. Appeals for the upcoming Spring semester will be reviewed after Fall grades are available (if necessary) and prior to the last day of the add/drop period for the Spring semester. Appeals for the upcoming Summer sessions will be reviewed during the Spring semester and prior to the last day of the add/drop period for the Summer session.

### **Academic Plan**

Students appealing their ineligibility for aid that cannot achieve minimum SAP requirements within one semester may be considered for an Academic Plan. If a student can achieve SAP minimum requirements in a reasonable amount of time, one academic year or less (3 semesters: Fall, Spring, and Summer), exhibits character consistent with the mission of Columbia College, has a balance less than \$1000 owed to the college, and can satisfactorily demonstrate a willingness to do the work necessary to attain minimum SAP requirements, then an Academic Plan will be offered.

An Academic Plan will detail the specific expectations and requirements that must be met for each semester the student receives aid until SAP requirements are met. The Academic Plan will be created by the Provost's Office and forwarded to the Office of Financial Aid. Requirements may include, but are not limited to: regular meetings with faculty, advisors, and the Academic Skills Center, presentation of progress reports to the Director of Financial Aid or other representatives, and optional sessions with the campus Counselor. A specific GPA and percentage of hours completed will be assigned for each semester to ensure that SAP requirements are met within the required time-frame. Failure to comply with any part of the Academic Plan requirements or to achieve the expected GPA and percentage will terminate the Academic Plan provision and the student will become ineligible for aid. No additional appeals will be considered.

Columbia College reserves the right to terminate an Academic Plan at any time. Any decision to terminate a plan early will be approved by the Financial Aid Committee. Academic Plans are an optional part of the appeals process and may not be offered to every student that can mathematically meet SAP requirements within 3 semesters.

Students that have exceeded the 190 attempted hour cap may appeal. Appeals for the extension of aid beyond the 150% maximum timeframe are available only to those students for whom one additional semester of aid will result in graduation. No appeal will be granted for students that require more than one term beyond the maximum timeframe to attain a degree. Students that will not graduate within one term can request consideration for an "hours reset". Under this provision only the hours that count toward the current major would be used to determine SAP compliance. Not all students will qualify for a reset. Eligibility for a reset will be determined in conjunction with the Office of the Registrar.



# General Academic Information

The academic procedures at Columbia College are designed to aid the student in fulfilling the requirements for graduation. Each student must meet these requirements in order to complete the degree program. It should be emphasized that the procedures are established to help the student secure the best education possible. The Evening College Committee hears student petitions for exception to the general academic policies listed in this *Bulletin*. The petition forms are available from the Office of the Registrar. They can also be accessed through the College Web site at <http://www.columbiasc.edu>.

## Definition of Semester Hour

Basic Definition: The *semester hour*, or *credit hour*, is the basis for all credit at Columbia College. One semester hour of credit is the equivalent of a traditional course with face-to-face meeting time of at least one academic hour (fifty minutes) per week for a full semester (15 weeks) with the expectation of an average of at least two academic hours of homework or out-of-class work per week for the full semester.

Hybrid and online classes: If a hybrid or online class is also taught as a traditional class, then the non-traditional version of the class will be deemed to have the same number of semester hours as the traditional version of the class provided both versions require roughly the same work from the student and achieve the same objectives and outcomes regardless of the amount of face-to-face meeting time scheduled for the non-traditional version of the course.

However, if there is no comparable traditional version of the class, the non-traditional course must include instructional time (which can be face-to-face meetings or online work) averaging at least one academic hour per week for a full semester (12.5 clock hours) for each semester hour of credit. There must also be the expectation for “homework” averaging two academic hours per week for a whole semester (25 clock hours) for each semester hour of credit. The syllabus for the course must specifically identify any work being counted towards the instructional time limit.

## Designation of Instructional Time

For A2B hybrid courses, the following list indicates the requirement for instructional time according to the number of weeks in a semester.

15-week semester - 1.25 hours (75 minutes)/week out of class instructional time

10-week semester - 2.5 hours (150 minutes)/week out of class instructional time

8-week semester - 3.4 hours (204 minutes)/week out of class instructional time

Instructional time and activities must be specified in the syllabus, and are different from and cannot overlap with homework assignments. So students can effectively manage their time, state in the syllabus the work that is considered as out-of-class instructional time and the expected time to complete the work.

Instructional time out of the classroom includes learning activities **facilitated by the instructor** such as:

- Viewing a video or recorded lecture facilitated by the instructor
- Group discussions of assigned topics via KC Forums facilitated by the instructor
- Finding an article and sharing a summary with the class via KC, facilitated by the instructor
- Small group discussion facilitated by the instructor
- Self-paced tutorials facilitated by the instructor

# Registration

## Classification of Degree-Seeking Students

Degree-seeking students are classified on entrance and at the beginning of each term according to the number of earned semester hours as indicated below. However, to advance in classification, a student must have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher for courses attempted at Columbia College.

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Minimum Semester Hours</i>
First-Year	0
Sophomore	24
Junior	56
Senior	90

Priority for registration, certain course prerequisites and major requirements, and some Student Affairs and academic policies are based on a student's classification. Students seeking a second bachelor's degree are given a separate classification equivalent to a classification of "Senior" for the purposes listed above.

## Student Credit Load

The semester hour is the basis for all credits. Full-time attendance is 12 semester hours. Students should plan their term schedules so that heavy course loads are unnecessary.

Maximum Credit Load: The maximum credit loads for each term are given in the table below.

Term	Maximum Credit Load (semester hours)
Fall Semester	17
Spring Semester	17
Summer Term	17

### Additional Restrictions on Credit Load:

- The maximum credit load for any term (fall, spring, or summer) for a student on Academic Probation is 13 semester hours.
- When determining a student's credit load for maximum load or overload purposes, the load is computed by adding together the hours taken at Columbia College and the hours taken as transient study during that term. When determining part-time or full-time status, only the hours taken at Columbia College are used.

## Academic Advisement

Each student is assigned an academic advisor who can meet with the student each term prior to student pre-registration for the following term. The advisor reviews student progress, gives general academic advice and serves as a resource to the student when academic issues arise. **It is the responsibility of each student to monitor her/his academic progress and make sure that the requirements for graduation are fulfilled.**

To that end, the students should:

1. Arrange a meeting with her/his advisor during advisement each term according to the advisor's availability,
2. Inform her/his advisor of schedule changes, course withdrawals, and other unexpected events in her/his progress during a term,
3. Have no outstanding charges in the Office of Financial Services which inhibit pre-registration or registration,
4. Complete registration for each term during the allotted time for Evening students,
5. Meet all requirements for the anticipated degree as stated in the *Bulletin*, and
6. Coordinate requirements of various programs when seeking a minor or a double major.

The advisor will:

1. Be available to meet with each student each term to review her/his academic progress,

2. Be able to help each student evaluate her/his academic progress realistically and suggest appropriate courses for the coming term(s),
3. Suggest appropriate channels for dealing with unexpected academic difficulties, and
4. Be informed on academic requirements and pre-requisites as well as course rotations that are specific to the program in which the student is majoring.

The College will:

1. Assign each student an academic advisor,
2. Provide an accurate listing of course requirements in a printed *Bulletin* (available for purchase in the bookstore),
3. Provide an accurate listing of course requirements for each major on the web site,
4. Maintain an electronic program evaluation system for students and advisors to use as they monitor the student's progress toward graduation listing specific requirements that still must be completed.
- 5.

## Clearance to Register

To be cleared to register for classes for any term, a student must have no outstanding charges in the Office of Financial Services. Occasionally students will find that their ability to register has been blocked due to an outstanding issue. In these cases, the student should check with her/his advisor, the Office of the Registrar, or the Provost to determine the nature of the block and how to get it removed.

## Course Withdrawals

Following the add/drop period, students may withdraw from courses by completing a Withdrawal Petition, which is available from the Office of the Registrar. A grade of "WP" will be given for courses that are officially dropped before mid-term as well as for courses dropped after mid-term because of medical reasons and family emergencies or by the judgment of the Provost. If a student withdraws after mid-term for reasons other than those stated, a grade of "W" or "WD" will be recorded. Failure to withdraw officially from a course may result in a final grade of "F" or "U."

Refunds are not applicable for course withdrawals at any time during the term following the add/drop period.

## Withdrawal from College

Students who find it necessary to discontinue their college work during a semester must complete a Withdrawal Petition, available from the Office of the Registrar, before the beginning of final exam week. The student's Site Coordinator can work with the student to obtain designated signatures and return the form to the Provost.

The College reserves the right to require the withdrawal of students whose scholarship is not satisfactory and those who, for any other reason, are regarded as not in accord with the ideals and standards that the College seeks to maintain.

For information regarding refunds related to withdrawals, refer to the Financial Information section.

## Leave of Absence Policy

The purpose of a leave of absence is to allow a student a break in her/his studies for a limited time without having to withdraw from the College and apply for readmission. Any degree-seeking student in good academic standing may apply for a leave of absence. A leave of absence may be granted for one term or two consecutive terms. However, a student who is called to active military service is eligible for a leave of absence for the length of their military service plus up to one year after their return from active duty. Students may need to change locations after returning from a leave of absence.

In the term prior to the student's return to Columbia College, the student should contact her/his advisor in order to register for the next term and to notify the Office of the Provost of her/his intent to return as a student. A student who does not return at the end of the stated period will be considered to have withdrawn from the College. She/he must apply for readmission before she/he can return and will be subject to the *Bulletin* and College requirements in effect at the time of readmission.

Students studying abroad through Columbia College's exchange and affiliate programs are not considered to be on a leave of absence. Students enrolled in study abroad sponsored by other institutions and organizations need to apply for a Leave of Absence.

If academic credit is attempted during a leave of absence, a student must complete a Transient Student Form and submit an official transcript to the College prior to her/his return. The credit will be subject to College's Transient Study Policy.

Any student wishing to apply for a leave of absence should

1. secure and complete a Leave of Absence Request from the Office of the Provost,
2. make an appointment with her/his academic advisor to discuss her/his plans and secure the advisor's signature,
3. make an appointment with her/his financial aid counselor to discuss the financial aid implications and secure the counselor's signature, and
4. complete and sign the form and work with the Site Coordinator to forward the form to the Office of the Provost for approval.

This process should be completed by the end of the term prior to the term or terms for which the leave is requested. Except under the most unusual circumstances, no requests for a leave of absence during a term will be considered after classes for that term have begun. An approved one-term leave of absence may be extended to a two-term leave of absence. A written request for the extension must be submitted before the beginning of the second term.

## **Transient Study**

In order for a student to receive credit for work done at another institution, the Provost must approve in advance the institution selected and the courses to be taken. Applications for permission to take work at another institution should be submitted first to the student's advisor prior to enrolling in the course(s). The necessary forms are available in the Office of the Registrar.

When determining a student's credit load for maximum load or overload purposes, the load is computed by adding together the hours taken at Columbia College and the hours taken as transient study during that term or session. When determining part-time or full-time status, only the hours taken at Columbia College are used. For more details on maximum credit load and overloads, please see Student Course Load on page 19.

Approved transient work done at schools other than Columbia College will be accepted at Columbia College not to exceed a total of 15 semester hours.

No credit from another institution will be granted for a transient course unless a grade of "C" or above has been attained. Although credit hours earned elsewhere count toward graduation, these credits are not used in the calculation of the GPA. No courses taken at other institutions may apply toward the major or minor without prior approval by the division head.

If credit is earned at another institution for a course previously graded as "Incomplete," "Failed," or "Withdrawn" at Columbia College, the appropriate Division may require that the student pass an examination at Columbia College, regardless of the grade attained in the other school's course. No adjustment of the failing grade in the Columbia College course will be made.

## **Credit Restriction Policies**

### **Courses in the Major and Minor**

All majors in the Associate's to Bachelor's degree program must complete at least 34 semester hours of course work at Columbia College, to include at least 12 semester hours of major course work in order to graduate. When a student is pursuing more than one major, there must be at least 15 hours counting toward each major that are not also counted towards the other major(s).

All majors in the Associate's to Bachelor's degree program require 34 semester hours.

### **Transfer Credit**

Columbia College's transfer credit policies are intended to facilitate the transfer of credit from other institutions while also ensuring the quality of courses being transferred as well as their comparability with Columbia College courses and their relevance to the mission and programs of Columbia College.

## Eligible Credit

In order to ensure the quality of the transfer credit, only courses taken at a regionally accredited post-secondary institution in which the student earned a grade of “C” or better will be evaluated for transfer credit. Courses taken on a pass/fail basis will be evaluated for credit if the student earned a passing grade and the passing grade is equivalent to earning a grade of “C” or better. Audited courses and courses taken for no credit will not be evaluated. All courses meeting the criteria above, regardless of their mode of delivery (on-line, blended, or traditional), will be evaluated for transfer credit. In addition, the mode of delivery of a course does not affect the results of its evaluation. However, only courses taken at or as part of a study abroad program through the institution issuing a transcript will be evaluated for credit.

Transcripts from the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcripts System (AARTS) will be evaluated for potential transfer credit. Credit may also be awarded on the bases of scores from AP, CLEP, IB, and other standardized examinations as well as departmental examinations.

## Evaluation of Credit

Potential transfer credit is evaluated on the basis of level, content, comparability, and relevance. Transfer credit will not be awarded for developmental courses, courses below the lowest-level Columbia College course in a subject, or for courses not relevant to a liberal arts program. Most other transfer courses, subject to the limitations below, will be awarded credit. Transfer courses may be deemed equivalent to Columbia College courses. Depending on the level, content, and relevance of the course, non-equivalent transfer credit may satisfy requirements for a major or minor, may satisfy general education requirements, or may only count as an elective. Evaluation of transfer credit is done by the Registrar’s Office although the decisions about the acceptability of transfer credit are made by the appropriate division heads.

## Limitations of Credit

Columbia College has the following limitations on transfer credit.

- A student may transfer a total of at most 72 semester hours from junior colleges, technical colleges, or two-year institutions.
- Credit earned towards an approved Associate’s Degree will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis only for the equivalent of Columbia College’s English 101 course, a mathematics course considered equivalent to a Columbia College general education mathematics course (numbered 104 or higher), and a four-semester-hour laboratory science course.
- Elective credit will be awarded for all other credit earned towards an approved Associate’s Degree up to a maximum of 62 semester hours.
- Work taken at a four-year institution beyond the requirements for an approved Associate’s Degree will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis.
- Transfer credit is not awarded for courses taken the term following a student’s academic exclusion from Columbia College

## Other Policies Relevant to Transfer Students

- Students must take 33 semester hours of Columbia College coursework before graduation.
- Students must take at least 12 semester hours of major coursework at Columbia College before graduation. Courses taken on a pass/fail basis do not count towards these 12 hours.
- Students must take at least half of the hours in a minor at Columbia College in order to graduate with the minor.
- Students must have 64 hours of letter-graded coursework at Columbia College and a sufficiently high cumulative GPA to be eligible for graduation honors.

## Second Bachelor’s Degree

Columbia College may confer a second bachelor's degree upon current students wishing to pursue two different degrees concurrently; Columbia College alumnae wishing to pursue a second degree of the same type or of a different type; and students who have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited four-year college who wish to pursue a second degree of the same type or of a different type. The two degrees must be in different majors. The following requirements pertain to students from the categories identified above:

Students wishing to pursue a second degree must: (1) consult with an advisor in each major for which a degree is sought; (2) submit a Dual Degree Form to the Office of the Registrar; (3) adhere to the requirements of the *Columbia College Bulletin* under which the student is accepted for the second degree; (4) meet all Columbia College requirements for the major, including any specified general education courses; (5) contact the Columbia College Division of Education if the second degree involves teacher certification to determine additional courses which may be required; and (6) complete a minimum of 33 semester hours at Columbia College beyond those required for the first degree.

Requirements regarding grades, residence, proficiency, and application for degree as stated on pages 27 and 28 must also be met.

The student must earn at Columbia College a minimum of 25 percent of all courses required by the degree at Columbia College. This requirement means that at least 33 semester hours of coursework must be taken at Columbia College.

A student must take at least 12 semester hours in her/his major at Columbia College. These 12 hours cannot include courses graded on a pass/fail basis

## Grading Policies

### Grading System

"A"	Excellent	The quality of a student's performance is significantly above the requirements of the course.	4 grade points per semester hour
"B+"	Very Good	The quality of a student's performance reflects a high degree of achievement on a consistent basis in meeting the requirements of the course.	3.5 grade points per semester hour
"B"	Good	The quality of a student's performance reflects a high degree of achievement in meeting the requirements of the course.	3 grade points per semester hour
"C+"	Above Average	The quality of a student's performance reflects an average level of achievement on a consistent basis in meeting the requirements of the course.	2.5 grade points per semester hour
"C"	Average	The quality of a student's performance reflects an average level of achievement in meeting the requirements of the course.	2 grade points per semester hour
"D"	Minimal	The quality of a student's performance reflects a minimal level of achievement in meeting the requirements of the course.	1 grade point per semester hour
"F"	Failure	The quality of a student's performance fails to meet the requirements of the course and reflects inferior work.	0 grade points per semester hour
"U"	Unsatisfactory	Unsuccessful work in a pass/fail course.	No grade points given; hours do not count in the GPA.
"FA"	Failure	Failed because of excessive absences.	No grade points given; hours do not count in the GPA.
"UA"	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory work due to absences in a pass/fail course.	No grade points given; hours do not count in the GPA.
"S"	Satisfactory	In a course taken pass/fail, the quality of a student's work meets or exceeds the level of work which would normally receive the grade of "C."	No grade points given; hours do not count in the GPA.
"I"	Incomplete	Grade determined in a contractual agreement between the student, professor, and the division head before the end of the term. Approval by the division head must be indicated on the final grade sheet. Otherwise a grade of "F" will be recorded for the course. The hours and zero (0) grade points are counted in the computation of the GPA. A student has one regular term to complete the coursework. An extension of one additional term can be granted with approval in writing by the professor and the division head. The student must file this extension with the Registrar prior to the end of the original deadline for the removal of the incomplete. If the incomplete is not removed by the agreed upon deadline, the "I" will become an "F."	0 grade points per semester hour
"INC"	Incomplete	Grade determined in a contractual agreement between the student, professor, and the division head before the end of the term. Approval by the division head must be indicated on the final grade sheet. Otherwise, a grade of "U" will be recorded. A student has one regular term to complete the coursework. An extension of one additional term can be granted with approval in writing by the professor and the division head. The student must file this extension with the Registrar prior to the end of the original deadline for the removal of the incomplete. If the incomplete is not removed by the agreed upon deadline, the "I" will become an "U."	No grade points given; hours do not count in the GPA.
"W"	Withdrawn	A student has withdrawn from the course after the mid-term. Hours count in the GPA.	0 grade points per semester hour
"WD"	Withdrawn	A student has withdrawn from the course after the mid-term in a pass/fail course. Hours do not count in the GPA.	No grade points given; hours do not count in the GPA.
"WP"	Withdrawn Without Academic Penalty	A student has withdrawn officially from a class at any time after the add/drop period and before mid-term. If a student withdraws officially after mid-term for medical reasons, for family emergency or by the judgment of the Provost, a grade of "WP" may	No grade points given; hours do not count in the GPA.

	be given.	
"NC" No credit	Assigned to audited courses.	No grade points given; hours do not count in the GPA.
"NG" No grade	No grade reported by the instructor.	No grade points given; hours do not count in the GPA.

## Grade Point Average (GPA)

In addition to individual course grades, the quality of a student's work is indicated by her/his grade point average (GPA). Numerical values called grade points are assigned to each letter grade as indicated in the grading system. The grade points earned in a course are computed by multiplying the appropriate grade point value by the number of semester hours credit assigned to the course. The GPA is obtained by dividing grade points earned by semester hours attempted. Credit earned at other institutions and courses taken on a pass/fail basis are not used in calculating the GPA.

## Policy on Disclosure of Grades

Grades will not be disclosed or posted in any way that would allow another person to identify an individual student's grade.

## Academic Standing

A student's record is reviewed after each term (fall, spring, and summer) in order to determine her or his academic standing. To be in good academic standing, a student must be academically eligible to enroll in the subsequent term.

## Repeated Courses

Courses may be taken to improve academic standing. The highest grade earned on a repeated course will determine the number of grade points to be used in calculating the cumulative GPA. Repeated courses are included in the semester hour load and are subject to the usual fee assessment.

If a student receives a failing grade ("W," "WD," "F," "FA," "U," or "UA") three times in the same course at Columbia College, the student may not repeat the course at Columbia College, and one grade of "F" will be used to compute the cumulative GPA.

If credit is earned at another institution for a course previously graded as "Incomplete," "Failed," or "Withdrawn" at Columbia College, the appropriate Division may require that the student pass an examination at Columbia College, regardless of the grade attained in the other school's course. No grade adjustment will be made.

## Academic Probation

When the cumulative GPA falls below 2.00, the student is placed on academic probation and is permitted to register for a maximum course load of 13 semester hours.

## Exclusion

A student will be excluded if she/he remains on academic probation for two consecutive terms and her/his cumulative GPA is still less than 2.00. A student subject to exclusion at the end of spring term will be allowed to attend the summer sessions immediately following to attempt to avoid exclusion by improving her/his GPA; in this case, if the cumulative GPA is less than 2.00 at the completion of the summer sessions, the student will be excluded.

## Readmission of Excluded Students

A student who is excluded for academic difficulties is eligible to apply for readmission after one term. Readmission is permitted at the discretion of the Admissions Committee. The excluded student, upon application for readmission, is in competition for space with other applicants at that time.

Once readmitted, the student will be placed on academic probation with a maximum course load of 13 semester hours. She/he will once again be excluded for academic reasons if her/his cumulative GPA remains less than 2.00 after two consecutive terms, and will only be eligible for readmission through the Academic Renewal Policy.

If a student is excluded from Columbia College for academic reasons, and if another institution permits that student to earn credit during the term following her/his exclusion, then Columbia College will not accept such credit by transfer should the student subsequently be readmitted to Columbia College.

## **Academic Renewal Policy (Effective January 1996)**

A student whose cumulative grade point ratio is below 2.00 who applies for readmission to Columbia College after an absence of at least three calendar years from Columbia College may apply for academic renewal. Under academic renewal, a student will receive credit toward graduation for grades of "C" or above on courses previously taken at Columbia College but will not receive any grade points.

The following provisions apply to the academic renewal policy:

1. A student must accept or reject academic renewal upon readmission.
2. A student will be granted academic renewal one time only.
3. A student who has twice been excluded for academic reasons will be eligible for academic renewal.
4. A student admitted under academic renewal will be considered in good academic standing. In addition, failing grades received in a course taken at Columbia College before academic renewal will not be considered in determining whether the student may repeat a course.
5. Any academic credit earned at another regionally accredited institution will be evaluated according to current College transfer policy.
6. Following readmission under the academic renewal policy, a student must complete at least 34 semester hours of course work at Columbia College, to include at least 12 semester hours of major course work in order to graduate.
7. A student who accepts academic renewal and who subsequently completes at least 34 hours but less than 64 hours of graded (not pass/fail) coursework and who demonstrate scholastic ability by the maintenance of a cumulative GPA of 3.750 or higher will be awarded a Columbia College honor cord to wear at Commencement.
8. The student's permanent academic record will remain an unmodified record of all work attempted at Columbia College. The record will contain a statement that the student has been granted academic renewal by Columbia College.

## **Grade Reports**

At the close of each term, final reports of courses attempted and grades are released to students. Mid-term grades are regarded as progress reports. They are not used as a basis for administrative actions such as academic probation or student activity disqualification, but they are the basis of extra advisory action. All grades are available to students on Koala Connection.

## **Grade Changes**

The instructor, the division head, and the Provost must approve all grade changes. Grade changes made after the end of the regular term following the original grading period must also be approved by the Academic Standards Committee. Additional coursework done after the conclusion of the term cannot affect the final grade in a course.

## **Class Absence**

The policy for class attendance for all students is to be established by each instructor in his or her own class. That policy should be consistent with the attainment of educational objectives and the development of the student's personal maturity. A written statement of this policy shall be given to students at the first class session and a copy shall be filed with the Provost.

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the individual professor. A student whose absences exceed the number allowed by the instructor's policy shall receive the grade of "FA" for that course.

Students who desire exceptions to a professor's attendance policy should appeal to the division head no later than mid-term following the term in which the class was taken. If the professor is the division head, the appeal should be made to the Provost. In case of extreme hardship, the Provost or the President of the College has the authority to make an immediate decision on an appeal.

## **Academic Grievance Procedure**

### **A. Student's Academic Grievance Procedure**

1. A student who feels that she/he has been unjustly evaluated by a professor must first contact that professor to discuss the complaint.



2. If the matter remains unresolved, then the student and professor must confer with the Division Head of the specific division concerned.
3. If the matter is not resolved, then the student must submit a written petition and pertinent documentation to the Division Head of the Division concerned. The Division Head must schedule a meeting with the student and the professor. All documents to be considered must be made available to all parties prior to the meeting. After reviewing the petition and documentation and discussing the issue with the student and professor, the Division Head must notify the student and the professor in writing of her/his decision.
4. If the matter is yet unresolved, then the student must submit a written petition to the Provost who will convene the Grade Grievance Committee. The Provost will make a copy of the written petition available to all members of the grievance committee prior to the meeting. The Grievance Committee is chaired by the Provost and consists of three members of the Academic Standards Committee and two students appointed by the Provost. The Provost has no vote in the Grievance Committee's deliberations.
5. The Provost must inform the student and the professor in writing of the Grievance Committee's decision. This decision must be limited to the issue of the grade. If the grade is changed, the Provost must notify the Office of the Registrar.
6. If the decision does not resolve the grievance, then the student may petition in writing the President of the College. The decision of the President must be communicated in writing to the student and the professor.
7. The student lodging the grievance action may ask another student, faculty member, or staff member to accompany her/him to any of the conferences or Grievance Committee meetings scheduled as part of the complaint process.

**B.** The grievant has 45 days from the end of the academic term in which the grade was recorded to notify the Provost in writing of her/his intent to request a hearing before the Grade Grievance Committee. Section A, steps 1-4 must be followed before the student may submit a request for a hearing. Failure to follow the established procedure may result in the denial of the request.

## Student Records

### Confidentiality of Student Records

Policies regarding the confidentiality of student records are in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, commonly referred to as the Buckley Amendment. A detailed statement of the policy appears in the *Columbia College Student Handbook*.

### Transcripts

The transcript of a student's academic record will be released by the Office of the Registrar only upon receipt of the student's written request. No transcript will be issued to a student who is indebted to the College.

## Academic Honors

### President's List

Students who have earned a minimum of 12 semester hours in a term, who have a GPA of 4.00 for that term, and who have not received a course grade of "F," "FA," "U," "W," "WD," "I," or "INC" in that term are placed on the President's List. The 12 semester hours may not include pass/fail courses, and only Columbia College work qualifies a student for the President's List.

### Dean's List

Students who have earned a minimum of 12 semester hours in a term, who have a GPA of 3.50 or better for that term, and who have not received a course grade of "F," "FA," "U," "W," "WD," "I," or "INC" in that term are placed on the Dean's List. The 12 semester hours must include nine semester hours taken on a graded basis and may not include elective pass/fail courses. Only Columbia College work qualifies a student for the Dean's List.

### **Annual President's List**

Students who have earned a minimum of 12 semester hours in an academic year, who have earned no more than 11 semester hours in any one term (Fall semester, Spring semester, or Summer sessions) during that year, who have a GPA of 4.00 for classes taken during that year, and who have not received a course grade of "F", "FA", "U", "W", "WD", "I" or "INC" during that year are placed on the Annual President's List. The 12 semester hours may not include pass/fail courses and only Columbia College work qualifies a student for the Annual President's List.

### **Annual Dean's List**

Students who have earned a minimum of 12 semester hours in an academic year, who have earned no more than 11 semester hours in any one term (Fall semester, Spring semester, or Summer sessions) during that year, who have a GPA of 3.50 or better for classes taken during that year, and who have not received a course grade of "F", "FA", "U", "W", "WD", "I" or "INC" during that year are placed on the Annual Dean's List. The 12 semester hours must include nine semester hours taken on a graded basis and may not include elective pass/fail courses. Only Columbia College work qualifies a student for the Annual Dean's List.

### **College Marshals**

Five students with the highest scholastic average from the sophomore, junior, and senior classes serve as marshals. The senior with the highest average serves as Chief Marshal.

### **Honor Graduates**

Candidates who have fewer than 64 semester hours of graded coursework at Columbia College and who demonstrate scholastic ability by the maintenance of a cumulative GPA of 3.750 or higher are awarded honor cords which they may wear at Commencement.

## **Degree Completion**

### **Degree Requirements**

A student is generally graduated according to degree requirements published for the term of her/his initial Columbia College registration as a degree-seeking student unless attendance has not been continuous. In cases of readmission, degree requirements published for the term of readmission must be met.

A student in an approved bridge program is generally graduated according to degree requirements in effect on the date she/he signs her/his letter of intent unless the letter of intent becomes invalid or attendance at Columbia College has not been continuous after initial enrollment. A student with an invalid letter of intent who does not sign a new letter of intent before enrolling at Columbia College is graduated according to degree requirements published for the term immediately prior to her/his Columbia College registration as a degree-seeking student. In cases of readmission to Columbia College, degree requirements published for the term immediately prior to readmission must be met.

Any student may choose by written request to be graduated according to degree requirements published after her/his current graduation requirements. A student making this choice must accept all changes made to the degree requirements between the two publication dates.

The College reserves the right to change requirements for graduation when it is decided that such changes are necessary. Graduation is permitted only after a student has completed all attempted courses and has satisfied all of the relevant academic requirements for her/his degree program. A graduate must satisfy all financial obligations to the College to be able to participate in Commencement, receive a diploma, or have her/his official transcripts released.

### **Semester Hours**

Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees are required to complete 127 semester hours of college work. This work must include the appropriate General Education requirements and a major field of study chosen from those available in the A2B program offered on the student's remote campus, and 62 additional hours of college-level work.

### **GPA Needed for Graduation**

The College requires a final cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 and a GPA of at least 2.50 in the major.

## Residence Time

Degree applicants must complete at least 34 semester hours of course work at Columbia College, to include at least 12 semester hours of major course work in order to graduate.

## Application for Degree

A student must file an Application for Degree with the Office of the Registrar within the required time of the academic year in which she/he expects to graduate. Degrees will be conferred at commencement.

A degree will not be conferred *in absentia* except with special permission of the Provost. The student must file this request with the Provost not later than one month before she/he expects to graduate.

## Academic Program

### General Education Goals and Objectives

At Columbia College, students who complete the Columbia College Evening College General Education Curriculum will:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking skills through reading, writing, speaking, and analytical problem solving.
2. Possess the knowledge and skills to live and work with people from different backgrounds and cultures.
3. Increase their capacity for social responsibility, civic engagement and leadership.
4. Understand the global interconnections of the human experience.
5. Have the knowledge, skills, and habits for personal fulfillment and healthy living.

#### Student Learning Outcomes

##### Liberal Arts 2211 Foundations of Communication

1. Students will identify and analyze audience, purpose, and rhetorical appeals.
2. Students will display confidence and competence in the writing and speaking processes.
3. Students will construct well-organized, well-supported, and well-reasoned written and spoken discourse for informative and persuasive purposes.

##### Liberal Arts 2212 Applied Social Science Seminar

1. Students will identify and use social and behavioral science principles relevant for the optimal functioning of individuals and/or groups.
2. Students will explain the role of interests, goals, and power in interpersonal and/or group relationships.
3. Students will apply social science principles for the betterment of family, work, and/or community contexts.

##### Liberal Arts 2213 Culture and Language

1. Students will identify and explain the significance of literary and cultural texts and traditions.
2. Students will compare the products, practices, and perspectives of two or more cultures.
3. Students will use communication skills in the context of another culture.

##### Liberal Arts 2214 The Arts and Literature: Culture, Continuity, and Change

1. Students will describe, analyze, and evaluate creative works orally and in writing.
2. Students will describe the significance or implications of the interconnectedness of disciplines in the humanities.
3. Students will identify and explain in writing and speaking how creative works have been used as vehicles in influencing and reflecting culture and political opinion.

##### Liberal Arts 2215 Humanities Seminar

1. Students will demonstrate how human culture has been shaped and influenced by philosophy, religion, and/or history.
2. Students will use evidence to form reasoned conclusions about the human experience.
3. Students will analyze a variety of sources appropriate to the study of philosophy, religion, and/or history and communicate their understanding.

### **Liberal Arts 2216 Decision Making and Problem Solving for Professionals**

1. Students will correctly implement a variety of problem-solving and decision-making strategies and techniques.
2. Students will analyze situations and apply appropriate decision-making strategies or techniques based on the analyses.
3. Students will analyze problems and apply appropriate problem-solving strategies or techniques based on the analyses.

### **Liberal Arts 4401 Learning and Application: A Capstone Experience**

1. Students will use multidisciplinary perspectives to address relevant personal and professional issues.
2. Students will acknowledge the values, interests, and opinions of others and will utilize their understanding of the similarities and differences to foster a healthy, productive work environment.
3. Students will understand, practice, and support ethical actions in all settings.

## **General Education Core Requirements –**

The general education core courses (Liberal Arts 2211 to 2216) for the Associate's to Bachelor's program are offered in a cohort model. Students are expected to take three courses their first term and three courses their second term. The Capstone Experience (Liberal Arts 4411) will be taken after completion of all General Education courses, normally in the student's last semester.

#### **Required Courses taken as transfer/transient credit or, when available, through Columbia College:**

College Writing: English 101

Quantitative Reasoning: a mathematics course equivalent to a Columbia College Mathematics course numbered 104 or higher – this mathematics course must be completed prior to taking Psychology 300 for any major in which the student takes Psychology 300

Scientific Literacy: a laboratory science course (4 semester hours)

#### **Required Courses taken through Columbia College:**

LA 2211: Foundations of Communication

LA 2212: Applied Social Science Seminar

LA 2213: Culture and Language

LA 2214: The Arts and Literature: Culture, Continuity, and Change

LA 2215: Humanities Seminar

LA 2216: Problem Solving and Decision Making

LA 4401: Learning and Application: A Capstone Experience

## **Major Programs**

All students must select and successfully complete a major program in order to graduate from the College.

A **major program** or **major** consists of an academic discipline and a set of **major requirements**. The requirements include a set of courses, the **major courses**, within or closely related to the discipline which comprise more than 25% and normally (although there are a few exceptions) less than 40% of the total number of hours required for graduation. The **major GPA**, which must be at least 2.50 for graduation, is computed on the major courses. All majors require some specific major courses; some specify all of them while others can be completed by selecting **major choices** courses from specified lists or with specified criteria. Major requirements may include some specific general education or intensive courses or they may restrict the options available for some general education or intensive requirements; these courses are not included in the major GPA calculation. Major requirements may also include **specified electives** – courses which must be taken to complete the major, but which are not included in the major GPA calculation – and, occasionally, additional requirements such as the Target Points for majors that involve certifying to teach or participation in Columbia College Dance Company for the majors in Dance.

Some majors have **concentrations** or **tracks**. In these cases, the major courses consist of a set of core courses common to all of the concentrations or tracks and a set of courses specific to each concentration or track. Students may double major in two concentrations or tracks within a major discipline. Some majors may have **advising tracks** or **certificates** which are intended as guides to help students select major choices and/or electives to fit their particular interests in the discipline.

Advising tracks and certificates are not part of the major requirements and students need not complete any particular advising track or certificate in order to complete the major program.

Division Heads may approve substitutions for any course required for a major, but no course requirement may be waived unless the waiver is specifically mentioned in the major requirements.

By the end of the first year, each student is encouraged to select a major program of study in consultation with her first-year advisor. Forms for declaring a major are available from the Office of the Registrar. When the declaration has been officially made, a major academic advisor is assigned to the student.

**Students are required to have a major chosen from one of the programs listed below:**

### **Division of Arts and Communication Studies**

Health Communication (B.A. degree)

Leadership and Professional Communication (B.A. degree)

### **Division of Behavioral Studies and Human Inquiry**

Community and Organizational Leadership (B.A. degree)

Human Services: Community and Organizational Leadership (B.A. degree)

### **Division of Business, Mathematics, and Sciences**

Applied Business (B.A. degree)

Computer Information Systems (B.A. degree)

## **Academic Divisions**

### **Division of Arts and Communication Studies**

Division Head: Stephen Nevitt, M.A.

#### **Division Faculty**

Professor:

Martha Brim, M.F.A. [Dance]

Tamara Burk, Ph.D. [Communication Studies]

Jason Munsell, Ph.D. [Communication Studies]

Stephen Nevitt, M.A. [Art]

Ute Wachsmann-Linnan, Ph.D. [Art History]

Alan Weinberg, D.M.A. [Music]

Associate Professor:

Marcy Yonkey-Clayton, M.F.A. [Dance]

Assistant Professor:

Diana Amos, D.M.A. [Music]

Crystal Davis, M.F.A. [Dance Education]

Jade Huell, Ph.D. [Communication Studies]

Senior Lecturer:

Kyle Love, M.A. [Communication Studies]

Lecturer:

Sandy Kimmel, M.A. [Communication Studies]

Choir Director:

Paula Wilson, M.M.Ed.

Gallery Coordinator:

Jacqueline Keane Adams, B.A.

The Division of Arts and Communication Studies offers majors in Health Communication and Leadership & Professional Communication. The Division also offers general education courses.

## Major Programs

### Major in Health Communication

The B.A. in Health Communication specifically targets students who have backgrounds in the health care industry and a desire to complete a B.A. degree. The program provides students with the necessary abilities to effectively communicate in the health field, including doctor-patient communication, health campaigns, health communication in risk and crisis, and health communication in context (e.g. families, relationships, organizations, etc.). An Associate's Degree with a major in a health sciences area from a regionally accredited two-year college is required to declare a major in Health Communication.

#### Requirements for a Major in Health Communication (B.A. degree):

An Associate's Degree with a major in a health sciences area from a regionally accredited two-year college is required to declare a major in Health Communication. 34 semester hours beyond the Associate's Degree and General Education are required. Required courses are Communication 210, 230, 240, 250, 355, 480, and 18 semester hours selected from Communication 200, 205, 220, 225, 235, 245, 255, 300, 310, 320LS, 330, 335, 350, 360, 365, or Leadership Studies 101, 401LS, Psychology 210, 240, or Public Health 261 or 263.

### Major in Leadership & Professional Communication

The B.A. in Leadership and Professional Communication provides students with the ability to compare perspectives and theories of organizational communication in the context of leadership and professional development. Additionally, the degree provides students the education to demonstrate analytic and applied skills in professional communication contexts to work towards leadership positions, career advancement, and personal and professional growth.

#### Requirements for a Major in Leadership & Professional Communication (B.A. degree):

34 Semester hours are required. Required Courses are Communication 205, 210, 240, 250, 355, 480, and 18 semester hours selected from Communication 200, 220, 225, 230, 235, 245, 255, 300, 310, 320LS, 330, 335, 350, 360, 365, or Leadership Studies 101 or 401LS.

## Division of Behavioral Studies and Human Inquiry

Division Head: Robin Rosenthal, Ph.D.

### Division Faculty

Professor:

Joyce Fields, Ph.D. [Child and Family Studies]

Tandy McConnell, Ph.D. [History]

Karen Thompson, Ph. D. [Psychology]

Catherine (Lisa) Unterseher, Ph.D. [Religion]

Associate Professor:

Heather Hahn, Ph.D. [Philosophy]

Shirley Huisman, Ph.D. [Social Work]

Sharon Jones, Ph.D. [Political Science]

Robin Rosenthal, Ph.D. [Psychology]

Hyman Rubin, III, Ph.D. [History]

Edward Sharkey, Ph.D. [Political Science]

Assistant Professor:

Jeff Cho, Ph.D. [Psychology]

Katrina Spigner, Ed.D. [Organizational Change and Leadership]

Senior Lecturer:

M. Emily Bentley, J.D. [Disaster and Emergency Management]

Harry T. Cooper, Jr., J.D. [Criminal Justice]

D'Michelle DuPre, M.D. [Criminal Justice and Nursing]  
Debra Stayner, M.A. [Behavioral Science]

Lecturer:

Jennifer Dollar, M.S.W. [Social Work]  
Bethany Fisackerly, M.S. [Child and Family Studies]

The Division of Behavioral Studies and Human Inquiry offers major programs in Community and Organizational Leadership and Human Services. It also offers general education courses.

## Major Programs

### Major in Community and Organizational Leadership (B.A. degree)

#### Requirements for a major in Community and Organizational Leadership (B.A. degree):

Required courses (34 semester hours) are Communication 350; Political Science 219, 250; Political Science/Psychology/Sociology/Social Work 498, Psychology 298, 300, Psychology/Sociology/Social Work 304, 349, Sociology 448, 477; Writing 305; and 3 semester hours selected from one of the following: Communication 245, 250, Leadership Studies 201; Philosophy 353; Political Science 350, 405, 420, 441; Psychology/Sociology 282; Psychology/Social Work 360; Social Work 480; Social Work/Sociology 255, 268; Sociology 221, 318.

### Major in Human Services

#### Requirements for a Major in Human Services (B.A. degree):

Associates Degree with a major in Human Services from a regionally accredited two year college and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 are required to declare a major in Human Services. Required courses (34 semester hours) are Communication 350; Political Science 219, 250; Political Science/Psychology/Sociology/Social Work 498, Psychology 298, 300, Psychology/Sociology/Social Work 304, 349; Sociology 448, 477; Writing 305; and 3 semester hours selected from one of the following: Communication 250, 340; Leadership Studies 201; Philosophy 353; Political Science 350, 405, 420, 441; Psychology/Sociology 282; Psychology/Social Work 360; Social Work 480; Social Work/Sociology 255, 268; Sociology 221, 318.

## Division of Business, Mathematics, and Sciences

Division Head: Madeleine Schep, Ph.D.

### Division Faculty

Professor:

Julia Baker, Ph.D. [Chemistry]  
Mona El Shazly, Ph.D. [Business]  
Laurie B. Hopkins, Ph.D. [Mathematics]  
Madeleine Schep, Ph.D. [Mathematics]

Associate Professor:

Yuan Li, Ph.D. [Business]  
Kirt Moody, Ph.D. [Biology]  
Adrienne Oxley, Ph.D. [Chemistry]  
Scott Smith, Ph.D. [Mathematics]

Assistant Professor:

Jessica Allen, Ph.D. [Biology]  
Quintong Hu, Ph.D. [Mathematics]  
Virginia Johnson, Ph.D. [Mathematics]  
George Kaufman, Ph.D. [Chemistry]  
Marlee Marsh, Ph.D. [Biology]

Senior Lecturer:

D'Michelle DuPre, M.D. [Criminal Justice and Nursing]

Lecturer:

Travis Dalton, M.B.A. [Business and Computer and Information Science]

Hadia Ghandour, M.B.A. [Global Business]  
Alice K.C. Lou, M.S. [Mathematics]  
Maria Markovich, M.A. [Mathematics]  
Vida Mingo, Ph.D. [Biology]  
Susan Rolfe, M.A. [Business]

Chief Nursing Administrator:

Judy Paull, M.S.N., D.N.P., A.R.N.P. [Nursing]

The Division of Business, Mathematics, and Sciences offers major programs in Applied Business and Computer Information Systems. The division also offers general education courses.

## Major Programs

### Major in Applied Business

The B.A. degree in Applied Business emphasizes the experiential approach to the fundamental courses in a business curriculum. The focus of the core functional areas in business will rely primarily on business applications, case analysis, research, and engaged active learning. This methodology adheres to the conviction that by active learning, students are better able to understand and apply concepts that relate to business decisions and actions.

Students majoring in Applied Business must complete 30 hours of Applied Business courses and 4 hours of Business Portfolio development..

#### **Requirements for a Major in Applied Business (B.A. degree):**

An Associate's Degree with a major in a business field from a regionally accredited two-year college is required to declare a major in Applied Business. 34 hours in Business and Economics beyond the Associates Degree and general education requirements are required. The required courses are Economics 305; Business 306, 307, 311, 312, 313, 405, 426, 444, 472, and 499.

### Major in Computer Information Systems

Program Coordinator: Madeleine Schep, Ph.D.

The B.A. degree in Computer Information Systems provides students possessing a strong background in Computer Technology the understanding of organizational processes and information requirements, which will enable them to integrate and manage Information Systems in an organization. Students majoring in Computer Information Systems must complete courses (34 s.h.) in Computer and Information Science, Business, and Writing.

#### **Requirements for a Major in Computer Information Systems (B.A. degree):**

An Associate's Degree with a major in a Computer Technology field from a regionally accredited two-year college is required to declare a major in Computer Information Systems. 34 semester hours are required. Required courses are Business 306, 312, 340, Computer and Information Science 310, 320, 340, 351, 400, 440, 460, 499, and Writing 305.

## Division of Education

Division Head: Chris Burkett, Ed.D.

### Division Faculty

Professor:

James Lane, Ph.D. [Elementary Education]  
Doris Layton, Ph.D. [Divergent Learning]  
Lynne Noble, Ph.D. [Education]  
Tracy West, Ph.D. [Special Education]



Associate Professor:

Sandra Ayers, Ph.D. [Early Childhood Education]  
Chris Burkett, Ed.D. [Education]  
Regina Lemmon, Ph.D. [Speech Language Pathology]

Assistant Professor:

Jessica Berry, Ph.D. [Speech Language Pathology]  
Marla Sanders, Ph.D. [Education]  
Amanda Stefanski, Ph.D. [Special Education]

Lecturer:

Amy Ellisor, M.Ed. [Education]  
Falicia Harvey, Ph.D. [Higher Education Administration]

Directors:

Karis Clarke, Ph.D., Director of Teacher Education  
Kathy Coskrey, M.Ed., Director of Field Experience for Education

The Division of Education sometimes offers general education courses.

## Division of Languages and Literatures

Division Head: Nancy L. Tuten, Ph.D.

### Division Faculty

Professor:

Christine Hait, Ph.D. [English]  
Melissa Heidari, Ph.D. [English]  
Nancy Tuten, Ph.D. [English]  
John Zubizarreta, Ph.D. [English]

Associate Professor:

Calley Hornbuckle, Ph.D. [English]  
Corinne Mann, Ph.D. [French]  
Allan Nail, Ph.D. [English]  
Rocío Zalba, Ph.D. [Spanish]

Assistant Professor:

Amy Smith Reeves, Ph.D. [English]  
Paloma Fernández Sánchez, Ph.D. [Spanish]  
Victoria Sanchez-Samblas, Ph.D. [Spanish]

Senior Lecturer:

Claudia Smith Brinson, M.A. [English]  
Emily Ward, M.A. [English]

Lecturer:

Helen Rapoport, J.D. [English]

The Division of Languages and Literatures offers general education courses.

## Course Descriptions

### Business

**BUS 306. Applied Business Statistics.** This course covers the fundamentals of modern statistical methods with applications in business. Topics include descriptive statistics, probability, random sampling, confidence interval, hypothesis testing, correlation, linear and multiple regression analysis. The emphasis is on applying statistics in business analytics and finance. (Not open to students with credit for Psychology 300, Mathematics 340 or Mathematics 353.) 3 s.h.

**BUS 307. Applied Accounting.** An applied course in the principles and applications of financial and managerial accounting for organizations. The emphasis is on using accounting information for decisions making. 3 s.h.

**BUS 311. Business Law and Ethics.** A course designed to give students an awareness of aspects of laws and ethics needed in day-to-day dealings with business. Emphasis placed upon the law of contracts, negotiable instruments, wills, and current issues. It also focuses on ethical issues surrounding the workplace. Topics are introduced by way of case studies which students are invited to explore through a mix of interdisciplinary readings that inspire greater contextual understanding. 3 s.h.

**BUS 312. Applied Management.** This course focuses on the application of management theories and methodologies to deal with primary functions of management, including the planning, organizing, leading, and controlling of organizational resources for the purpose of achieving organizational goals. Experiential learning and service learning are emphasized in this course. 3 s.h.

**BUS 313. Applied Marketing.** The principles and methods involved with applying the components of the marketing strategy to current topics and situations are the focus of the course. Students will be actively involved in marketing decision through case studies, analysis of data and team building projects. The course integrates traditional classroom discussions with experiential learning and assignments. 3 s.h.

**BUS 340. Organizational Behavior.** This course examines the behavior of individuals and work groups within organizational settings. Primary emphasis is on the role of managers/leaders in their interactions with individual employees and the work group. 3 s.h.

**BUS 405. International Business Negotiation.** An experiential learning course that emphasizes cultural variances in international business negotiations. 3 s.h.

**BUS 426. Entrepreneurship in Practice.** The contributions of the functional areas of accounting, economics, finance, management, and marketing to the entrepreneurial firm are considered in this course. Various forms of small business ownership will be reviewed. Students will engage in the development of an entrepreneurial plan. Students are expected to deliver the entrepreneurial plan by actively seeking input from the community resources for small business development. Group discussions, projects and case analysis will be integrated in the course. 3 s.h.

**BUS 472. Applied Finance.** (Prerequisites: Business 307) This course focuses on the use of financial concepts for personal and organizational financial needs. 3 s.h.

**BUS 499. Business Portfolio Development.** Students will develop evaluation criteria to assess their work. The folder will contain the accumulated work emphasizing student growth, their strengths as well as their weaknesses. 4 s.h.

## **Communication Studies**

**COMM 200. Survey of Communication Studies.** Introduction to the communication discipline cultivating engaged participation in a line of communication inquiry. This course explores the history of the field, basic theories and concepts in various communication contexts, and research methods/perspectives. (Previously offered as Speech 210.) 3 s.h.

**COMM 205. Introduction to Leadership & Professional Communication.** This course examines current theory and practice in the burgeoning fields of Leadership and Communication Studies. Students will develop a personal plan designed to target and enhance the communication and leadership knowledge and skills needed to best prepare for future professional opportunities. Topics include leadership styles, building and bridging networks of relationships, communicating expectations and goals, and negotiating and managing conflict. Students will revisit their tactical career plan during their required Senior Capstone Project course. 3 s.h.

**COMM 210. Interpersonal Communication.** An introduction to basic theories and concepts of communication in the development and maintenance of relationships with an emphasis on developing communication competence. (Previously offered as Speech 330, Speech 280.) 3 s.h.

COMM 220. **Advanced Public Speaking.** Theoretical and practical experience in the composition and delivery of informative, persuasive, and ceremonial speaking for rhetorical leadership in business and professional life. (Previously offered as Speech 220.) (Not open to students with credit in Speech 230 or 233.) 3 s.h.

COMM 225. **Presidential Rhetoric.** This course is primarily a study of presidential rhetorical genres (like inaugural addresses), using the ideas(s) of genre to think through and evaluate presidential rhetoric and how rhetoric helps constitute our understanding of the presidency. The course also focuses on case-study discourse of specific American presidents and how those discourse showcased effective leadership during national crises. The course is particularly valuable for any student wishing to pursue a career in politics. 3 s.h.

COMM 230. **Health Communication.** An introduction to communication within the context of the health care industry. Students learn effective communication practice for patient-provider communication, provider team communication, health care information and advocacy, and health care public relations. 3 s.h.

COMM 235. **Nonverbal Communication.** The purpose of this course is to better understand unspoken, non-linguistic nonverbal influences on communication. In particular, this course will focus on characteristics like appearance, body, eye, and facial movement, touch and smell, time and space, and how these characteristics intersect. We will also examine nonverbal influences in online, virtual environments as well as consider ways in which culture and identity implicitly influence interaction. 3 s.h.

COMM 240. **Small Group Communication.** The study of communication in the context of small group interaction including theoretical and practical experience in the dynamics of group interaction, discussion and decision making, and leadership. (Previously offered as Speech 240.) 3 s.h.

COMM 245. **Intercultural Communication.** An introduction to the fundamental topics, principles, and theories of culturally diverse message systems. The course emphasizes an appreciation of multiple worldviews and the development of intercultural competence to prepare students for engagement in a global community. (Previously offered as Communication 340.) 3 s.h.

COMM 250. **Business and Professional Communication.** An introduction to communication theory and practice within the business and professional context in order to cultivate business and professional leadership potential. The emphasis is on acquisition of skills for use in interviewing processes, networking, business meetings, professional presentations, and business leadership. (Previously offered as Speech 250.) 3 s.h.

COMM 255. **Computer Mediated Communication.** This course focuses on new, computer generated communication mediums (like Facebook) to help students better understand the influence of technology on how relational partners communicate online and how such technology changes the nature of personal relationships. The class also covers problematic trends in the issue of social media (like cyberbullying). Further, the course is particularly invested in critical issues of gender, race, and sexuality within the social media context. 3 s.h.

COMM 300. **African American Rhetoric.** Introduction to the rhetorical characteristics of African American discourses with an emphasis on significant African American voices advocating social change through a variety of rhetorical means. Students will learn the differences between Western/Eurocentric and Afrocentric approaches to rhetorical theory, practice, and criticism. (Previously offered as Communication 290A.) 3 s.h.

COMM 310. **Persuasion.** Theoretical approaches to analyzing persuasive messages in the mass media, political campaigns, and social movements. Students will develop skills in critical analysis of public discourse. (Previously offered as Speech 310.) 3 s.h.

COMM 320LS. **Leadership and Communication.** The study of leadership as a relational and transactional process of mutual influence between leaders and followers for the accomplishment of collective goals. Students will complete a course-related leadership project focused on the analysis of practical theoretical and critical experiences in leadership as applied to the Division's Philosophy of Leadership and the Four C's of Leadership at Columbia College. Students will present the results of their projects in a public forum and will write reflection papers assessing how their projects helped them develop as competent communicators and leaders. (Previously offered as Speech 320.) 3 s.h.

COMM 330. **The Rhetoric of Public Advocacy.** Rhetorical theory and criticism with an emphasis on public advocacy discourses. Students learn critical perspectives for analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating public communication in American history. (Previously offered as Speech 315.) 3 s.h.

COMM 335 **Political Communication.** This course will focus on many aspects of political communication including the nature of political communication, ideology, politics, and media, presidential rhetoric, political campaigns, and news coverage of politics. Rooted in contemporary, critical approaches to studying communication and rhetoric, the course will be an in-depth look at the link between rhetoric, government, and citizenship. 3 s.h.

COMM 350. **Organizational Communication.** The study of communication networks as the structuring principle of organizational life with emphasis on organizational culture, employee socialization, power, and leadership as a transactional process capable of cultivating beneficial change in an organizational context. (Previously offered as Speech/Business 290B, Speech 350.) 3 s.h.

COMM 355. **Leadership, Crisis & Communication.** This course examines the latest theory, practice, and innovative approaches for handling organizational crisis from a Communication Studies perspective. This course will highlight successes and failures in dealing with core issues of crisis leadership, managing uncertainty, communicating effectively, understanding risk, promoting communication ethics, enabling organizational learning, and producing renewing responses to crisis. (Previously offered as Comm 390D.) 3 s.h.

COMM 360. **Gender and Communication.** An exploration of the cultural definitions of femininity and masculinity emphasizing how gender shapes individuals' communication and cultural views of women and men. (Previously offered as Speech 290C, Speech 360.) 3 s.h.

COMM 365. **Media and Popular Culture.** This course will bring together the scholarly traditions of contemporary rhetorical criticism and critical/cultural studies (including Marxist and feminist critiques) in the investigation of popular culture discourse. Topics include the media of film, television, music, and the internet. 3 s.h.

COMM 480. **Senior Capstone Project.** This course is designed to be a culminating experience for the Leadership & Communication and Health Communication majors. The student is expected to produce a final project including oral and written components. 1 s.h.

## **Computer and Information Science (CIS)**

CIS 310. **Principles of Information Systems.** An introduction to contemporary information systems. The focus of the course will be the key components of information systems – people, software, hardware, data, and communication technologies, and the integration of information systems in organizations in a global world. 3 s.h.

CIS 320. **E-Commerce.** This course examines strategic and operational issues of doing business in an online environment. Technological solutions and emerging technologies will be addressed.

CIS 340. **Systems Analysis and Design.** (Prerequisite: Computer and Information Science 110 and Computer and Information Science 111.) A study of the processes, methodology and issues related to the analysis and design of information systems. Topics include: requirement analysis, system development life cycle, structured design, feasibility studies, installation and implementation. 3 s.h.

CIS 351. **Managing Information and Data.** This course covers the design and implementation of database from requirements specifications, data modeling, implementation and manipulation using SQL. Other topics will include database security, the understanding of the importance of data, information, and databases within an enterprise information system, and web connectivity issues. 3 s.h.

CIS 400. **Ethics in Information Systems.** This course provides a strong foundation for ethical decision-making for Information Systems professional. It addresses the ethical and legal implications of information technology in modern society. Included are topics such as professional code of Ethics, intellectual property, privacy issues, and Internet crime. 3 s.h.

CIS 440. **Management Information Systems.** (Prerequisite: Computer and Information Science 340.) This course examines the connection between organizational strategy and electronic methods of delivering products and services in inter-organizational, national and global environments. Topics include: e-commerce, business models, supply-chain, information privacy and security, legal and ethical issues, security, business intelligence, and systems planning, development and acquisition.. 3 s.h.

CIS 460. **IS Project Management.** This course is focused on the processes, methods, techniques and tools used in information systems project management. Topics will in particular include initiating, planning, executing, and closing IS projects. 3 s.h.

CIS 499. **CIS Portfolio Development.** Students will reflect on and evaluate their work in the Computer Information Systems major. The electronic portfolio will contain the accumulated work emphasizing student growth, their strengths as well as their weaknesses. 1 s.h.

## **Economics**

ECON 305. **Applied Economics.** Designed to blend economic theory and practice, this course integrates traditional lectures with case study analysis, games, group projects and current events. The fundamental principles of macro and micro economics are presented in a way that engages students in the learning process. Emphasis is placed on economic applications and active student participation. 3 s.h.

## **Leadership Studies**

LEAD 101. **Leadership Awareness.** Students will be introduced to the study of leadership and acquire an understanding of their own leadership strengths and challenges. (Previously offered as Leadership 100.) 1 s.h.

LEAD 201. **Leadership Theories and Strategies.** Students will be introduced to major leadership theories, models, styles, and principles. (Previously offered as Leadership 290B, 390A.) 3 s.h.

LEAD 401. **Leadership in Action.** (Prerequisites: Leadership 301 or Consent of Instructor.) This course provides students a capstone opportunity to synthesize their understanding of Leadership Studies in practical terms. Students will prepare a presentation focused on leadership as it relates to their own personal curricular, co-curricular, or extracurricular experiences. This project will require demonstration of oral and written communication skills, and a self-awareness of personal strengths and challenges with regard to leadership. (Previously offered as Leadership 400.) 3 s.h.

## **Liberal Arts**

LA 2211. **Foundations of Communication.** This course develops student competencies in written and oral discourse. Students will develop informative and persuasive assignments for a variety of purposes, audiences, and contexts. 3 s.h.

LA 2212. **Applied Social Science Seminar.** An applied approach to the study of human behavior utilizing the perspective of one or more of the social and/or behavioral sciences. Course topics may vary by semester and disciplinary perspective. 3 s.h.

LA 2213. **Culture and Language.** The purpose of this class is to acquire knowledge of cultural perspectives as they are reflected on the practices and products of the target culture and/or language. That knowledge comes from the study of literary texts, film, language and other media. In this class, students will compare the target and heritage. Lastly, the student will be able to identify, analyze, and evaluate themes, ideas, and products related to the target culture. 3 s.h.

LA 2214. **The Arts and Literature: Culture, Continuity, and Change.** This course offers opportunities to understand contexts and make connections across the humanities by offering a cultural experience of at least two disciplines. Using the scholarly expertise of the instructor as a starting point, students study one creative discipline (literature, visual arts, music, dance, or theatre) and its affiliations with one or more other creative disciplines. Creative works are influenced by the economic, political, spiritual, and intellectual life; thus, the understanding of the socio-economic and socio-cultural conditions on creative works will lead to a deeper understanding of humanism. 3 s.h.

LA 2215. **Humanities Seminar.** This course examines how human culture has been shaped and influenced by history, philosophy, and/or religion. Topics may vary by semester and disciplinary perspective. 3 s.h.

LA 2216. **Problem Solving and Decision Making.** This course examines the phases of problem solving that will prepare students to practice effective decision making skills in their environment at three levels: individual, group and organizational. The emphasis is on strategies, techniques and tools that combine both quantitative and qualitative analyses of information. Various case studies are used to illustrate and apply the concepts of problem solving and decision making. 3 s.h.

LA 4401. **Learning and Application: A Capstone Experience.** (Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of the other general education requirements.) The student learning outcomes for this course include using multidisciplinary perspectives to address relevant personal and professional issues; acknowledging the values, interests; and opinions of others, utilizing an understanding of the similarities and differences to foster a healthy, productive work environment; understanding, practicing, and supporting ethical actions in all settings. 3 s.h.

## **Philosophy**

PHIL 353. **Issues in Contemporary Ethics.** This course combines a foundation in theoretical ethics with readings on the pressing ethical issues of our times. The course is driven by the underlying question of all ethics courses – How should we live? – with special emphasis placed on contemporary (yet timeless) concerns like globalization, social action, philanthropy, and the morality of public figures. Particular attention will be given to the manner in which we approach ethical dilemmas and the possibility of finding creative solutions which help us reframe even the most difficult moral quagmires. (Previously offered as Philosophy 390B.) 3 s.h.

## Political Science

POSC 219. **Political Participation.** A study of the various ways individuals and groups attempt to influence the policy making process. (Previously offered as Political Science 290U, 390G.) 3 s.h.

POSC 250. **Public Policy.** Analysis of public policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. National and international case studies will be used in this course. 3 s.h.

POSC 350. **Women and Politics.** This course is designed to introduce the student to selected political issues and public policies affecting women in the United States and other Western societies. 3 s.h.

POSC 405. **Women of the Third World.** A survey of the status and role of women in developing regions of the world. Topics include: education, political participation, economic development, violence, health, religion and culture. 3 s.h.

POSC 420. **Constitutional Law.** (Prerequisite: Political Science 101.) Analysis of the opinions of the United States Supreme Court in the areas of separation of power, civil liberties and civil rights. 3 s.h.

POSC 441. **Current Events in Historical Perspective.** A study of the historical roots of contemporary political and cultural trends. 3 s.h.

POSC 498. **Senior Seminar.** This course is designed as a culminating experience such that students demonstrate theoretical and practical ways to approach issues in community and organizational life. (also listed as Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work 498). 3 s.h.

## Psychology

PSY 210. **Psychology of Sexual Behavior** (Not open to students who have received credit for Psychology 290N.) An examination of social science theories and research pertaining to human sexuality. Topics may include research methods in sexual science, gender differences, sexual attitudes and behaviors, sexual functioning and treatment for dysfunction, sexual orientation, coercion and rape, and sexuality for profit. 3 s.h.

PSY 240. **Drugs, Behavior, and Society.** An introduction to the study of drug use, abuse, and addiction, focusing on the history of drug use, effects of drugs in the nervous system and on behavior, consequences of drug use in modern society, and strategies for prevention and treatment of drug abuse. (Not open to students with credit in Physical Education and Health Promotion 263, Psychology/Sociology 290Q.) (Also listed as Sociology 240.) 3.sh.

PSY 282. **Social Psychology.** Studies of major psychological ideas, concepts, and research that enable us to think more clearly about human relationships and human interactions. Topics may include obedience to authority, perception and judgment of others, ethnic conflict, relationships, etc. (Also listed as Sociology 282.) 3 s.h.

PSY 298. **Academic Writing for the Major.** This course provides the knowledge and skills to correctly use APA Guidelines when citing and referencing sources for scholarly papers. 1 s.h.

PSY 300. **Statistics for Behavioral Science.** (Prerequisite: Completion of general education mathematics requirement.) A survey of descriptive and inferential statistical techniques used to summarize and evaluate social and behavioral data. (Credit cannot be received for both Psychology 300 and Mathematics 140) 3 s.h.

PSY 304. **Profiles in Leadership.** (Prerequisite: Psychology 102.) Exposing students to diverse leadership models, this course introduces students to issues leaders confront in small groups, organizations, and communities. Using a case study approach, student analyze and evaluate the behavior of leaders from multiple fields of practice. Ethical decision making and service leadership provide the framework for this course. (Also listed as Sociology 304 and Social Work 304.) 3 s.h.

PSY 349. **Research Methods in Behavioral Science.** (Prerequisite or Corequisite: Mathematics 140 or Psychology 300.) An overview of the processes involved in designing and conducting research in the social and behavioral sciences and social work. (Also listed as Sociology and Social Work 349.) 3 s.h.

PSY 360. **Group Process.** (Prerequisite: Psychology 102.) The purpose of this course is to prepare students to utilize effective group process and leadership skills. A variety of group techniques will be discussed and demonstrated. Students will have the opportunity to experience being members of a group and to practice leading a group. (Also listed as Social Work 360.) 3 s.h.

PSY 498. **Senior Seminar.** This course is designed as a culminating experience such that students demonstrate theoretical and practical ways to approach issues in community and organizational life. (also listed as Political Science, Sociology, and Social Work 498). 3 s.h.

## **Public Health**

PUBH 261. **Personal Health and Wellness.** The course will provide a thorough understanding of the behaviors and skills necessary for establishing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The areas of study will include nutrition, weight management, physical fitness, stress management, drugs in society, and health consumerism. In addition the course will provide an emphasis on ways to make positive lifestyle changes in order to prevent heart disease, diabetes, sexually transmitted infections, cancer, obesity, alcoholism, and addiction to nicotine and/or other drugs. 3 s.h.

PUBH 263. **Drug Education.** A course designed to give an overview of current issues and problems in the health area. Special emphasis is placed on a detailed study of drug types, their effects on the body, drugs and abuse and of laws regarding drug use. This course is especially designed for elementary and secondary education majors and is directed towards helping them explain the responsibilities of elementary and secondary schools in teaching health related issues. (Not open to students with credit in Psychology/Sociology 240.) 3 s.h.

## **Social Work**

SOWK 255. **Introduction to Social Welfare.** An introduction to the social welfare institution, with an emphasis on understanding the historical development of social welfare, social welfare services, the philosophical base of social welfare, and the role of social work in service delivery. (Also listed as Sociology 255.) 3 s.h.

SOWK 268. **Ethnic and Minority Groups.** An examination of theory and research concerning majority-minority group relations and the social processes associated with ethnic differentiation. (Also listed as Sociology 268.) 3 s.h.

SOWK 304. **Profiles in Leadership.** (Prerequisite: Psychology 102.) Exposing students to diverse leadership models, this course introduces students to issues leaders confront in small groups, organizations, and communities. Using a case study approach, student analyze and evaluate the behavior of leaders from multiple fields of practice. Ethical decision making and service leadership provide the framework for this course. (Also listed as Psychology 304 and Sociology 304.) 3 s.h.

SOWK 349. **Research Methods in Behavioral Science.** (Prerequisite or Corequisite: Mathematics 140 or Psychology 300.) An overview of the processes involved in designing and conducting research in the social and behavioral sciences and social work. (Not open to students with credit in Sociology/Social Work 472.) (Also listed as Psychology and Sociology 349.) 3 s.h.

SOWK 360. **Group Process.** (Prerequisite: Psychology 102.) The purpose of this course is to prepare students to utilize effective group process and leadership skills. A variety of group techniques will be discussed and demonstrated. Students will have the opportunity to experience being members of a group and to practice leading a group. (Also listed as Psychology 360.) 3 s.h.

SOWK 480. **Social Welfare Policy and Services.** (Prerequisite: Social Work 255 or Consent of Instructor.) The study of social welfare policies and services designed to develop skills in policy analysis. Includes a framework for analyzing social



policies and services and the impact of such variables on economic, political, and ideological pressures on human service delivery systems. 3 s.h.

SOWK 498. **Senior Seminar.** This course is designed as a culminating experience such that students demonstrate theoretical and practical ways to approach issues in community and organizational life. (also listed as Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology 498). 3 s.h.

## **Sociology**

SOC 221. **Family Development.** A sociological analysis of the family as a social institution and its changing interaction patterns. Emphasis on understanding multi-cultural family structures and systems. (Also listed as Social Work 221.) 3 s.h.

SOC 255. **Introduction to Social Welfare.** An introduction to the social welfare institution, with an emphasis on understanding the historical development of social welfare, social welfare services, the philosophical base of social welfare, and the role of social work in service delivery. (Also listed as Social Work 255.) 3 s.h.

SOC 268. **Ethnic and Minority Groups.** An examination of theory and research concerning majority-minority group relations and the social processes associated with ethnic differentiation. (Also listed as Social Work 268.) 3 s.h.

SOC 282. **Social Psychology.** Given as Psychology 282. 3 s.h.

SOC 318. **Aging.** The aging process and its consequences for the individual, family, and society. Particular focus upon the social, psychological, economic, and physical aspects of aging and the societal programs designed to enhance the well-being of the aged. 3 s.h.

SOC 349 **Research Methods in Behavioral Science.** (Prerequisite or Corequisite: Mathematics 140 or Psychology 300.) An overview of the processes involved in designing and conducting research in the social and behavioral sciences and social work. (Not open to students with credit in Sociology/Social Work 472.) (Also listed as Psychology and Social Work 349.) 3 s.h.

SOC 448. **Community Organization and Advocacy.** The foci of this course are community organization theories and models of advocacy used by “grass roots” leaders and organizational leaders to promote social justice and community change. 3 s.h.

SOC 477. **Nonprofit Leadership in the Human Services.** The focus of this course is on the organizational structure of nonprofit human service agencies and the leadership styles needed by those who specialize in nonprofit administration. Topics include but are not limited to strategic planning, board development, fundraising and philanthropy, resource management, and organization effectiveness. 3 s.h.

SOC 498. **Senior Seminar.** This course is designed as a culminating experience such that students demonstrate theoretical and practical ways to approach issues in community and organizational life. (also listed as Political Science, Psychology, and Social Work 498). 3 s.h.

## **Writing**

WRIT 305. **Writing for Business and Public Affairs.** (Prerequisite: English 102) A survey of business and governmental writing, including techniques of correspondence, informal and formal reports, case studies, interoffice communications. Students are required to complete a research project. 3 s.h.

*The following courses are listed to provide comparisons for the English, mathematics, and laboratory science courses that must be transferred. They are not offered as part of the Associate's to Bachelor's Degree Program:*

## **Biology**

BIO 100. **Biological Science.** An introduction to the principles of the life sciences for non-science majors. Scientific methodology, fundamentals of molecular and cellular biology, genetics, animal and plant classification and diversity, evolution, and ecology will be emphasized. Three lecture hours and three laboratory hours scheduled weekly. (Not open to students with credit in Biology 110.) 4 s.h.

BIO 105. **Human Biology.** An introduction to the principles of human biology for non-science majors, with emphasis on cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems. Human environmental and population issues will also be discussed. Three lecture hours and three laboratory hours scheduled weekly. (Not open to students with credit in Biology 230 or 330.) 4 s.h.

BIO 110. **Foundations of Biology.** An introduction to unifying biological principles with emphasis on scientific methods, basic biochemistry, cellular form and function, metabolism, and genetics. A minimum grade of C is required to continue from this course into the Biology Major. Three lecture hours and three laboratory hours scheduled weekly. 4 s.h.

BIO 130. **Human Anatomy and Physiology.** A survey of human biological form and function for non-science majors. Three lecture hours and three laboratory hours scheduled weekly. Not open to students with credit for BIO 230 or BIO 330. 4 s.h.

## **Chemistry**

CHEM 100. **Extraordinary Chemistry.** (Previously offered as Chemistry 190B.) (Three hours lecture and one three-hour laboratory weekly.) General Education course. Designed for the non-science major, this course presents chemistry as an experimental science and draws on chemical principles to illustrate both the workings of science and the scientific method. Basic chemical principles are discussed and then applied to everyday situations. Topics vary, but usually include medicines, foods, pollution and environmental issues, forensic science, and common consumer products. (Not open to students with credit in Biology 290A or Chemistry 290A.) 4 s.h.

CHEM 121. **General Chemistry I.** (Not open to students who have received credit for Physical Science 121.) (Prerequisite: Math SAT score of at least 500, Math ACT score of at least 19, or placement above Mathematics 104.) (Three hours lecture and one three-hour laboratory weekly.) An introduction to chemistry presenting the fundamental principles and appropriate descriptive material to serve as a foundation for further study of the subject. Qualitative and quantitative analysis are included in the laboratory portion of this course. 4 s.h.

## **English**

ENG 101. **Analytical Thinking, Writing, and Research I.** This course prepares students for academic writing at the college level with special attention to exposition and argument. Students learn to focus, organize, support, and develop their ideas and to provide proper attribution for secondary sources. Individual sections of this course will focus on a particular theme – such as the family, education, pop culture, gender, ethnography, or film. 3 s.h.

## **Mathematics**

MATH 104. **Precalculus Algebra.** (Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Mathematics 001 or Placement by the Program Coordinator. May be taken concurrently with Mathematics 106.) This course covers topics in algebra specifically needed for Business Calculus (Mathematics 107) or Calculus I (Mathematics 160). Topics include polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions, graphs of functions, and solutions of equations and inequalities. The primary emphasis is the enhancement of algebraic manipulation skills. Other components include problem solving and the appropriate use of computational technology. (Not open to students who have credit for Mathematics 105 or Mathematics 130.) 3 s.h.

MATH 106. **Precalculus Trigonometry.** (Pre- or co-requisite: Mathematics 104 or placement by the Program Coordinator.) This course covers topics in trigonometry specifically needed for Calculus II (Mathematics 165). Topics

include trigonometric functions, applications of trigonometry, complex numbers, vectors, and polar coordinates. Algebraic manipulation skills, problem solving, and the appropriate use of computational technology are covered. 3 s.h. (This course may be taken concurrently with Calculus I (Mathematics 160)).

**MATH 107. Business Calculus.** (Prerequisite: A grade of C or better in Mathematics 104 or placement by the Program Coordinator.) An introductory course of the calculus, including topics of the derivative and the definite integral with applications to business. Concepts are approached numerically, graphically, and analytically. This course is designed for Business Administration or Accounting majors. 3 s.h.

**MATH 117. Mathematics for Elementary Teachers.** (Prerequisite: Mathematics 001 or placement by the Program Coordinator.) A conceptual approach to arithmetic, number theory, set theory and logic intended for education majors. Emphasis is placed on exploration and the use of manipulatives to enhance skills and concepts from the elementary curriculum. 3 s.h.

**MATH 119. Informal Geometry for Teachers.** (Prerequisite: Mathematics 117 or Consent of the Program Coordinator.) A conceptual approach to geometry and measurement intended for education majors. The basic definitions and properties of figures, transformations, and symmetry are explored. Measurement systems are also covered with an emphasis on length, area, and volume. Emphasis is placed on the use of manipulatives to demonstrate concepts. 3 s.h.

**MATH 120. Liberal Arts Mathematics.** (Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Mathematics 001 or placement by the Program Coordinator.) This course covers basic topics in quantitative literacy. Numbers, sets, logic, probability, and descriptive statistics are the core concepts. Additional topics such as financial mathematics, geometry, and algebraic modeling may be included at the discretion of the instructor. All topics will be placed in both historical and present-day contexts. Problem solving, communication skills, and applications will be emphasized. 3 s.h.

**MATH 140. Elementary Statistics.** (Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Mathematics 001 or Placement by the Program Coordinator.) This is an introductory course in the fundamentals of modern statistical methods. Topics include descriptive statistics, probability, random sampling, hypothesis testing, estimation, linear regression, and correlation. (Not open to students with credit for Psychology 300, Mathematics 340 or Mathematics 353.) 3 s.h.

**MATH 150. Discrete Mathematics.** (Prerequisite: A grade of C or better in Mathematics 104 or placement by the Program Coordinator.) An introduction to discrete structures. Topics include logic, sets, functions and relations, elementary number theory, counting, and elementary graph theory with an emphasis on problem-solving. 3 s.h.

**MATH 160. Calculus I.** (Prerequisite: A grade of C or better in Mathematics 104 or placement by the Program Coordinator.) The first in a series of courses on the theory and applications of the calculus. Topics include: limits, the derivative and its applications, the integral, and the fundamental theorem of calculus. Functions studied include algebraic, logarithmic and exponential functions. Concepts and applications are explored numerically, graphically, and analytically. 3 s.h.

## **Physical Science**

**PS 122. Earth Science.** (Physical Science 122 is not open to students who have received credit for Physical Science 135.) (Three hours lecture and one three-hour laboratory weekly.) A descriptive introduction to the earth sciences of astronomy, geology, and meteorology for the general college student. The course explores such topics as the earth's size, composition, structure, processes, history, relationship to the other planets, and place in the universe. 4 s.h.

**PS 125. Environmental Geology.** (Three hours lecture and one three-hour laboratory weekly.) A descriptive course in applied geology, demonstrating how geologic information may be used to solve environmental conflicts and minimize environmental degradation. Topics include: geologic hazards (earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides), land-use planning, evaluation of mineral resources and alternative energy sources, and assessment of conservation efforts. 4 s.h.

**PS 132. Oceanography.** (Three hours lecture and one three-hour laboratory weekly.) This introductory course emphasizes geological and physical oceanography. Topics include the history of oceanography, modern ocean science, coastal geology,

marine geology, physical oceanography, and marine biology. A mandatory field trip is included. (Previously offered as Physical Science 290B.) 4 s.h.

PS 145. **Introduction to Astronomy.** (Three hours lecture and one three hour laboratory weekly.) (PS 145 is not open to students who have received credit for PS 122, PS 135, or independent study in astronomy.) General Education course. Topics include features of the night sky, history of astronomy, light, optics, telescopes, Earth, Moon, planets, Sun, stars, stellar evolution, galaxies, quasars, and cosmology. Laboratory emphasizes observation and hands-on exercises. (Previously offered as PS 190A.) 4 s.h.

## **Physics**

PHYS 221. **General Physics I.** (Prerequisite: Mathematics 106 and Mathematics 160 or Consent of Instructor.) (Three hours lecture and one three-hour laboratory weekly.) A calculus-based course covering basic concepts of mechanics, heat, sound, light, electricity, magnetism and modern physics. 4 s.h.

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## Faculty

### Professors

Julia P. Baker (2003) -- Professor of Chemistry. B.S., Furman University; Ph.D. University of South Carolina.

Martha Brim (1983) -- Professor of Dance. B.F.A., M.F.A., Florida State University.

Tamara L. Burk (2003) – John Reeves Endowed Chair of Leadership; Professor of Communication Studies. B.A., M.A., University of Maine; Ed.S., Ph.D., College of William and Mary.

Mona R. El Shazly (1987) -- Professor of International Business and Economics. B.A., M.A., American University, Cairo; Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

Joyce Fields (2000) -- Professor of Child and Family Studies. B.S., Longwood College; M.S., Baylor University; Ph.D., Florida State University.

Christine Hait (1992) -- Professor of English. B.A., M.A., Texas A&M University; Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Melissa Heidari (1989) – Martha Youmans Edens Professor of English. B.A., Ph.D., University of South Carolina; M.A., University of Rochester.

Laurie B. Hopkins (1984) -- Professor of Mathematics. B.S., Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

James C. Lane (1997) -- Professor of Elementary Education. B.S., M.Ed., Ed.S., Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

Doris Giles Layton (2000) -- Professor of Education. B.A., Winthrop University; IMA., Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

Tandy McConnell (1998) -- Charles Ezra Daniels Chair of History; Professor of History. B.A., Berea College; M.A., M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

Jason B. Munsell (2003) -- Professor of Communication Studies. B.A., M.A., University of Arkansas; Ph.D. Louisiana State University.

Stephen R. Nevitt (1976) -- Professor of Art. B.F.A., University of South Carolina; M.A., State University of New York.

Lynne Steyer Noble (1999) -- Professor of Education. B.A.Ed., University of Michigan; M.Ed., Ed.D., University of Virginia.

Madeleine Schep (1998) -- Professor of Mathematics and Computer Information Systems. M.S., University of Paris VII; Ph.D., University of Paris Sud.

Karen C. Thompson (1999) -- Professor of Psychology. B.S., Bowling Green State University; M.A., Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

Nancy L. Tuten (1988) -- Stackhouse Chair of English; Professor of English. B.A., Newberry College; M.A., Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

Catherine (Lisa) A. Unterseher (2000) -- R. Wright Spears Professor of Religion. B.A., University of Texas at Austin; M.Div., Ph.D., Southern Methodist University.

Ute Wachsmann-Linnan (2000) -- Professor of Art History. M.B.A., University of South Carolina, M.L.I.S., University of California; Ph.D., University of Bonn (Germany).

Alan Weinberg (1986) -- Professor of Music. B.A., M.M., Temple University; D.M.A., Indiana University School of Music.

Tracy West (2000) -- Professor of Special Education. B.S., M.A., East Carolina University; Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

John Zubizarreta (1988) -- Professor of English. B.A., Florida International University; M.A., Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

## Associate Professors

Sandra Ayers (1996) -- Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education. B.A., Columbia College; M.Ed., Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

Chris Burkett (2006) -- Associate Professor of Education. B.A., Newberry College; M.Ed., Columbia College; Ed.D., Nova Southeastern University.

Heather Hahn (2008) -- Associate Professor of Philosophy. B.A., Hiram College; M.A., Ph.D., State University of New York.

Calley Hornbuckle (2007) -- Associate Professor of English. B.A. Bennington College; M.A., Bridgewater State College. Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

Shirley Huisman (2014) -- Associate Professor of Social Work. B.A., Dordt College; M.S.W., Syracuse University; Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

Sharon L. Jones (2006) -- Associate Professor of Political Science. B.A., B.S., M.A., University of South Florida; M.A., Ph.D., Syracuse University.

Regina Lemmon (2015) -- Associate Professor of Speech Language Pathology. B.A., Columbia College; M.S.P., Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

Yuan Li (2007) -- Associate Professor of Business. B.S., M.B.A., Northwestern University; Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

Corinne D. Mann (2007) -- Associate Professor of French. B.A., Mary Baldwin College; M.A., University of Virginia; D.E.A., University Paris; Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University.

Kirt E. Moody (2003) -- Paysinger Endowed Chair for Science and Technology; Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Science. B.A.S., M.A., University of Maine; Ph.D., College of William and Mary.

Allan Nail (2010) -- Associate Professor of English. B.A., M.Ed., Ph.D., University of Florida.

Adrienne Yingling Oxley (2008) -- Associate Professor of Chemistry. B.S., Chatham College; Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh.

Robin Rosenthal (2012) -- Associate Professor of Psychology. B.A., Barnard College; M.B.A., Harvard

University; M.S., Georgia State University; Ph.D., University of Georgia.

Hyman Rubin III (1999) -- Associate Professor of History. B.A., Yale University; M.A., Ph.D., Emory University.

Edward Sharkey (2000) -- Associate Professor of Political Science. B.A., M.A., University of Montana; Ph.D., Northern Arizona University.

Scott Smith (1993) -- Associate Professor of Mathematics. B.A., Earlham College; Ph.D., University of Kentucky.

Marcy Jo Yonkey-Clayton (2008) -- Associate Professor of Dance. B.A., Slippery Rock University; M.F.A. Texas Woman's University.

Rocío Zalba (2007) -- Associate Professor of Spanish. B.A., University of Guelph; M.A., University of Toronto; Ph.D. University of Kansas.

## Assistant Professors

Jessica Allen (2016) -- Assistant Professor of Biology. B.A., Wesleyan University; Ph.D., Stanford University.

Diana Amos (2012) -- Assistant Professor of Music. B.M., Oberlin College; M.M., D.M.A., University of South Carolina.

Jessica Berry (2015) -- Assistant Professor of Speech Language Pathology. B.A., Winthrop University; M.A., South Carolina State University; Ph.D. Louisiana State University.

Jeff Cho (2015) -- Assistant Professor of Psychology. B.A., B.S., Stanford University; Ph.D., University of California, Irvine.

Crystal Davis (2016) -- Assistant Professor of Dance. B.A., Emory University; M.F.A., Texas Woman's University; M.A., New York University.

Quintong Hu (2016) -- Assistant Professor of Mathematics. B.S., Qingdao University; M.S., Ph.D., University of Tennessee.

Jade Huell (2014) -- Assistant Professor of Communication Studies. B.A., Columbia College; M.A., University of South Carolina; Ph.D., Louisiana State University.

Virginia Johnson (2013) -- Assistant Professor of Mathematics. B.A. Antioch College; M.A., Wake Forest; M.S., North Carolina A&T University; Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

George Kaufman (2015) -- Assistant Professor of Chemistry. B.A., B.S., M.S., Brown University; Ph. D., Harvard University.

Marlee Marsh (2012) -- Assistant Professor of Biology. B.S. Converse College; Ph.D., Clemson University.

Amy Smith Reeves (2012) -- Assistant Professor of English. B.A. Huntington University; M.A., Ph.D. University of South Carolina

Paloma Fernández Sánchez (2013) -- Assistant Professor of Spanish – M.A., Loyola University Maria; Ph.D., Indiana University;

Victoria Sanchez Samblas (2011) -- Assistant Professor of Spanish. B.A., Ph. D. Universidad Autonoma, M.A. Universidad Complutense, M.A. Ph. D. Vanderbilt University.

Marla Sanders (2012) -- Assistant Professor of Education. B.A., M.Ed., Columbia College; Ph.D. North Carolina State University.

Katrina Spigner (2016) -- Assistant Professor of Organizational Change and Leadership. B.A., Columbia College; M.S.W., University of South Carolina; Ed.D., Northeastern University.

Amanda Stefanski (2016) -- Assistant Professor of Special Education. B.A., Queens University of Charlotte; M.S., University of Miami; Ph.D., University of Maryland.

## Senior Lecturers

M. Emily Bentley (2015) -- Senior Lecturer of Emergency Management. B.A., Auburn University; J.D., Faulkner University Jones School of Law.

Claudia Smith Brinson (2007) -- Harriet Gray Blackwell Professorship of Creative Writing; Senior Lecturer of English. M.A., University of South Carolina.

Harry Cooper (2004) -- Senior Lecturer of Business and Criminal Justice --B.S., J.D., University of South Carolina.

D'Michelle DuPre (2014) -- Senior Lecturer of Criminal Justice. B.A., University of South Carolina; M.D., Ross University School of Medicine.

Christine LaCola (2013) --Senior Lecturer, Leadership. B.A., Kalamazoo College; M.B.A, University of Maryland; Ed.D., University of Georgia.

Kyle A. Love (2001) -- Senior Lecturer of Communication and Theatre. B.A., M.A., University of Virginia.

Debra M. Stayner (2002) -- Senior Lecturer of Human Relations. B.A., M.A., University of South Carolina.

Emily Ward (2014) -- Senior Lecturer of English. B.A., M.A., University of South Carolina.

## Lecturers

Travis Dalton (2014) -- Lecturer of Business and Computer and Information Science. B.S., M.B.A., Western Carolina University.

Jennifer Dollar (2016) -- Lecturer of Social Work. B.S., Carson Newman College. M.S.W., University of South Carolina.

Amy Ellisor (2012) -- Lecturer of Education -- B.A., M.Ed., University of South Carolina.

Bethany Fisackerly (2014) -- Lecturer of Child and Family Studies/Child Life Specialist. B.S., University of Florida; M.S., East Carolina University.

Hadia Ghandour (2016) -- Lecturer of Global Business. B.S., University of South Hampton, UK; M.B.A., University of South Carolina.

Falicia Harvey (2013) -- Lecturer of Higher Education Administration -- B.A., Austin Peay State University; M.Ed., Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

Sandra K. Kimmel (2004) -- Lecturer of Communication Studies. B.A., Columbia College; M.A., Queens University of Charlotte; Ph.D., Regent University.

## Academic Director

Sandy Kimmel, Academic Director of Associate's to Bachelor's Degree Completion Program

Alice K.C. Lou (2008) -- Lecturer of Mathematics. B.S., Columbia College; M.S., Columbia University.

Maria Markovich (2016) -- Lecturer of Mathematics. B.S., Shippensburg University, M.A., University of South Carolina.

Vida Mingo (2010) -- Lecturer of Biology. B.S., Johnson C. Smith University; M.S., Long Island University; Ph.D., University of South Carolina.

Helen R. Rapoport (2008) -- Lecturer of English. B.A., J.D., University of South Carolina.

Susan Rolfe (2008) -- Lecturer of Accounting. B.S., Southern Adventist University; M.A., University of South Carolina.

## Director/Administrator

Judy Paull (2016) -- Chief Nursing Administrator. B.S.N., University of Detroit; M.S.N., University of Michigan; D.N.P., Madonna University.

Paula Wilson (2011) -- Betty Suber Groh and Guthrie Darr Chair in Music and Choir Mastery; Director of Choral Activities. B.A., Columbia College; M.M.Ed., Florida State University.



**Columbia College  
Student Handbook  
Associate's to Bachelor's Programs  
Remote Sites  
2016-2017**

## **STUDENT CONDUCT CODE, HONOR CODE, AND JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

### **A COMMUNITY OF HONOR**

The terms and conditions of the Honor Code function as an integral part of the Student Code of Conduct and the procedures outlined within. As members of the Columbia College community, we believe that the Honor System is more than just a set of rules; we believe it is a way of living. The central purpose of the Honor System is to sustain and protect a community of trust in which students can enjoy the freedom to develop their potential, both intellectually and personally, without restraint or limitation. We feel that dishonest means are incompatible with this development. Both the Student Code of Conduct and the Honor Code support the development of persons who will be trusted and respected, both as members of this community and after they leave Columbia College.

Columbia College aspires to provide a living and learning community in which students can meet their academic goals. The College desires to provide students with a clear understanding of the academic requirements and, as such, policies are generally published in the Columbia College Bulletin and the *Student Handbook*. As a community, the College is dedicated to both academic and personal excellence. Therefore, choosing to join the Columbia College community obligates each member to a code of honorable behavior.

The College determines, publishes, and communicates its policies and procedures concerning student conduct. In addition, the College has the right to determine when its community standards have been violated and to determine the appropriate course of action. The purpose of this chapter is to present the College's policies and procedures that govern all student conduct on and off campus. These policies should be read broadly and are not designed to define prohibited conduct in exhaustive terms. Designed to address disruptive behavior in a preventative way, these policies and procedures are considered to be an integral part of the Student Code of Conduct and the Honor Code.

By enrolling in Columbia College, each student accepts the responsibility to become fully acquainted with the College's community standards, to comply with the College's authority, to respect the rights and property of others, and to recognize that each student's actions reflect upon the entire College community, as well as the student involved. The College reserves the right to take appropriate action for any conduct which reasonably interrupts and/or infringes upon orderly life in the College community, disrupts the academic environment, or infringes on the rights of others. Students shall be afforded every opportunity for fairness in judicial proceedings. However, the College reserves the right to suspend or expel a student at any time, for any reason deemed sufficient by the College in accordance with the procedures outlined in this chapter. Columbia College's judicial system operates within the boundaries of fundamental fairness and not criminal and civil rules of due process.

### **SECTION 1: HONOR CODE**

#### **"We Choose Honor"**

##### **Our Preamble**

Columbia College is a vital learning community committed to honor. We are dedicated to both academic and personal excellence as we pursue knowledge, transmit ideas, and cultivate character. The College fosters an environment that emphasizes a sense of responsibility for oneself, for others, and for society at large.

The following values support and sustain the legacy and mission of Columbia College and are the foundation for the Honor Code and Student Code of Conduct:

**Responsibility** is taking personal accountability for one's own behaviors, taking action in the face of wrongdoing, and upholding the integrity of our community.

**Integrity** is open, honest, and responsible activity-within the realms of academics and our community- creating and protecting an environment that will not compromise the worth of others and where all contributions are valued.

**Respect** is regard for the dignity of self and others and therefore demands a commitment to fairness and concern for the rights and property of our community.

**Compassion** is sensitivity of spirit to others' life experiences that compels one to reach out with empathy in loving-kindness and service.

#### Our Pledge

As a member of the Columbia College community, I choose Honor. I hereby pledge to uphold these values that support and sustain the legacy and mission of Columbia College. I will be responsible for my own behaviors both in and out of the classroom; I will strive to be a person of integrity - creating and protecting an environment that will not compromise the worth of others; I will respect others and myself by exhibiting fairness and showing concern for the rights and property of our community; and I will show compassion through loving-kindness and service. Furthermore, as a student of Columbia College, I am honor bound to refrain from cheating, stealing and lying. I choose Honor and I pledge the Columbia College Honor Code as my way of life.

#### Our Student Responsibility

1. It is the responsibility of each student to personally approach anyone who has committed a major offense and urge that student to report the offense.
2. Each student, as a member of the student body of Columbia College, has the responsibility, not only for becoming familiar with the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct and Honor Code upon which the student body has agreed, but also for developing the highest and strongest personal honor code possible.
3. Each student must realize that by accepting admission to Columbia College, the student has acknowledged a commitment to the provisions of the Honor Code.

#### SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

1. The term "College" means Columbia College.
2. The term "student" includes all persons taking courses at the College, both full-time and part-time. Persons who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but have a continuing relationship with the College are also considered "students."
3. The term "faculty member" means any person hired by the College to conduct classroom activities.

4. The term “College official” includes any person employed by the College, performing assigned administrative or professional responsibilities. College officials can include the Dean of Students, Director of Residence Life and Housing, Area Coordinators, Assistant Area Coordinator, Resident Assistants, Desk Coordinators, Desk Assistants, or Graduate Assistants.
5. The term “member of the College community” includes any person who is a student, faculty member, College official, or any other person employed by the College. A person’s status in a particular situation shall be determined by the Judicial Coordinator.
6. The term “College premises” includes all land, buildings, facilities, and other property in the possession of or owned, used, or controlled by the College (including adjacent streets and sidewalks).
7. The term “organization” means any number of persons who have complied with the formal requirements for College recognition as a student organization.
8. The term “judicial body” means the Judicial Coordinator or any person or persons authorized by a Judicial Coordinator to determine whether a student has violated the Student Code of Conduct and to recommend imposition of sanctions.
9. The term “Judicial Coordinator” means a College official authorized to receive and organize all complaints and reports of possible violations, adjudicate cases directly, select a judicial body, assist in procedural matters in hearings, and who will be available for consultation and assistance with respect to procedural matters during the hearings of the Judicial Board. The Judicial Coordinator will also be the person primarily responsible for educating students on the Student Code of Conduct and Honor Code or for delegating the duty of this education to others. The Judicial Coordinator(s) will be appointed by the Dean of Students and/or Provost. One Judicial Coordinator may be selected to work primarily with academic infractions.
10. The term “Appellate Board” means any person or persons selected by the College’s President to consider an appeal from a judicial body’s determination that a student has violated the Student Code of Conduct or of the sanctions imposed by the judicial body.
11. The term “shall” is used in the imperative sense.
12. The term “may” is used in the permissive sense.
13. The term “policy” is defined as the written policies and procedures of the College as found in, but not limited to, the Columbia College *Student Handbook*, Housing Contract, and Undergraduate Bulletin.

### SECTION 3: THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Any student believed to have committed one or more of the following acts of misconduct is subject to the judicial process outlined later in this chapter. The following acts are prohibited:

1. Lying or dishonesty, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a) Furnishing false information to any College official, faculty member, or office.
  - b) Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any College document, record, or instrument of identification.
  - c) The falsification of any official time sheet or record of employment by any student, either employed by the College or working in a position on College property.

- d) Tampering with the election of any College recognized student organization.
- e) Taking advantage of services to which one is not entitled.
- 2. Physical abuse/assault, verbal abuse/assault, threats (verbal or written), intimidation, harassment (not sexual in nature), stalking, coercion and/or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person (including oneself) and any actions which serve to interfere with, impede, or harass students.
- 3. Hazing, defined as an act which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or which destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in an organization, group, or team.
- 4. Any act as defined in the Sexual Misconduct Policy, as referenced later in the *Student Handbook*.
- 5. Attempted or actual theft of and/or loss or damage to property of the College, property of a member of the College community, or other personal or public property. This includes the taking of any article that one is not personally entitled to.
- 6. Dishonesty concerning meal cards or any other dining expectations set forth by the College and/or Sodexo in the Dining Hall or Terrace Café. Student meal cards are not transferable and may not be used by anyone other than the student whose name appears on the card. This also includes dishonesty in transferring food from a student with a meal card to a commuter student or to a guest without a meal card. Students are expected to pay for all food items removed from the servery and must use a new meal swipe if leaving the Dining Hall for any reason for an extended amount of time and returning.
- 7. Unauthorized possession, duplication, altering, or use of keys, student identification cards, or access cards to any College premises and/or failure to report lost or stolen keys, student identification cards, or access cards. This includes possession of a key, student identification card, or access card not originally issued in that student's name.
- 8. Unauthorized entry into or use of College premises, including access into or out of a building through an emergency exit or window, unless in the case of emergency.
- 9. Failure to obtain an official student identification card within one week of enrollment at the College. Students are required to carry their student identification cards with them at all times and to present them when requested to any College official who makes such a request while in the performance of her/his duties.
- 10. Use, possession, or distribution of narcotics, other controlled substances, synthetically produced stimulants or depressants (such as K2Spice), and drug paraphernalia, on or off campus.
- 11. Use, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages and paraphernalia on College property or illegally off campus.
- 12. Public intoxication by students of legal drinking age on College property or at any College sponsored event.
- 13. Possession of explosives, fireworks, or dangerous chemicals on College property.
- 14. Possession of firearms, ammunition, and/or other weapons, as defined by the Columbia College Police Department and/or local, state, and federal law on College property.

15. Failure to vacate a building completely and in a timely manner after the sounding of a fire alarm or an evacuation order, for any reason.
16. Any tampering with, disarming of, or covering of the fire safety equipment. This includes smoke detectors, sprinklers, pull stations, exit door alarms, hood/exhaust and fire suppression systems, and fire extinguishers.
17. Smoking or use of tobacco of any type not done in accordance with the Smoking and Tobacco Policy, as referenced later in the *Student Handbook*.
18. Any posting of items, fliers, marketing, advertising, or other information not done in accordance with the Posting Policy, referenced later in the *Student Handbook*.
19. Any act of solicitation not done in accordance with the Solicitation Policy, referenced later in the *Student Handbook*.
20. Any act of proselytizing as defined in the Proselytizing on Campus Policy, referenced later in the *Student Handbook*.
21. The bringing of children/minors on College property not in accordance with the Children on Campus policy, referenced later in the *Student Handbook*.
22. The bringing of animals on College property not in accordance with the Animals Policy, referenced later in the *Student Handbook*.
23. Sunbathing in areas where this activity is not allowed. Students who wish to lie out in the sun wearing their bathing suits must do so on the grassy areas at the back of campus (i.e. in the McNair Hall Courtyard, on the lawn next to the Cottages, or in the courtyard next to the swimming pool).
24. Any act of retaliation against another member of the College community for any reason, in accordance with the Retaliation Policy, referenced later in the *Student Handbook*.
25. Any act of discrimination based on a person's race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender, pregnancy, disability, age, genetics, or sexual orientation.
26. Conduct which is disorderly, lewd, indecent or inconsistent with the values of Columbia College.
27. Any act that causes a:
  - a) Disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other College activities, including its public service functions on or off campus, or other authorized non-College activities, when the act occurs on College premises.
  - b) Disruption to the normal operations of the College and infringes on the rights of other members of the College community; leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled and/or normal activities within any campus building or area; intentional obstruction which unreasonably interferes with freedom of movement, either pedestrian or vehicular, on campus.
  - c) Breach of the peace or aiding, abetting, or procuring another person to breach the peace on College premises or at functions sponsored or participated in by the College. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to: abuse, nuisance, obscene telephone calls or text messages, disturbing electronic posts, excessive noise, exhibitionism, and fighting.
28. Any theft or other abuse of computer resources listed below and/or in the Computer Use Policy, referenced later in the *Student Handbook*:

- a) Unauthorized entry into a file to use, read, change the contents, or for any other purpose.
  - b) Unauthorized transfer of a file.
  - c) Unauthorized use of another individual's identification and password.
  - d) Use of computing facilities to interfere with the work of another student, faculty member, or College official.
  - e) Use of computing facilities to send obscene or abusive messages.
  - f) Inappropriate use of the class or College listserves.
  - g) Use of computing facilities to interfere with normal operation of the College computing system.
29. Any act that is considered to be a violation of the Social Media Sites Policy, referenced later in the *Student Handbook*.
30. Violations of the Honor Code as related to academic work, including, but not limited to:
- a) Cheating or the (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the College faculty or staff; or (4) submitting of an assignment for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s).
  - b) Plagiarism, including, but not limited to, the use, paraphrasing, or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. Using the ideas and/or words of another writer and representing them as one's own is plagiarism, whether those words come from printed source material or from the Internet. All source material - whether directly quoted or paraphrased- must be properly cited, and direct quotes must also be identified as such with quotation marks. Omitting quotation marks from direct quotations - including brief phrases - is considered plagiarism, even when the student cites the source.
  - c) Failure to always adhere to the following pledge: "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid of any kind on this test, quiz, paper or project."
  - d) Academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to any act during which a student receives any information prior to the test that gives unfair advantage to that student. It also includes work on papers, notebooks, lab reports, etc., that is not solely completed by the student being graded.
  - e) Submission of work not considered to be one's own, and/or with editing not done by the instructor.
  - f) Any misrepresentation of the truth in academic work. This offense shall include, but is not limited to, lying to a faculty member, a member of the administration or other College official, or Judicial Board.
  - g) Turning someone else's name in or having someone turn your name in for classes, volunteer service, or other events where attendance is recorded.

- h) Offering academic assistance of any type to someone else that is beyond the parameters set by the course instructor for the person receiving the assistance. This includes, but is not limited to, completing partial or full work of any type for another, providing answers or responses before/during/after any type of assessment or examination to another, providing information about the possible content of any type of assessment or examination before/during/after said assessment or examination to another, knowingly assisting and/or providing another with specific idea development and unique word phrasing that will not also be credited to all original creators/authors, providing editing or feedback on another's work that is not authorized by that person's course instructor, providing and/or assisting another in providing false information about a student's academic work completion or attendance at an academic for-credit function or service function, and any other general form of dishonesty regarding assistance offered to another for that person's academic work.
  - i) All other forms of dishonesty and unfairness in classes, on tests, and on examinations.
31. Abuse of the Judicial System, including, but not limited to:
- a) Failure to cooperate in the investigation of an alleged judicial matter or complaint.
  - b) Failure to obey the summons of a judicial body or College official.
  - c) Falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation of information before a judicial body.
  - d) Disruption or interference with the orderly conduct of a judicial proceeding.
  - e) Attempting to discourage an individual's proper participation in, or the use of, the judicial system.
  - f) Attempting to influence the impartiality of a member of a judicial body prior to and/or during the course of the judicial proceeding.
  - g) Interference with, coercion of, abuse of (verbal or physical) and/or intimidation of a member of a judicial body prior to, during, and/or after a judicial proceeding.
  - h) Failure to comply with the sanction(s) imposed under the Student Code of Conduct.
  - i) Influencing or attempting to influence another person to commit an abuse of the judicial system.
32. Failure to comply with directions of College officials or law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties and/or failure to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so.
33. Violation of federal, state, or local law while a College student, regardless of the location of the violation.
34. Violation of any of the Residence Hall Policies, as referenced later in the *Student Handbook*.
35. Violation of all other published College policies, procedures, or community standards not listed in the *Student Handbook*, Housing Contract, or Undergraduate Bulletin.

#### SECTION 4: JUDICIAL AUTHORITY

1. The Dean of Students is the person designated by the College's President to be responsible for the administration of the Student Code of Conduct (non-academic violations); the Provost is the person designated by the College's President to be responsible for the



administration of academic violations. These duties may be delegated to one or two other staff or faculty members who are referred to as Judicial Coordinators.

2. The Judicial Coordinator shall determine the composition of judicial bodies and determine which judicial body shall be authorized to hear each case.
3. The Judicial Coordinator shall develop procedures for the administration of the judicial program and procedural guidelines for the conduct of hearings, which are not inconsistent with provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, the Honor Code, and the judicial system.
4. Decisions made by a judicial body and/or Judicial Coordinator shall be final, subject to the normal appeals process.

A judicial body may be designated as arbiter of disputes within the student community in cases which do not involve a violation of the Student Code of Conduct (e.g., roommate conflict). All parties must agree to arbitration and to be bound by the decision.

#### SECTION 5: JURISDICTION OF THE COLLEGE

Generally, College jurisdiction and discipline shall be limited to conduct which adversely affects the College community and/or the pursuit of its objectives, whether it occurs on the College premises, at a College-sponsored event, or elsewhere while a student is enrolled at the College.

#### SECTION 6: VIOLATION OF LAW AND COLLEGE DISCIPLINE

1. If a student is charged only with an off-campus violation of federal, state, or local law(s), but not with any other violation of the Student Code of Conduct, disciplinary action may be taken and sanctions imposed for grave misconduct which demonstrates flagrant disregard for the College community. In such cases, the student or students charged with a violation of federal, state, or local laws may be placed on an interim suspension if there is a concern for the well-being and safety of other members of the campus community. The period of suspension may last until the College has finished its own investigation or feels that more information has been provided to prove that there is no longer a concern for the safety of the community. The College may conduct its own investigation and judicial proceedings prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings off campus. The student will be afforded the chance to bring legal representation to any judicial proceedings taking place before or during criminal proceedings fitting this description; however, legal representation may only provide counsel to the student and may not speak on the student's behalf or ask questions on the student's behalf.
2. College judicial proceedings may be instituted against a student charged with violation of federal, state, or local law(s) which is also a violation of the Student Code of Conduct if both violations result from the same factual situation, College judicial proceedings will occur without regard to the pendency of civil litigation in court or criminal arrest and prosecution and may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings off campus. The only exception to this policy will be in the case of a situation as referenced above in this section.
3. For cases in which criminal investigations and/or proceedings are concurrent or pending, the College normally may proceed independent of such investigations or proceedings. The accused student or the complainant may request that the College delay its proceeding. Such

requests should be submitted in writing at least two business days prior to the scheduled review to the Judicial Coordinator stating the requested action and the supporting rationale for the request. The Judicial Coordinator may grant the request but is not obligated to do so. The mere fact that criminal investigation or proceedings exist will not ordinarily be considered grounds for delay.

4. When a student is charged by federal, state, or local authorities with a violation of outside law, the College will not request or agree to special consideration for that individual because of his or her status as a student. If the alleged offense is also the subject of a proceeding before a judicial body under the Student Code of Conduct, the College may advise off-campus authorities of the existence of the Student Code of Conduct and of how such matters will be handled internally within the College community. The College will cooperate fully with law enforcement and other agencies in the enforcement of criminal law on campus and in the conditions imposed by criminal courts for the rehabilitation of student violators. Individual students, acting in their personal capacities, remain free to interact with governmental representatives as they deem appropriate.

## SECTION 7: THE JUDICIAL PROCESS

### A. Interim Suspension

In certain instances, the Dean of Students, or a designee, may impose a College or residence hall interim suspension.

1. Interim suspension may be imposed for the following reasons:
  - a) to ensure the safety and well-being of members of the College community or preservation of College property,
  - b) to ensure the student's own physical or emotional safety and well-being,
  - c) to prevent a judicial matter from occurring for any other reason, or
  - d) if the student's behavior poses a definite threat of disruption or interference with the normal operations of the College.
2. Interim suspension will be imposed in all instances of physical violence. All involved students (regardless of who was alleged to have started the altercation) will be asked to leave campus immediately and will not be permitted to return to campus until given permission to do so by the Judicial Coordinator (may be limited to specific areas of campus and/or for specific reasons) or until the matter is heard and decided by the Judicial Coordinator or a judicial body. Interim suspension may also be imposed when a student's behavior is deemed overly aggressive or includes threats of violence.
3. During the interim suspension, the student is denied access to all of campus for all reasons, including academic classes and all other College activities or privileges for which the student might otherwise be eligible.

### B. Charges and Notification

1. Any member of the College community may file complaints against any student for possible misconduct. Reports should be submitted as soon as possible after the event takes place, preferably within one week. Communication Information Forms are available from Student

Affairs or Residence Life staff members. Reports should be submitted to the Judicial Coordinator.

2. The Judicial Coordinator may conduct a preliminary investigation to collect more information on the report and see if any violations of the Student Code of Conduct may have occurred.
3. The Judicial Coordinator shall present all charges in writing to the accused student and shall inform the student to contact her or him by the date listed on the notification (typically within three (3) but not more than five (5) business days after the student has been notified of the charges) to schedule a hearing. Notification will be sent to the student's campus e-mail address. In addition, the student will be asked to come to the Office of Residence Life and Housing (or the assigned Area Coordinator's office) to sign and pick up the official judicial notification. Should a student fail to pick up the notification of charges within ten (10) business days of the date sent by e-mail, the Judicial Coordinator may schedule the hearing. If the student intentionally fails to appear for a hearing and the Judicial Coordinator has, in good faith, exhausted all reasonable efforts to schedule a hearing, the Judicial Coordinator or judicial body shall conduct a hearing in the student's absence (in absentia) and on the basis of the information made available during the course of the investigation and hearing, may make a determination as to whether a violation of the Student Code of Conduct has occurred. The Judicial Coordinator or judicial body may impose a sanction if a violation is believed to have occurred. This decision shall be communicated in writing to the student.

C. Administrative Hearings

1. A time shall be set for a hearing, not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) business days after the student has been notified. Maximum time limits for scheduling of hearings may be extended at the discretion of the Judicial Coordinator.
2. Admission of any person other than the accused to the hearing shall be at the discretion of the Judicial Coordinator.
3. An administrative hearing may be conducted by a designated College official, on behalf of the Judicial Coordinator.
4. The Judicial Coordinator or his or her designee may also conduct meetings with individual witnesses, for the purpose of collecting information. If, during this meeting, the Judicial Coordinator is given information which suggests that the witness may have also been involved in the possible violation of the Student Code of Conduct, the Judicial Coordinator may notify the witness of this and stop the witness meeting. If this does occur, the student will then be allowed to go through the Judicial process.
5. During an administrative hearing, the following steps shall occur:
  - a) The accused student will be informed about the difference between an administrative and Judicial Board hearing. The accused will have the opportunity to ask any questions about the possible judicial proceedings and their processes and be asked to confirm the choice of conducting one or the other.

- b) If the accused wishes to move forward with the administrative hearing, the accused will be presented with the basic report and facts of the case.
  - c) The accused will be allowed to present his or her version of the incident being discussed and all facts which the accused believes to be relevant.
  - d) The Judicial Coordinator will have the chance to ask questions, in order to collect all information needed.
  - e) Once all information needed has been collected by the Judicial Coordinator and the accused has been provided the opportunity to share all relevant information, the Judicial Coordinator will review all charges presented to the accused. The accused will have the opportunity to ensure that full understanding of the charges and their meanings is achieved.
  - f) The accused will be provided the opportunity to state the level of responsibility for each charge. The Judicial Coordinator will also discuss his or her thoughts on the accused student's level of responsibility. If the two parties are unable to agree, the Judicial Coordinator will be allowed to send the case to a Judicial Board hearing or to make the final decision, as an appeal is possible.
  - g) If a final decision is made in regard to the accused student's level of responsibility and there are findings of "responsible," the Judicial Coordinator will decide upon and communicate all sanctions being assigned to the accused. The Judicial Coordinator may choose to schedule a follow-up hearing to discuss these sanctions, if the Judicial Coordinator wishes to have more time to decide upon the appropriate sanction. The Judicial Coordinator may also discuss possible sanctions with the accused during the hearing but may choose to send notification of the final sanctions later.
  - h) The accused will be asked to acknowledge receipt of the findings and sanctions (if applicable). This receipt will be done in the form of the signing of a printed letter with all of the relevant information. If the letter is not made available for the accused during the time of the hearing, the accused will be notified via campus e-mail once the letter is ready for signature and collection.
6. If, at any time, the accused wishes to stop the administrative hearing and move to a Judicial Board hearing, the accused may do so. However, once the accused has signed a notification of the findings and sanctions, there is no ability to move to a Judicial Board hearing and only an appeal may be conducted.
  7. During the hearing, the Judicial Coordinator may take notes on the statements being made by the accused and the steps conducted during the hearing. These notes are considered to be part of the accused student's judicial record and may be used if the student wishes to move to a Judicial Board hearing.

#### D. Judicial Board Hearings

1. A time shall be set for a hearing, not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) business days after the student has been notified. Maximum time limits for scheduling of hearings may be extended at the discretion of the Judicial Coordinator.

2. The Judicial Coordinator may choose to present the case on behalf of the College and complainant(s) if (1) the complainant does not wish to appear before the Judicial Board; (2) the complainant is not a student; (3) there is more than one complainant; (4) the charges are more serious in nature; or (5) it is believed that the Judicial Coordinator will present the case in a more thorough and effective manner. This decision is left to the discretion of the Judicial Coordinator and in these cases, the Judicial Coordinator may still request that the original complainant(s) appear as a witness.
3. Admission of any person other than the accused, the complainant, the witnesses, the campus advisors, and the Judicial Board members to the hearing shall be at the discretion of the Judicial Coordinator.
4. In hearings involving more than one accused student, the Judicial Coordinator or chairperson of the Judicial Board may permit the hearings concerning each student to be conducted separately.
5. The complainant and the accused have the right to be assisted by a campus advisor. The campus advisor must be a current student, faculty or staff member. The complainant and/or the accused is responsible for presenting his or her own case; therefore, campus advisors are not permitted to speak or to participate directly in any hearing before the Judicial Board.
6. The complainant, the accused, the Judicial Board, and the Judicial Coordinator shall have the privilege of calling witnesses. The complainant, the accused, and the witnesses are subject to the right of questioning by the opposing party, the Judicial Board, and the Judicial Coordinator.
7. Pertinent records and exhibits may be accepted as evidence for consideration by a Judicial Board at the discretion of the chairperson and Judicial Coordinator.
8. During a Judicial Board hearing, the accused student shall be:
  - a) afforded the privilege to remain silent and not have that silence taken as admission of responsibility for the violation;
  - b) afforded the privilege to have a campus advisor who does not appear as a witness during a hearing. Advisors are not permitted to speak or to participate directly in any hearing before a Judicial Board. In answering a question, the student may seek assistance from the campus advisor;
  - c) afforded the privilege to present witnesses of fact and information on her/his behalf;
  - d) informed that any oral or written statements the student may make pertaining to the alleged violation may be presented in any subsequent proceedings;
  - e) afforded the privilege to prepare a written statement concerning the alleged violation(s);
  - f) informed that her/his academic, student conduct, and co-curricular activities record may be presented as a part of any proceeding;
  - g) presumed not in violation until a violation is determined;
  - h) afforded the opportunity to review all evidence against her/him in any proceeding;
  - i) afforded the privilege to question witnesses in any proceedings; and
  - j) afforded the privilege to appeal a decision by the Judicial Board to an Appellate Board (see the Appeals information in this section).

9. All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the chairperson of the Judicial Board. The chairperson may consult with the Judicial Coordinator on procedural issues, as the chairperson deems necessary.
10. After the hearing, the Judicial Board shall convene outside the presence of everyone else and determine (by majority vote) whether the student has violated each section of the Student Code of Conduct which she/he has been charged in writing with violating.
11. The Judicial Board's determination shall be made on the basis of whether it is more likely than not the accused student violated the Student Code of Conduct.
12. There shall be a single verbatim record, such as an audio recording, of all hearings before a Judicial Board (with the exception of the Judicial Board's conversation of the findings and sanctions after the hearing has finished). The record shall be the property of the College. Parties are not permitted to make their own recordings or remove any pieces of evidence not originally brought by the accused, complainant, and/or witnesses into the hearing room.
13. In each case in which the Judicial Board determines that a student has violated the Student Code of Conduct, the sanction(s) shall be determined by the Judicial Board and implemented by the Judicial Coordinator. All sanctions are made in the form of a recommendation to the Judicial Coordinator. The Judicial Coordinator has the authority to approve, reject, or modify the recommended sanctions; however, in no case may the Judicial Coordinator impose a sanction more severe than recommended by the Judicial Board. Following the hearing, the Judicial Coordinator shall advise the accused in writing of the Judicial Board's determination of the findings and of any sanctions imposed (if applicable).

E. Organization/Group/Team Hearings

1. In the case that a student organization or athletic group or team is accused of violating one or more policies listed in the Student Code of Conduct, the organization/group/team may be represented by the organization's president or group/team's captain or another selected member of the organization/group/team in a Judicial Board hearing.
2. All correspondence regarding the charges and notification of the hearing, along with the final decision of the Judicial Board, will be sent to the president and advisor of the organization or captain and coach of the athletic group/team, as are listed in the organization's information on file with the Office of Student Activities or the roster on file with the Athletics department. The Director of Student Activities and Dean of Students or the Director of Athletics and the Vice President for Enrollment Management will also be notified.
3. The Judicial Board hearing will not be open to any other members of the organization/group/team, with the exception of the president/captain or other selected representative for the group (if not the president or captain), that person's organization/group/team advisor or coach, any witnesses, and campus advisors.
4. All other processes and steps listed in the Judicial Board hearing process will be followed as stated.

F. Sexual Misconduct Related Hearings

All judicial proceedings related to sexual misconduct cases are subject to the process outlined in the Sexual Misconduct Policy, as referenced later in the *Student Handbook*.

#### G. Sanctions

1. The following sanctions may be imposed upon any student found to have violated the Student Code of Conduct.
  - a) Warning - A notice to the student that she or he is violating or has violated institutional policies and/or procedures. A warning can be given verbally or in writing, depending on the nature of the violation.
  - b) Judicial Probation - A written reprimand for violation of specified policies and/or procedures. Probation is for a designated period of time and includes the probability of more severe disciplinary sanctions (including expulsion) if the student is found to be violating any institutional policies and/or procedures during the probationary period.
  - c) Loss of Privileges or Activity Restriction - Denial of specified privileges for a designated period of time.
  - d) Fines - A monetary assessment may be imposed.
  - e) Restitution - Compensation for loss, damage, or injury. This may take the form of appropriate service and/or monetary or material replacement.
  - f) Discretionary Sanctions - Work assignments, writing assignments, service to the College, counseling/mediation, or other related discretionary assignments.
  - g) Academic Sanctions – Requirement of recompletion of the assignment, a new or additional assignment, other work or writing assignments, other related assignments, or other academic sanctions as assigned by the judicial body.
  - h) Removal or Reassignment from an Academic Class – Complete removal from an academic class or reassignment to another academic class. Restrictions may also include a ban from registering for other future classes, either with a certain student or faculty member or in a department. Notification of this removal or reassignment will be made to appropriate offices.
  - i) Removal from a Student Organization, Group, or Team – Complete removal of a student from a student organization, group, or team. Student may also be banned from joining that organization, group, or team for an established amount of time or permanently and may not be allowed to associate with the organization, group, or team in any manner. Notification of this removal or reassignment will be made to appropriate offices and organization/group/team.
  - j) Residence Hall Relocation – Permanent reassignment of the student to another area of the residence hall or another residence hall, along with any adjustment in housing fees. Notification of this relocation will be made to appropriate offices.
  - k) Residence Hall Suspension - Separation of the student from the residence halls for a definite period of time, after which the student is eligible to apply for return. Conditions for readmission may be specified. The student may not be reimbursed for any room and board fees lost during the time of suspension. Notification of this suspension will be made to appropriate offices.

- l) Residence Hall Expulsion - Permanent separation of the student from the residence halls. The student may not be reimbursed for any room and board fees lost during the time of expulsion. Notification of this expulsion will be made to appropriate offices.
  - m) College Suspension - Separation of the student from the College for a definite period of time, after which the student is eligible to apply for return. Conditions for readmission may be specified. Notification of this suspension will be made to appropriate offices. The College will not accept any academic credit for coursework completed at other institutions during this time of suspension.
  - n) College Expulsion - Permanent separation of the student from the College. Notification of this expulsion will be made to appropriate offices.
2. More than one of the sanctions listed above may be imposed for any single violation.
  3. The following sanctions may be imposed upon organizations, groups, or teams:
    - a) Deactivation - Loss of classification as a student organization, group, or team. Restrictions will be set about when the organization/group/team may reapply for active status.
    - b) Funding – Loss of or a freeze on all funding from the College and/or all rights to fundraise.
    - c) Any sanctions listed in the Sanctions list above.

#### H. Judicial Holds

The Judicial Coordinator may place a judicial hold on a student's account for the following reasons:

1. Failure on behalf of the accused student to respond to a judicial hearing notification.
2. Failure on behalf of the accused student to complete the sanction(s) as assigned by the deadline assigned.
3. Failure on behalf of any student to provide information necessary for an investigation.
4. Wanting to ensure that a thorough investigation is completed and sanctions are assigned, as needed, before an accused person can continue or return as a student.

If a judicial hold is placed on a student's account, the student will be notified by letter sent to the student's campus e-mail. Only the Judicial Coordinator may place judicial holds on accounts or remove holds, or may do so at the request of others associated with the judicial process, as warranted.

The Judicial Coordinator will use two different types of holds. Holds may prohibit students from registering for classes, adding or dropping classes, receiving an official transcript from the College, and graduating from Columbia College, along with other possible restrictions.

#### I. Appeals

1. A decision or sanction may be appealed by an accused student or organization/group/team to an Appellate Board within five (5) business days of notification of the decision. Such appeals shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the appropriate Judicial Coordinator, unless notified to submit the appeal to another judicial body in the decision letter.
2. Except as required to explain the basis of new evidence, an appeal shall be limited to review of the verbatim record of the initial hearing (if available) and supporting documents for one or more of the following purposes:
  - a. a procedural defect that would very likely impact the outcome;
  - b. newly acquired evidence that was not previously available; or



c. the sanction imposed was unduly harsh.

The Appellate Board may deny the appeal if it does not address one or more of the above or if it does not believe the appeal is meritorious.

3. If the Appellate Board upholds the appeal, the matter shall be sent back to the Judicial Coordinator or judicial body for a re-hearing if the basis of the Appellate Board's decision is for any of the reasons expressed above. If the Appellate Board determines the decision regarding the accused student was based on insufficient evidence, the judicial body's decision will be withdrawn, the charges will have not been proven and the matter will be at an end. If the Appellate Board determines that sanctions imposed were inappropriate, the matter will be sent back to the Judicial Coordinator or judicial body for reconsideration of the sanction(s) based upon the evidence adduced at the original hearing. Any subsequent appeal of a new hearing will be made to the Board of Trustees through the President of the College. Such appeals must conform to the provisions outlined in Section I, Appeals, numbers 1 and 2, located in this section, and be received within five (5) business days of the decision of the re-hearing judicial body. In such cases, the decision of the Board of Trustees through the President of the College shall be final and binding.
4. If the accused disagrees with the decision of the Appellate Board, the accused may appeal in writing to the Board of Trustees through the President of the College, within five (5) business days of the decision of the Appellate Board, delivering the appeal to the appropriate Judicial Coordinator unless notified to submit the appeal to another judicial body in the decision letter. The appeal must conform to section I, Appeals, numbers 1 and 2, located in this section. In such cases, the decision of the Board of Trustees through the President of the College shall be final and binding.
5. In cases involving appeals by a student accused of violating the Student Code of Conduct, review of the sanctions by the Appellate Board or the Board of Trustees through the President of the College may not result in more severe sanction(s) for the accused student.

#### SECTION 8: FERPA AND JUDICIAL RECORDS

Other than College expulsion and sanctions relating to sexual misconduct, judicial sanctions shall not be made a part of a student's permanent academic record, but shall become a part of the student's confidential judicial record. Confidential judicial records will be maintained by the Judicial Coordinator and may be shared on any request for student conduct related information issued to the College with the express permission of the student. If a student has withdrawn permanently from the College or is otherwise permanently disassociated from the institution, and wishes to have judicial actions that did not involve sexual misconduct or result in residence hall expulsion, college suspension, or college expulsion removed from the student's conduct record, the student may request, in writing, to the appropriate Judicial Coordinator that those judicial actions be expunged. The Judicial Coordinator has the sole discretion to grant or deny the request.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) does allow for the right of the College to contact the parent or legal guardian in cases of alcohol and drug misuse for students under the age of 21. If a student is found responsible for an alcohol or drug violation and is under the age of 21, the College may contact the parent or legal guardian of the student, in cases of sanctions resulting in suspension or expulsion from the residence halls and/or College and in any instance when there is a repeated violation of an alcohol or drug policy. The College also reserves the right

to contact the parent or legal guardian of a student in any other finding of responsibility for an alcohol or drug policy violation for a student under the age of 21.

## SECTION 9: STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### A Statement of Rights

All members of the Columbia College community have certain rights which include:

1. The right to organize one's personal life and behavior and to pursue individual activities, including freedom of movement, except when these interfere with the rights of others or violate established College, local, state, and federal laws and policies.
2. The right to freedom from personal force, violence, threats of personal abuse, and harassment, either as individuals or groups within the Columbia College community.
3. The right to be protected from arbitrary or unauthorized search or seizure.
4. The right of privacy of personal information in accordance with local, state, and federal laws.
5. The right to dissent; in other words, to carry on individual or organized activity which expresses grievances held against, or changes desired in society, the College, or both. This activity is carried on within the limits of the democratic process of freedom of speech, assembly, and petition.
6. No student shall be subjected to judicial procedures or found to be responsible of charges made under this Statement without adherence to the procedures outlined in this chapter.
7. The right of the accused to know the charges made against that student; the right to be heard and to state the accused student's version of the events; the right to question witnesses consistent with the appropriate management of the judicial hearing; the preservation of the rights of others to know the content of any other factual bases for the charge; and the right to have the matter resolved by an impartial person or body. In cases of interim suspension, an initial hearing will be conducted by the Judicial Coordinator to review the basis for the decision for the interim suspension.
8. The right of access to the College's judicial system.
9. The right to petition the College for resolution of complaints and to petition the College through the Columbia College Student Government Association for amendments of College procedures and modification of College policy.
10. The opportunity to receive a statement of College policies and procedures.
11. The right to an education including the reasonable and legal use of those services and facilities intended for students' education and development.
12. The right to a campus advisor during a judicial process if the student requests such assistance.

### A Statement of Responsibilities

Students at Columbia College, as individuals and in groups, have certain responsibilities which include:

1. The responsibility to observe all duly established College, local, state, and federal laws. Nothing in this Student Code of Conduct can affect in any way the jurisdiction of courts and other civil authorities over any Columbia College student. Membership in the Columbia College community does not mean a privileged or immune status from the law. However, because a

student is or has been involved in criminal proceedings is not necessarily sufficient cause for a College judicial hearing.

2. The responsibility to attend all judicial meetings when issued notice to do so. Failure of the accused to appear at a scheduled judicial board meeting without giving notice will result in the hearing taking place without the accused being present.
3. The responsibility to refrain from the use of force against a person or group, the forcible interference with another person's freedom of movement, or personal abuse of another person.
4. The responsibility to preserve the right of privacy of other individuals and groups and to respect the right of property of individuals, groups, the neighboring community, and the College itself.
5. The responsibility to respect the confidentiality of personal information about members of the Columbia College community.
6. The responsibility to refrain from actions which deny other members of the community their rights as described.

The responsibility to participate actively in training and educational opportunities tied to campus leadership roles and/or paid positions.

## **Other Policies and Procedures**

### **Complaint Process**

Concerns about Columbia College policies, procedures, or practices should be discussed with the appropriate faculty or staff member in person prior to a formal written complaint. Concerns about academic issues should be reviewed with the faculty member involved, the division head or area director, then the Provost, in that order. Concerns about administrative issues should be reviewed with the area director, then the Vice President for Finance. Concerns about student life should be reviewed with the area director, then the Dean of Students. Concerns about admissions or financial aid issues should be raised with the appropriate director and then with the Vice President for Enrollment Management.

If the problem cannot be resolved in person, written complaints should be sent to the Provost, the Vice President for Enrollment Management, or the Vice President for Finance as appropriate. The Provost will address both academic and student life complaints. The resolution of written complaints will be communicated to the complainant in a timely manner. If the complaint is impossible to address quickly, the Provost or Vice President will keep the complainant informed as to the progress of the resolution.

### **Computer Use Policy**

Since student, faculty, and staff access to campus technology resources has become a routine expectation, Columbia College has formulated a policy on the acceptable use of information technology resources. The basis of the policy is simple ethical and legal standards surrounding information technology. This expectation is grounded in the College's Honor Code and in the long-standing

principles of integrity, truth, and intellectual freedom so crucial to the success of an academic community.

A copy of the College's Computer Use Policy is available to all students under the Information Technology Policy link. Each student is encouraged to read this document carefully and to comply with all computer usage policies.

## **Smoking Policy**

The College desires to provide a healthy environment for all students, employees, and visitors to the campus. Effective June 6, 2011, smoking on the Columbia College campus became limited to the following: Inside of a vehicle located in Parking lots A through H (see campus map). In addition, a space behind Cottingham Theatre has been designated for students to use as an alternative to smoking on the streets around campus.

All smokers are expected to use caution when smoking inside a vehicle located on campus grounds due to the fire hazard involved and to properly dispose of all cigarette butts and other trash. Electronic cigarettes are also subject to the smoking policy. Other tobacco products are also prohibited outside of the assigned areas for smoking (i.e. chewing tobacco). All smoking devices (i.e. pipes and hookahs) are strictly prohibited on campus. Persons found to be violating the College's smoking and tobacco policy can be cited by the Columbia College Police Department (citations range from \$5 - \$25). Repeat violations involving students will be handled by the Judicial Board. This policy applies to all Columbia College students, faculty, staff and other persons on the campus (i.e. guests, visitors, contractors, and vendors). It is the responsibility of all members of the Columbia College community to uphold the College's smoking policy.

## **Confidentiality of Student Records**

Policies regarding the confidentiality of student records are in compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, commonly referred to as either FERPA or the Buckley Amendment.

Columbia College is restricted in the release of certain student records without the written permission of the student. However, the College is authorized to release certain items of directory information without the student's consent. Directory information includes a student's name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, participation in extracurricular activities, dates of attendance, major field of study, academic honors, and degree awarded. A student may request in writing to the Office of the Registrar that directory information not be released. This request must be submitted **each term** at the time of registration.

A student has the right to review information contained in her/his educational records. A written request for such review should be submitted to the Office of the Registrar. Appropriate personal identification must be presented at the time of the request.

## **Relationships between Students and Faculty/Staff**

Amorous relationships between faculty/staff members and students are strictly prohibited except in the case of relationships that pre-date a student's enrollment at the college. Both parties are responsible for reporting this type of relationship to either the Provost or the Director of Human Resources. If necessary, arrangements will be made to mitigate a conflict that may prove detrimental to the college. Violation of this policy may result in discipline.

## **Sexual Misconduct Policy & Procedures**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Columbia College is a learning environment fostering common standards of conduct and a commitment to its institutional mission. Sexual Misconduct, including Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment, Sexual Assault, Relationship Violence, and Sexual Exploitation is prohibited by Title IX. In addition to being a violation of federal and state law, Sexual Misconduct interferes with the mission of Columbia College by endangering the physical, mental, and emotional safety of community members, disrupting the academic progress of survivors as they recover, and flagrantly violating the community of trust. The Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students who comprise the Columbia College community will not tolerate Sexual Misconduct. Columbia College prohibits all forms of Sexual Misconduct, including but not limited to Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment, Sexual Assault, Stalking and Relationship Violence, whether perpetrated by a stranger or acquaintance, whether occurring on or off campus, and whether directed against a member of the Columbia College community or someone outside the Columbia College community ("Prohibited Conduct").

College students are especially vulnerable to Sexual Misconduct. Unfortunately, acts of Sexual Misconduct are vastly underreported. Sexual Misconduct can occur in any relationship regardless of gender. Survivors can suffer profound and long-lasting changes in their lives that affect them socially, academically, and developmentally, including post-traumatic stress disorder, abuse of alcohol and drugs, and contemplated suicide.<sup>1</sup> Quick access to services can reduce the long-term impact of sexual trauma. If you are a survivor of Sexual Misconduct, no matter when the Sexual Misconduct occurred, please reach out to the resources provided at Columbia College or the additional resources noted in this policy so you can get the support you deserve.

All members of the Columbia College community play a role in building a safe and just educational environment by:

- Modeling healthy and respectful behavior in personal and professional relationships;
- Increasing personal awareness of what constitutes Sexual Misconduct;
- Speaking out against behavior that encourages Sexual Misconduct or discourages reporting;

- Developing the necessary skills to be an effective and supportive ally to survivors of Sexual Misconduct;
- Intervening in situations that can lead to Sexual Misconduct and related misbehavior; and
- Interrupting an incident of Sexual Misconduct if it is safe to do so.

If you or someone you know has experienced Sexual Misconduct, you are not alone. Anyone can be a victim of Sexual Misconduct.

- 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the U.S. (12 million women and men in one year).<sup>2</sup>
- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner.<sup>2</sup>
- 3 in 10 women and more than 1 in 4 men in the U.S. have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime.<sup>2</sup>
- In 78% of assaults, the perpetrator is someone that the victim knows (relative, partner, or acquaintance/friend).<sup>3</sup>
- 80% of female rape victims are under the age of 25.<sup>3</sup>

## II. WHAT TO DO

### A. If you have been assaulted:

- i. Exit the situation and seek safety. If needed, call the police to assist by dialing the Columbia College Police Department (CCPD) at 803-786-3333 or dialing 911.
- ii. Seek prompt medical attention, preferably at Palmetto Richland Hospital or the closest hospital to you if you are outside of the Columbia area. It is essential that survivors of sexual assault receive medical treatment and support as soon as possible. The sooner a sexual assault is reported, the easier it is to collect valuable evidence, regardless of desire to use the evidence to pursue any type of legal or judicial action. There will be no charge for the evidence collection process. The survivor will be met by a confidential advocate.
- iii. Evidence collection is most effective within 72 hours. To facilitate evidence collection, the survivor:
  1. Should not bathe or douche;
  2. Should not urinate;
  3. Should not drink any liquids;
  4. If oral contact has occurred, the victim should not smoke, eat or brush teeth, and;
  5. The survivor should not change clothes. If clothes have been changed, soiled clothes should be placed in a paper bag (plastic destroys crucial evidence), separating items to prevent contamination.

**B. If you have been harassed:**

- i.** Exit the situation and seek safety. If needed, call the police to assist by dialing the Columbia College Police Department (CCPD) at 803-786-3333 or by dialing 911.
- ii.** If you are able, clearly explain to the person causing the harassment that you are uncomfortable with his or her behavior and request that the conduct cease immediately.

**III. TO WHOM THIS POLICY APPLIES**

This policy applies to students who are registered or enrolled for credit – or non-credit – bearing coursework (“Students”); Columbia College employees, consisting of full-time and part-time faculty, and College staff (“Employees”); the Board of Trustees; and contractors, vendors, visitors, guests or other third parties within Columbia College’s control (“Third Parties”). This policy pertains to acts of Prohibited Conduct committed by or against Students, Employees; the Board of Trustees and Third Parties.

**IV. APPLICABLE PROCEDURES UNDER THIS POLICY**

The procedures referenced below provide for prompt and equitable response to reports of Prohibited Conduct. The procedures designate specific timeframes for major stages of the process and provide for thorough and impartial investigations that afford all parties notice and an opportunity to present witnesses and evidence and to view the information that will be used in determining whether a policy violation has occurred. Columbia College applies the Preponderance of the Evidence standard when determining whether this policy has been violated. “Preponderance of the Evidence” means that it is more likely than not that a policy violation occurred. Complainant means the individual who is reporting they were a victim of Prohibited Conduct. Respondent means the individual who allegedly committed the Prohibited Conduct.

A Student or Employee determined by Columbia College to have committed an act of Prohibited Conduct is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including separation from the College. Trustees determined to have committed an act of Prohibited Conduct are subject to removal from the Board of Trustees. Third Parties who commit Prohibited Conduct may have their relationship with the College terminated and/or their privilege of being on College premises withdrawn.

**A. WHERE THE RESPONDENT IS A STUDENT, EMPLOYEE OR TRUSTEE**

The Procedures for reports of Prohibited Conduct committed by Students, Employees or Trustees follow this document in both the Student and Employee Handbooks.

## **B. PROCEDURES FOR REPORTS OF PROHIBITED CONDUCT COMMITTED BY THIRD PARTIES**

Columbia College's ability to take appropriate corrective action against a Third Party will be determined by the nature of the relationship of the Third Party to the College. The Title IX Coordinator will determine the appropriate manner of resolution consistent with the College's commitment to a prompt and equitable process consistent with federal law, federal guidance, and this policy.

## **V. PREVENTION EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND NOTIFICATION**

The core of Columbia College's response to Sexual Misconduct is through proactive education and training, with emphasis on prevention. Our response is designed to collect and disseminate information about Sexual Misconduct, promote open discussion, encourage reporting, and provide information and training about prevention to faculty, staff, and students. The College will:

1. Provide prevention programs on topics related to Sexual Misconduct;
2. Provide information to all students regarding our Sexual Misconduct Policy and reporting requirements twice a year;
3. Train all College employees on Sexual Misconduct and reporting;
4. Train student staff, such as resident assistants, orientation leaders, and student success leaders on their role as responsible employees of the College regarding Sexual Misconduct;
5. Discuss the topic of Sexual Misconduct and the College's expectations for an environment free of Sexual Misconduct during first year fall orientation; and
6. Distribute Sexual Misconduct awareness materials and flyers with information about where to go for help in several high-traffic areas twice a semester.

## **V. PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

Columbia College prohibits all forms of Sexual Misconduct, including but not limited to, Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment, Sexual Assault, Stalking and Relationship Violence, whether perpetrated by a stranger or acquaintance, whether occurring on or off campus, and whether directed against a member of the Columbia College community or someone outside the Columbia College community. Such conduct by a Columbia College Student, Employee, Trustee or Third Party is a violation of Columbia College policy, and in certain cases, may also be a criminal violation.

Columbia College does not limit its ability to respond to inappropriate sexual conduct and forms of Sexual Misconduct that may not be specifically described in this policy or that does not constitute criminal conduct. None of the definitions below may be read to inhibit Columbia College's ability to



address any incident or conduct that it reasonably deems to constitute Sexual Misconduct or that creates a discriminatory environment.

## **A. DEFINITIONS**

- 1. SEXUAL MISCONDUCT** is a broad term that encompasses a range of behaviors including all forms of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, as well as other forms of misconduct or violence of a sexual nature, including, without limitation, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation. Sexual Misconduct can occur between individuals who know each other, have an established relationship, have previously engaged in consensual sexual activity, or between individuals who do not know each other. Sexual Misconduct can be committed by persons of any gender identity, and it can occur between people of the same or different sex.
- 2. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT** is unwanted or offensive sexual behavior that has the purpose or effect of creating a hostile or stressful living, learning, or working environment, or whenever toleration of such conduct or rejection of it is the basis for a personnel or academic decision affecting an individual. Examples of behavior that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, sexual advances, any form of retaliation or threat of retaliation against an individual who rejects such advances, sexual epithets, jokes or comments, comments or inquiries about an individual's body or sexual experiences, unwelcome leering, whistling, brushing against the body, sexual gestures, or displaying sexually suggestive images.

Sexual harassment includes any conduct or incident that is sufficiently serious that it is likely to limit or deny a student's ability to participate in or benefit from Columbia College's educational programs, which may include a single incident of sexual assault or other serious Sexual Misconduct.

- 3. SEXUAL ASSAULT** is any sexual penetration or sexual contact with another individual without consent.
- 4. CONSENT** is defined as words or actions that clearly indicate voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity. Consent is always freely informed and actively given. Silence or lack of resistance does not imply consent. Consent must be ongoing, and it may be withdrawn at any time. Consent for one sexual act does not imply consent for any subsequent sexual activity. Consent may never be obtained through use of coercion, intimidation, force, or threats.

Consent cannot be obtained from an individual who is incapable of giving consent because the person:

1. Has a mental, intellectual, or physical disability; or
  2. Is under the legal age to give consent (In South Carolina the legal age of statutory consent is 16. However, individuals as young as 14 years old are able to consent to have sex with a partner who is 18 years old or younger.); or
  3. Is asleep, “blacked out,” unconscious, or physically helpless; or
  4. Is incapacitated, including through the consumption of alcohol or drugs.
5. **INCAPACITATION** is the inability to make informed, rational judgments and decisions. If alcohol or drugs are involved, incapacitation may be measured by evaluating how the substance affects a person’s decision-making capacity, awareness, and ability to make informed judgments. The impact of alcohol and drugs varies from person to person; however, warning signs of possible incapacitation include slurred speech, unsteady gait, impaired coordination, inability to perform personal tasks such as undressing, inability to maintain eye contact, vomiting, and emotional volatility.
6. **COERCION** is to force a person to act based on fear of harm to self or others. Means of coercion may include, but are not limited to, pressure, threats, emotional intimidation, or the use of physical force.
7. **SEXUAL CONTACT** includes intentional contact with the intimate parts of another person, causing another person to touch one’s intimate parts, or disrobing or exposure of another person without permission. Intimate parts may include the breasts, genitals, buttocks, groin, mouth, or any other part of the body that is touched in a sexual manner. Sexual contact also includes attempted sexual intercourse.
8. **SEXUAL PENETRATION** includes vaginal or anal penetration, however slight, with a body part (e.g., penis, tongue, finger, hand, etc.) or object, or oral penetration involving mouth to genital contact.
9. **SEXUAL EXPLOITATION** means taking sexual advantage of another person and includes, without limitation: indecent exposure; causing or attempting to cause the incapacitation of another person in order to gain a sexual advantage over him or her; causing the prostitution of another person; recording, photographing, or transmitting images of private sexual activity and/or the intimate parts of another person without consent; observing or allowing third parties to observe private sexual acts or otherwise violating a person’s sexual privacy without consent; and knowingly or recklessly exposing another person to a significant risk of sexually transmitted infection.
10. **RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE** (also known as *Dating Violence* or *Domestic Violence*) is a pattern of abusive behavior that is used by an intimate partner to gain or maintain power and control over the other partner. Relationship violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another

person. Relationship violence is violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim, where the existence of such a relationship is determined based on the following factors: the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

- 11. STALKING** is engaging in a course of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress. Generally, stalking involves a course of conduct which is defined as two or more acts including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, 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. Examples include but are not limited to: following a person; appearing at a person's home, class or work; making frequent phone calls, emails, text messages, etc.; continuing to contact a person after receiving requests not to; leaving written messages, objects or unwanted gifts; vandalizing a person's property; and threatening, intimidating or intrusive behavior.

## **B. RETALIATION**

It is a violation of this policy to engage in any form of retaliation or intimidation in connection with complaints of sexual harassment, misconduct, or assault. Any Student, Employee, Trustee or Third Party engaging in any such retaliation or intimidation may be found responsible for a conduct violation. Any such acts of retaliation or intimidation should be promptly reported to the Title IX Coordinator. This policy and related processes may also apply to any allegation that a Student, Employee, Trustee or Third Party has attempted to prevent an individual from reporting Prohibited Conduct or has engaged in any acts of intimidation or reprisal with respect to any reported Prohibited Conduct.

## VI. CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES & FOLLOW-UP AND RECOVERY SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS

Follow-up support and counseling is of significant benefit to a survivor of Sexual Misconduct. The counseling may begin at any time after an incident, from hours to years. On campus and off campus counseling and other services are available to a survivor, whether or not the crime is reported or prosecuted.

### Confidential On-Campus Resources

If you would like to talk with someone at the College confidentially about an assault or harassment, please see one of our three confidential employees. **Information shared to other College employees outside of the three individuals listed below will have to be reported to the College's Title IX Coordinator.**

Tammy Ritchie, Victim Advocate: 803-786-3379 (office) or 803-461-5542 (24-hour cell)

Mimi Meriwether, Director of Counseling Services: 803-786-3603

Rev. Roy Mitchell, Chaplain: 803-786-3177

### Off-Campus Resources

Police: 911

Palmetto Health Richland Hospital Emergency Room: 803-434-7000  
*A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) is available at this location.*

Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands: 803-771-7273 (24 hour hotline)  
*Free and confidential off-campus counseling*

## VII. AMNESTY CONSIDERATION

If a survivor of a crime is suspected of having used alcohol and/or drugs, amnesty will be extended to the survivor and any person(s) seeking assistance on behalf of the survivor. Amnesty means a person will be exempt from sanctioning through the Student Conduct process regarding the College's alcohol and drug policies. Prosecution of individuals under federal, state, or local laws would be at the discretion of appropriate officials of the applicable jurisdiction.

## VIII. CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

If the incident occurred on campus and you wish to pursue criminal charges, please contact the **Columbia College Police Department (CCPD) at 803-786-3333**. If the incident occurred off-campus, CCPD can assist you with contacting the proper authorities. Because Prohibited Conduct may constitute both a violation of College policy and criminal activity, the College encourages students to report

alleged Sexual Misconduct promptly to local law enforcement agencies. Criminal investigations may be useful in gathering relevant evidence, particularly forensic evidence. For purposes of this policy, criminal investigations or reports are not determinative of whether Sexual Misconduct has occurred. In other words, conduct may constitute Sexual Misconduct under this policy even if law enforcement agencies lack sufficient evidence of a crime and therefore decline to prosecute.

The filing of a complaint of Prohibited Conduct under this policy is independent of any criminal investigation or proceeding, and (except that the College's investigation may be delayed temporarily while the criminal investigators are gathering evidence) the College will not wait for the conclusion of any criminal investigation or proceedings to commence its own investigation and take interim measures to protect the Complainant and the College community, if necessary.

Disclosure of Sexual Misconduct by or about a Complainant who is under the age of 18 must be reported to the Richland County Department of Social Services at (803) 714-7300.

## **IX. OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE TRUTHFUL INFORMATION**

All Columbia College community members are expected to provide truthful information in any report or proceeding under this policy. Submitting or providing false or misleading information in bad faith or with a view to personal gain or intentional harm to another in connection with an incident of Prohibited Conduct is prohibited and subject to disciplinary sanctions under the Columbia College Honor Code, the disciplinary action under the applicable Employee disciplinary policy, or the Board of Trustees bylaws. This provision does not apply to reports made or information provided in good faith, even if the facts alleged in the report are not later substantiated.

# **PROCEDURES FOR REPORTS OF PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

These are the procedures Columbia College follows when it receives a report alleging Prohibited Conduct. The College uses these procedures to investigate and adjudicate

any such allegation and to impose disciplinary sanctions against Students, Employees or Trustees found responsible for violating the Sexual Misconduct Policy (“Policy”).

## II. REPORTING THE INCIDENT TO COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Columbia College urges anyone who becomes aware of an incident of Prohibited Conduct involving a Student, Employee or Trustee to immediately report the incident to the College Title IX Coordinator.

**Title IX Coordinator:**

**Name:** Dr. Robin Rosenthal

**Office Location:** Wil Lou Gray, Room 103

**Telephone Number:** 803-786-3142 (during business hours) and 803-402-6650 (in the evenings and on the weekend)

There is no time limit to notify the College of an incident of Prohibited Conduct; however, Complainants (an individual who is reporting they were a victim of Prohibited Conduct) are encouraged to report allegations of Prohibited Conduct immediately in order to maximize the College’s ability to obtain evidence and conduct a thorough, impartial, and reliable investigation. The College only has jurisdiction over enrolled students and current faculty or staff members. A delay in filing a complaint may compromise the subsequent investigation, particularly if neither the Complainant nor the Respondent (the individual who allegedly committed Prohibited Conduct) is enrolled as a student or employed by the College at the time the complaint is filed.

All cases of reported Prohibited Conduct are held in confidence to the extent possible subject to the College’s need to properly investigate allegations of Prohibited Conduct. Reporting Prohibited Conduct does not in any way obligate an individual to pursue legal or institutional disciplinary action; however, Columbia College has the right to pursue disciplinary action at its discretion when there could be a threat to the campus community. If the survivor chooses to report and pursue criminal charges against an alleged assailant, Columbia College will support and comply with the criminal justice process.

According to the Clery Act, there may be instances when a timely warning must be issued to the entire campus. Also, the College must submit an annual Crime and Fire Safety report with data regarding the number of sexual assault or harassment incidents that have occurred on our campus. A survivor’s name will not be disclosed by Columbia College in either of these incidents.

### **III. INTAKE MEETING WITH TITLE IX COORDINATOR**

The Title IX Coordinator is appointed by the President of the College to ensure the school is compliant with Title IX, coordinate the investigation and disciplinary process, and look for patterns of systematic problems with compliance to ensure the College fulfills all federal obligations. Upon receipt of notice of any allegation of Prohibited Conduct, the Title IX Coordinator will schedule an individual intake meeting with the Complainant in order to provide the Complainant with a general understanding of the College's Sexual Misconduct Policy and to identify forms of support or immediate interventions available to the Complainant. The intake meeting may also involve a discussion of any immediate accommodations that may be appropriate concerning the Complainant's academic, College housing, and/or College employment arrangements. Below are interim measures that may be taken:

- A No Contact Order;
- Academic scheduling or class modifications;
- A change or modification to residence hall;
- On-campus employment change or work schedule modifications;
- Assistance with extra-curriculars, organizations, activities, etc.;
- Police escort to vehicle;
- A thorough, impartial, and timely investigation; and
- Other accommodations as needed.

### **IV. RESOLUTION**

#### **A. COMPLAINANT WISHES TO PURSUE A RESOLUTION**

When a Complainant wishes to pursue a resolution, the Title IX Coordinator will determine the name of the Respondent and the date, location and nature of the alleged Prohibited Conduct, and will schedule an individual intake meeting with the Respondent in order to provide the Respondent with a general understanding of the Sexual Misconduct Policy and to identify forms of support and/or immediate interventions. The Title IX Coordinator will also forward a formal complaint to the assigned Title IX Investigator(s), which will include the name of the Complainant and Respondent and the date, location and nature of the alleged Prohibited Conduct. Both the Complainant and the Respondent may inform the Title IX Coordinator of potential conflicts of interest with the assigned investigators or hearing board members.

#### **B. COMPLAINANT DOES NOT WISH TO PURSUE RESOLUTION OR REQUESTS CONFIDENTIALITY**

If a Complainant is reluctant to participate in the investigative process, the College will make every attempt to follow the wishes of the Complainant, while weighing the interests of the campus community and the possibility of a continuing threat. If the Complainant does not want to participate in the investigative process, but has no aversion to the College pursuing a resolution with respect to the named Respondent, the College will proceed with the investigation to the extent possible. If the Complainant does not want the College to pursue the report in any respect, the College may investigate further if there is reason to believe that a significant

continuing threat to the campus community exists. The following factors will guide the College in its decision to proceed with an investigation:

- (1) The seriousness of the alleged conduct;
- (2) The Complainant's age;
- (3) Whether there have been other conduct complaints about the same individual; and
- (4) The Respondent's right to receive information about the allegations if the information is maintained by the school as an "education record" under FERPA.

Disclosure of Sexual Misconduct by or about a Complainant who is under the age of 18 must be reported to the Richland County Department of Social Services at (803) 714-7300.

### **C. ANONYMOUS OR THIRD PARTY REPORTING OF PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

If a report is made anonymously or by a third party (e.g. not the Complainant or Respondent), the Title IX Coordinator will inquire, gather, and review information about the reported Prohibited Conduct and will evaluate the accuracy, credibility, and sufficiency of the information. Anonymous reporters should provide as much information as possible. Incidents reported by anonymous or third parties will not be forwarded to an Investigator unless there is reasonable cause to believe the Policy has been violated. Reasonable cause is defined as some credible information to support each element of the offense, even if that information is merely a credible witness or Complainant statement.

When an initial report of Prohibited Conduct is reported anonymously or by a third party and the identity of the victim is not available, the Investigator will investigate the reported incident to the fullest extent of the information available. Unsupported allegations that lack reasonable cause will not be forwarded to the Title IX Hearing Board.

### **D. INVESTIGATION**

After the Complainant and Respondent meet with the Title IX Coordinator, the Title IX Investigator(s) (Columbia College faculty or staff members) will conduct a thorough, reliable, and impartial investigation of the reported incident. The investigation includes interviewing the Complainant and Respondent, interviewing witnesses, collecting evidence, and creating timelines. The Investigator(s) shall draft a comprehensive report that includes witness statements, electronic or other records of communications between the parties or witnesses (via voice-mail, text message, email and social media sites), photographs (including those stored on computers and smartphones), and medical records (subject to the consent of the applicable party).

If the Complainant or Respondent believes there is a conflict of interest with one of the Investigators, they must notify the Title IX Coordinator. An investigation should begin within one week of receipt of the initial report.



At the conclusion of the investigation, the matter will be referred to the Title IX Hearing Board. A hold may be placed on the Student Respondent's account that would prevent the Respondent from receiving her transcript until a decision has been rendered from the Title IX Hearing Board. The Complainant and Respondent will be given a copy of the Investigator's report.

The Title IX investigation and hearing should be completed in a timely manner. Every effort will be made to complete the investigation and hearing within 60 days while balancing the interest of fairness to all parties.

## **E. IF RESPONDENT ADMITS RESPONSIBILITY**

In the event the Respondent admits responsibility of a violation under the Policy, appropriate Board will decide the sanction (see subsection IV(K)).

## **F. PRE-HEARING PROCEDURES**

- a. NOTICE LETTER:** The Title IX Coordinator shall present all charges in writing to the Complainant and Respondent and promptly schedule a hearing after the Complainant and Respondent have been notified of the charges. Maximum time limits for scheduling of hearings may be extended at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator. The Complainant and Respondent will be called and asked to come to the Title IX Coordinator's Office to sign and pick up the Notice Letter. The Notice Letter will include the names of the Title IX Hearing Board members assigned to their case. If the Complainant or Respondent believes there is a conflict of interest with any of the Hearing Board Members, they must notify the Title IX Coordinator.
- b. ATTENDANCE AT HEARING:** If the Respondent and/or Complainant fail(s) to appear for a hearing and the Title IX Coordinator has, in good faith, exhausted all reasonable efforts to notify the Respondent and/or Complainant, the Title IX Hearing Board shall conduct a hearing in the Respondent's and/or Complainant's absence on the basis of the information made available during the course of the investigation. Parties are responsible for organizing the attendance of their witnesses. The College will allow release time from work and/or class for appearance at the hearing.
- c. TITLE IX HEARING BOARD CHAIR:** The Title IX Hearing Board Chair ("Chairperson") is a non-voting member of the Title IX Hearing Board. The Chairperson is responsible for resolving all procedural issues and maintaining the fairness of the hearing by ensuring that the Hearing Board receives all relevant evidence necessary to make its determination. The Chairperson is also responsible for drafting the Outcome Letter (discussed further in subsection IV(I)) at the conclusion of the hearing.
- d. PRE-HEARING SUBMISSIONS:** Prior to the Hearing, the parties will provide the Chairperson with a list of witnesses they propose to call, copies of documents and a description of any other information they propose to present at the hearing on or before a date set by the Chairperson.

**e. PRE-HEARING MEETING:** The Chairperson will schedule a prehearing meeting prior to the hearing date. At the meeting, the Chairperson will review hearing procedures with the parties, separately or jointly, at the discretion of the Chairperson. The Chairperson will also review the complaint of alleged Prohibited Conduct and review the parties' respective lists of proposed witnesses to assist them in eliminating redundant information. Thereafter, the Investigator's report will be provided to the Hearing Board in advance of the hearing.

**f. TITLE IX HEARING BOARD:** The Title IX Hearing Board is responsible for:

- i. Hearing all evidence presented;
- ii. Making a determination of whether a violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy has occurred;
- iii. If a violation is determined to have been committed by a Student Respondent, imposing a sanction; and
- iv. Communicating its findings in writing to the Complainant and Respondent via an Outcome Letter.

## **G. TITLE IX HEARING PROCEDURES**

- a.** Hearings shall be conducted by the Title IX Hearing Board according to the following guidelines:
- b.** All hearings will be conducted in a manner that is fair to all parties.
- c.** The Respondent is presumed not in violation of the Policy until a violation is determined by the Title IX Hearing Board.
- d.** Hearings shall be conducted in private, and arrangements can be made so the Complainant and Respondent are not in the hearing room at the same time.
- e.** Cases involving more than one Respondent will be conducted at the same time. Cases involving more than one Complainant may be consolidated into one hearing at the discretion of the Chairperson. The decision to consolidate will be governed by the relevancy of the evidence and the fairness to both parties.
- f.** The Complainant and the Respondent both have the right to be assisted by an advisor of their choosing, who does not appear as a witness during the hearing. Both parties are responsible for presenting her own case; therefore, advisors are not permitted to speak or to participate directly in any part of the hearing. In answering a question, the Complainant or Respondent may seek assistance from the advisor. Advisors may be asked to leave the hearing room if they are disruptive or cause an unreasonable delay in the conduct of the hearing.
- g.** Admission to the hearing of any person(s) other than the Respondent or Complainant, along with their respective advisor, shall be at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- h.** All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the Chairperson. The Chairperson may consult with the Title IX Coordinator on procedural issues as the Chairperson deems necessary.
- i.** All evidence presented at the hearing, whether through live testimony or writings and exhibits, must be relevant. The Chairperson has the discretion to decide what evidence is admitted and excluded. Evidence of either party's prior sexual history will not be permitted at the hearing unless it is relevant to the complaint. Evidence of consent on a prior occasion is not evidence of consent in a subsequent occasion.
- j.** The Complainant, the Respondent, and the Chairperson shall have the privilege of calling and questioning witnesses, including those presented by the opposing party. Efforts should be made not to call witnesses who present redundant testimony.

- k.** The parties will be given an equal opportunity to present relevant witnesses and other evidence. This includes the following:
- a. The privilege to remain silent;
  - b. The privilege to present relevant witnesses of fact and information on her/his behalf;
  - c. The privilege to be informed that any oral or written statements they may make pertaining to the alleged violation may be presented in any subsequent proceedings;
  - d. The privilege to prepare a written statement concerning the alleged violation(s);
  - e. The opportunity to review all evidence, statements, and the investigative report;
  - f. The privilege to question the other party, witnesses and the Title IX Investigators through the Chairperson; and
  - g. The privilege to appeal a decision by the Title IX Hearing Board (See Item H: Appeals).

**H. DELIBERATIONS:** After the hearing, the Title IX Hearing Board shall convene outside the presence of everyone else and determine by a unanimous vote whether the Respondent has violated the Policy, which he or she has been charged in writing with violating.

**I. STANDARD OF PROOF:** The Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights has interpreted Title IX to require schools to evaluate evidence of alleged Prohibited Conduct under a “preponderance of the evidence” standard and that is the standard adopted by this Policy. A preponderance of the evidence means that the information shows that it is “more likely than not” that the Respondent violated this Policy. In the context of a hearing hereunder, the Respondent will be found to be responsible for the alleged Prohibited Conduct if the Panel, by a unanimous vote, concludes that such Prohibited Conduct more likely than not occurred based upon careful review of all information presented.

**J. RECORD OF HEARING:** There shall be a single verbatim record, such as an audio recording, of all hearings before the Title IX Hearing Board. The record shall be the property of the College. Parties are not permitted to make their own recordings.

## **K. SANCTIONS**

### **a. WHERE THE RESPONDENT IS A STUDENT**

Prior to considering sanction, both parties will have an opportunity to address the hearing panel, via either a victim impact statement or a mitigation statement. The Title IX Hearing Board is required to consider suspending or expelling any person found responsible for violating the Sexual Misconduct Policy and removing them from the residence hall if the student lives on campus. Such suspension/expulsion sanctions will be reflected on the student’s transcript as “disciplinary suspension” or “disciplinary expulsion.” However, the Title IX Hearing Board

may impose any other sanction(s) that it finds to be fair and proportionate to the violation(s) and the attending circumstances. Matters that may be considered when deciding on the appropriate sanction include:

1. The record of past violations of any College policy, as well as the nature and severity of such past violations;
2. The acknowledgment of wrongdoing by and the commitment of the Respondent to conform her/his conduct to acceptable standards in the future;
3. If the Respondent poses a continuing risk to the Complainant and/or College community;
4. The impact on the Complainant;
5. The impact on the College community; and
6. The severity or pervasiveness of the violation.

Sanctions imposed by the Title IX Hearing Board are not final until the resolution of any timely appeal of the decision. If advisable to protect the welfare of the Complainant or the College community, the Title IX Hearing Board may determine that any probation, suspension, or expulsion be temporarily enforced and continue in effect until such time as the appeal process ends or the time for appeal expires.

#### **b. WHERE THE RESPONDENT IS AN EMPLOYEE**

The Employee Grievance Board will determine the sanction when an Employee is found to be in violation of this Policy. The Chairperson shall forward the Outcome Letter (discussed in subsection H) to the Grievance Board within three days of the conclusion of the hearing. The Grievance Board shall convene a hearing within two days of receiving the Outcome Letter. Prior to considering sanction, both parties will have an opportunity to address the Grievance Board, via either a victim impact statement or a mitigation statement. In addition to the factors outlined in subsection IV(K)(1), the Grievance Board will be governed by Title VII and any applicable contractual provisions. The Grievance Board will then draft a written statement of sanctions imposed, which it will forward to the Complainant and Respondent.

#### **c. WHERE THE RESPONDENT IS A TRUSTEE**

The Board of Trustees will determine the sanction when a Trustee is found to be in violation of this Policy. The Chairperson shall forward the Outcome Letter (discussed in the following subsection) to the Board of Trustees within three days of the conclusion of the hearing. The Board of Trustees shall convene a hearing within two days of receiving the Outcome Letter. Prior to considering sanction, both parties will have an opportunity to address the Board of Trustees, via either a victim impact statement or a mitigation statement. In addition to the factors outlined in subsection IV(K)(1), the Board of Trustees will be governed by the Columbia College Bylaws. The Board will then draft a written statement of sanctions imposed, which it will forward to the Complainant and Respondent.

## **L. NOTIFICATION REGARDING TITLE IX HEARING BOARD DECISION**

The Complainant and Respondent (and the applicable Boards as referenced in subsection IV (G)) will be notified in writing of the outcome of the Title IX hearing via an Outcome Letter. The Outcome Letter will provide the Respondent's name; the violations of this Policy for which the Respondent was found responsible, if any; any essential findings supporting the Panel's decision on the issue of responsibility; and in the case of a Student Respondent, the sanction imposed, if any.

The Respondent and Complainant will be asked to pick up and sign for the Outcome Letter from the Title IX Coordinator's Office. Information for the appeals process will be included in both parties' letter. The College will not require a party to abide by a nondisclosure agreement, in writing or otherwise, that would prevent the re-disclosure of information related to the outcome of the proceeding.

## **M. APPEALS**

1. A decision or sanction may be appealed by the Student Respondent or Student Complainant within five business days of the date of the Outcome Letter. Such appeals shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the Title IX Coordinator, who will forward the appeal to the President for consideration. The President may refer the appeal to the Board of Trustees of the College, as set forth in the Columbia College Bylaws.
2. An appeal shall be limited to review of the verbatim record of the initial hearing and supporting documents for one or more of the following purposes:
  - a. A procedural defect that would very likely impact the outcome;
  - b. Newly acquired evidence that was not previously available; and
  - c. The sanction imposed was unduly harsh.

## **V. FERPA AND TITLE IX**

According to the Department of Education's 2001 Guidance, FERPA (The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) permits a school to disclose to the Complainant student information about the sanction imposed upon the Respondent(s) who were found to have engaged in Prohibited Conduct when the sanction directly relates to the Complainant. This includes an order that the Respondent stay away from the Complainant or that the Respondent is prohibited from attending school for a period of time or transferred to other classes or another residence hall.

### **Sexual Misconduct Policy & Procedures End Notes**

1. Dear Colleague Letter: Sexual Violence Background, Summary, and Fast Facts, April 4, 2011.

2. National Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence Survey, 2010.

3. U.S. Department of Justice. National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005-2010.

## **Student Services**

### **Graduate Student Advisory Council**

Approved by the Graduate Council during the spring of 2000, the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) is the representative body of the Graduate Student Association. A formal set of Bylaws is on file in the Office of the Provost; however, the purpose of the GSAC is as follows:

- to participate in any decision-making that affects graduate students;
- to facilitate communication among graduate students, college administrators, faculty, program directors, and staff;
- to foster communication among graduate students in all graduate programs;
- to participate in developing and monitoring a long-range plan for the Graduate School and each graduate program;
- to enhance professional development in networking within fields of practice; and
- to encourage and mentor publication.

This student organization gives a voice to Columbia College's graduate students and enhances the means for important student feedback to the Graduate School's administrators.

#### Emergency Phone Numbers (on campus)

Campus Police emergency line:	Extension 3333 (803.786.3333)
Campus Police non-emergency:	Extension 3343 (803.786.3343)
In case of medical emergency, dial	<b>9-911</b>
then notify Campus Police at	Extension 3333 (803-786-3333)

# INDEX

Academic Director .....	48	Grade Reports .....	24
Academic Grievance Procedure.....	25	Grading Policies.....	22
Academic Honors.....	25	Grading System.....	22
Academic Information .....	17	Honor Graduates .....	26
Academic Probation.....	23	Identification Cards.....	11
Academic Renewal .....	24	Incomplete.....	22
Academic Standing .....	23	Instructional Time .....	17
Accreditation.....	8	Insurance for Students.....	13
Admission Procedures .....	11	International Student Information.....	9
Alumnae Association .....	10	International Students .....	11
Application for Degree .....	27	Leadership Studies .....	37
Biology Courses.....	42	Leave of Absence.....	19
Board of Trustees .....	45	Liberal Arts Courses .....	38
Bookstore (C-Square Shop) .....	11	Library.....	9
Business Courses .....	34	Location of College.....	8
Chemistry Courses .....	42	Major Programs .....	28
Class Absence .....	24	Mathematics Courses .....	42
Classification of Students .....	18	Mission Statement.....	8
Communication Courses .....	35	Officers of the College.....	45
Computer and Information Science Courses ..	37	Philosophy Courses.....	38
Confidentiality of Student Records.....	25	Physical Science Courses.....	43
Course Descriptions .....	34	Physics Courses .....	44
Course Withdrawals.....	19	Political Science Courses .....	39
Credit Load .....	18	President's List .....	25
Credit Restriction.....	20	Psychology Courses .....	39
Dean's List.....	26	Public Health Courses.....	40
Degree Requirements.....	26	Readmission of Excluded Students.....	23
Division of Arts and Communication Studies	29	Readmission of Former Degree Students .....	12
Division of Behavioral Studies and Human		Refund Policy.....	13
Inquiry.....	30	Registration .....	18
Division of Business, Mathematics, and		Repeated Courses.....	23
Sciences.....	31	Semester Hour.....	17
Division of Education .....	33	Social Work Courses.....	40
Division of Languages and Literatures .....	33	Sociology Courses .....	41
Economics Courses .....	37	Student Handbook.....	49
English Courses .....	42	Students with Disabilities .....	10
Exclusion.....	23	Transcripts.....	25
Faculty.....	45	<b>Transfer Credit</b> .....	20
Financial Aid.....	14	<b>Transient Study</b> .....	20
Financial Information.....	12	Tuition.....	12
Grade Grievance .....	25	Writing Courses .....	41
Grade Point Average.....	23		