

If the grievance involves a question of judgment or opinion not covered by college policies, by the College Equity Plan, or the FAC Rules, the President or his designee shall counsel with the student, the faculty advisor, or the department or organizational unit head, and the appropriate principal administrator, in an endeavor to resolve the grievance.

**Formal Grievance Procedures.** If a grievance is not resolved by the informal procedure, the aggrieved student should submit a request, in writing, to the President of the college via the Dean of Students for a formal student grievance hearing. It shall set forth the nature of the grievance, the person(s) involved, and the resolution desired. It shall also include the nomination of one disinterested SGA Senator who is willing and available to serve as a member of the student grievance hearing committee.

If the request for a hearing is disapproved, the president shall state the reasons in writing. If approved, he shall appoint a student grievance hearing committee composed of the following members:

1. The SGA Senator named in the original request for the hearing or a substitute satisfactory to the grievant.
2. A college employee nominated by the Dean of Students.
3. An additional college employee who shall be nominated by mutual agreement of the other two members, who is a regular, full-time employee, and who, with the approval of the president, shall be designated chairperson. If the two members cannot agree on a nominee for chairperson, the chairperson will be appointed by the president.
4. The Dean of Students or his/her designee will serve as recording secretary to the committee but shall have no vote. If the grievance involves an equity issue, the College Equity Coordinator shall appoint a representative to serve as an advisor to the committee.

The committee shall, within seven (7) days of being constituted, meet to hear the grievance and interview such witnesses as it deems pertinent to the matter.

The committee shall report its findings and recommendations for resolution of the matter, in writing, to the president within four (4) working days of the close of the hearing.

The President shall advise all pertinent parties of his action on the grievance within three (3) working days after receipt of the committee's report.

The action by the President is final, except for cases of student expulsion, which may be appealed by the aggrieved student, in writing, to the Board of

Trustees within three (3) working days of receipt of the decision. The decision of the Board in such matters is final.

**Grievance Time Limits.** A grievance must be filed in a timely fashion. If a student is filing a grievance, it must involve a specific event or incident occurring within thirty (30) days of filing the grievance.

Nothing in this procedure is intended to create any due process rights nor does it entitle the individual to seek redress in any court or administrative proceeding.

## ❖ Student Organizations

The college has chartered several student organizations. These include general and special interest groups, honor societies, service clubs and social groups. These organizations cover a wide variety of interests and activities. Membership is open to all students who qualify, without regard to age, color, creed, handicap, marital status, national origin, race, religion or sex, except for those particular groups which are selective on the basis of scholarship.

The following groups are recognized OWCC student organizations:

**African-American Student Association** strives to promote black awareness and to be of service to the college and the community. Membership is open to all students.

**Baptist Student Union** is open to all students for the purpose of guiding them in Christian witness and fellowship.

**Brain Bowl Team** is OWCC's academic team, which participates in 2-3 tournaments annually. The areas of concentration for competition are mathematics, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Students must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA and be registered for at least 6 hours/semester. The faculty sponsor selects members, and scholarships are available.

**Career Paths** has as its purpose the goal to put business majors in contact with business leaders on local, state, and national levels. Career Paths is considered a stepping stone to future business endeavors of business majors and is an organization that wishes to aid the pursuance of business careers. Membership is open to all students.

**Creative Dramatics**, Imagineers, a traveling troupe creating world folklore on stage for area elementary schools.

**International Club** was formed at OWCC to increase student awareness of different cultures. This organization acknowledges and welcomes people of different cultures and celebrates diversity. Membership is open to all students.

**OWCC Dance Ensemble** is open by audition to those students whose dance training has prepared them to meet the demands of stage performance. Students have the opportunity to study with guest artists in master classes, workshops and residency programs. Performance opportunities such as the Medieval Feast, Northwest Florida Symphony, 5th Grade Concerts, Dance Facets, The Soundations and Summer Musical Theatre, enable the dancers to reflect, study and evaluate their work and the work of others.

**Delta Psi Omega** is a large, national honorary fraternity whose purpose is to stimulate interest in dramatic activities.

**Environmental Club** is dedicated to creating awareness of the importance of protecting the environment.

**Forensics Team** is divided into three major areas: speech, debate, and dramatic interpretation. The area of speech includes extemporaneous, impromptu, informative, persuasive, speech to entertain, and communicative analysis. The area of debate includes CEDA (cross-examination), Lincoln-Douglas, and Parliamentary. The area of dramatic interpretation includes prose, poetry, drama, program oral interpretation, duo, and Reader's Theater (group). Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA and be registered for at least 9 semester hours to participate in the 6-10 annual tournaments. OWCC has a solid reputation in the Forensics network with several state and national championships. The faculty sponsor and coaches select members, and scholarships are available.

**Geology Club** brings together people who hold a common interest in Geology, and to further that interest by means of study groups and field trips.

**Jazz Singers**, an auditioned, four-part mixed vocal performing ensemble limited to 16-20 members with good music-reading skills. Music studied consists of moderate to very difficult jazz arrangements of styles including blues, swing, skat, classic (early) pop, ballads, mellow gospel and original contemporary tunes.

**Madrigals** is a small, by audition-only, mixed choir. The group specializes in acappella music from the Renaissance to the modern.

**Music Theatre** produces at least one Broadway-style musical annually. Participation is open by audition to all students and members of the community.

**The Northwest Florida Symphony Chorus** is open by audition to all students, staff, and interested members of the community. The chorus performs major choral compositions during the fall and spring semester of each year and maintains a membership of sixty or more auditioned singers.

**The Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra of OWCC** is open by audition to all OWCC students, staff, and interested members of the community who have a demonstrable performance skill with an orchestral instrument. The Orchestra draws its membership of more than sixty players from throughout the Panhandle and South Alabama.

**OWCC Jazz Combo** is a small ensemble open to any student instrumentalist who wants to develop performance and improvisational skills in the jazz idiom. All students enrolled will be auditioned for placement. This ensemble performs throughout the community during the year.

**OWCC Show Choir** is a small, by audition-only mixed choir, comprised of college students who are enrolled full-time. The group specializes in up-tempo, contemporary, entertainment oriented music ranging from jazz tunes of the 40's to the latest pop tunes, as well as show-stopping selections from Broadway and Hollywood. Choreography is incorporated into each performance.

**Phi Theta Kappa** is a national honor society whose goal is to honor students who have attained a high scholastic standing, and to provide them with the opportunity to congregate and sharpen their intellects. Service projects and social activities are available to the membership.

**PRIME TIME Computer Club** provides an opportunity for learning, sharing and enjoying computer knowledge. Membership is open to individuals who have taken at least one PRIME TIME (Positive Retirement through Imaginative Education) computer course.

**Proscenium Playhouse** is the drama group of the Fine and Performing Arts Department. Its goals are to foster an interest in and an appreciation of the theatre arts, to produce plays, and to provide an outlet for the creative abilities of the students and community members.

**Rock and Jazz Ensemble** in big band, combo and rock groups is open by audition to any student instrumentalist who wants to develop professional performance abilities. Must have some experience in high school bands, etc.

There are other chartered organizations which are not currently active such as **Association of Visual Artists, Circle K, College Republicans, ENUF, Jefferson Democratic Association, Phi Beta Lambda Business Education Fraternity,**

**Phi Lambda Alpha, Pre-Law Society, Reader's Theatre, and Veterans.** If you are interested in reactivation of one of these organizations, check with the Student Activities Office in the College Mall to learn how this may be accomplished.

Students are encouraged to participate in student activities and enjoy them as long as they do not interfere with their studies.

**Student Organization Rules.** Students enrolled at the college are free to organize and are encouraged to join associations which promote their common interests, so long as the following apply:

1. The purposes, principles, and policies of the organization are consistent with the general philosophies and principles of the college;
2. Membership in the organization is open to all currently-enrolled college students in good standing without regard to age, color, creed, national origin, handicap, marital status, race, religion, or sex except for those particular groups which are selective on the basis of scholarship;
3. The purpose, criteria for membership, rules or procedures, and a current list of officers are filed with the Coordinator of Student Activities;
4. The policies and actions of the organization are determined only by those individuals who hold bona fide membership in the organization;
5. A faculty sponsor has been appointed by proper authority;
6. The Student Senate has recommended, and the President of the college has approved recognition of the organization, and
7. The organization is in compliance with the general and specific policies enumerated in the Handbook for Student Organizations.

### ❖ Hazing

Florida Statute 240.326 prohibits hazing at community colleges. "Hazing" means "any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a community college," which organization is hereafter referred to as a "community college organization." Such term includes, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or other

forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual, and also includes any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual. For the purposes of this section, any activity as described above upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with a community college organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be a "forced activity," the willingness of any individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

No form of hazing shall be permitted in connection with any initiations and/or activities of any college organization or group.

### ❖ Harassment

Harassment of OWCC students is prohibited.

Harassment of college employees by OWCC students is prohibited.

Harassment is considered to be any repeated or unwelcome verbal or physical abuse which causes the recipient discomfort or humiliation or which interferes with the recipient's academic performance.

**Harassment related to an individual's race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, marital status, or physical or mental handicap is a violation of this policy.**

**Unwelcome or uninvited conduct with sexual overtones, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment, including, but not limited to instances when:**

1. Submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's academic achievement, or
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting a student or college employee, or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive academic environment.

The President of the college may act directly or through a designee to investigate and report harassment claims. Due process and/or Student Grievance procedures shall be followed in connection with such claims.

## ❖ *Children On Campus*

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Okaloosa-Walton Community College values family life and has worked to develop policies that are supportive of families. However, it is the policy of OWCC that employees, students and visitors should not use the college in lieu of a childcare provider. Accordingly, minor children of employees, students, or visitors may be on campus only under the special circumstances outlined below.

1. Minor children are permitted on campus when the purpose of their visit is to participate in activities, classes, or events specifically scheduled for their benefit (e.g. Kids on Campus, Children's Fine Arts Series, Child Development and Education Center)
2. Minor children are permitted on campus when with a parent or responsible adult who is conducting routine business at the college ( e.g. registration)
3. In no case are minor children permitted in labs, shops, construction/repair sites, classrooms, offices, labs, or other areas where potential hazards exist, unless enrolled in classes or activities scheduled at the site.
4. In an emergency or other compelling situation, students or staff may bring children to class or the workplace on an incidental, individual basis, provided advance approval is obtained from the appropriate administrator. In such cases, the children must be directly supervised by the parent/adult and must not disrupt or distract the flow of college work, services or instruction.
5. Minor children on campus must be directly supervised at all times. Individuals who bring minor children to campus are responsible for their supervision; leaving children unattended in the LRC, College Mall or other public area does not meet this standard.

## ❖ *Guest Speakers*

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The freedoms of speech and assembly guaranteed by the first and fourteenth amendment to the Constitution shall be enjoyed by the students of the college with regard to the opportunity to hear "off-campus" speakers on the college campus. Students at the college are expected to accept fully the responsibilities that accompany the freedoms of speech and assembly which they enjoy. When inviting a guest speaker, a student organization is charged with the responsibility of making a choice that reflects the students' genuine concern for the

best interests and welfare – not only of the student organization – but of the college and the community as well.

The extension of invitations to guest speakers who are not of the college community shall be governed as follows:

1. Guest speakers may be invited and sponsored only by recognized student organizations.
2. No invitation shall be extended to a guest speaker without the prior written approval of the President or his designee, the Dean of Students. Approval or disapproval will be based on consideration of the appropriateness and availability of times, dates, and facilities.
3. Permission to invite a guest speaker shall be requested in writing at least two weeks prior to the proposed speaking engagement by the president of the student organization sponsoring the program. This request shall contain the name of the sponsoring organization, the proposed time, date and location of the program, the expected size and nature of the anticipated audience, and the topic of the speech.

## ❖ *Posting, Circulating, and Exhibiting Printed Matter and Filmed Material*

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Students are expected to use mature judgment and a sense of discretion in their selection, publication, display, presentation and circulation of any printed or filmed materials at any college location, and to realize that they must accept responsibility individually and collectively in the consequences of their choices on these matters. **The appearance of the college name, seal or insignia on printed matter which is not published by the college is not authorized and does not imply college approval, support, or endorsement of the contents.**

❖ **Notices**

Notices may be posted by students and recognized student organizations on appropriate bulletin boards. Notices and posters are not to be taped, glued, or pasted on painted or finished wood surfaces. All such posting must be cleared in advance by the Coordinator of Student Activities at the Niceville Campus and the Provost at the Fort Walton Beach Campus. This will provide the best use of available facilities.

The general distribution of notices is prohibited by anyone other than instructional and staff personnel in the performance of their duties or by recognized student organizations to advertise an approved event.

❖ **Motion Pictures**

Recreational motion pictures that are approved as part of a proposed student organization sponsored-event may be shown at any college location. The Dean of Students will consider for approval, only those films rated "G" and "PG" by the Motion Picture Association of America. Any college employee may restrain the display of any unauthorized film or motion picture.

❖ **Student Publications**

Student publications (which may include videotaped newscasts) are intended to foster an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and intellectual exploration. They are a means of bringing student concerns to the attention of faculty and staff members, and of formulating student opinion on various issues at the college and in the surrounding community.

The editorial freedom of student editors entails the corollary responsibility to be governed by the canons of responsible journalism, such as the avoidance of libel, indecency, undocumented allegations, attacks on personal integrity, and the techniques of harassment and innuendo.

Student publications shall contain a statement to the effect that the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of the faculty, staff or student body of the college.

❖ **Policy Formulation**

A student who wishes to suggest a change in any policy of the college should submit a written recommendation to the Student Senate for evaluation. If favorably received by the Senate, the proposal shall be submitted by the Student Senate to the College-Wide Council or the appropriate standing committee/subcommittee of the college for consideration.

❖ **Solicitation/Promotions**

Agencies or organizations that request permission to display, distribute, or present programs must be sponsored by an OWCC recognized student organization or the college. Permission to sponsor an agency must be requested in writing at least two weeks prior to the proposed activity by the president of the sponsoring student organization. This request shall contain the name of the sponsoring organization, the proposed time, date, and location, and the topic of the items to be displayed or distributed. Submittal shall be to the Coordinator of Student Activities for approval by the college president or his designee. The college reserves the right to determine the time, place, and manner of the presentation.



*OWCC intercollegiate sports include women's fast-pitch softball and basketball, and men's baseball and basketball.*