

CCSN Policy	Section: CCSN Academic Faculty Policies	Number: ACF-1
Title: Disruptive and Abusive Student Policy		Policy Effective Date: 8/25/2005
Approved:		
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Richard Carpenter, President		Date
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1. POLICY PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

CCSN is unconditionally committed to protecting academic freedom, standards of civility, and an environment which is conducive to learning. This policy and the associated procedures have been developed to provide guidance to instructors and staff in handling incidents of problematic behavior that are disruptive to the conduct of a class and/or abusive to persons in the CCSN community. Instruction at CCSN is conducted for the common good. The aim of such instruction is to facilitate learning. Disruptive and abusive conduct in a class can stifle the candid scholarly discourse required for the unfettered exploration of divergent views and thereby prevent the rest of the class from obtaining meaningful learning experience. Abusive behavior outside the classroom creates a hostile work environment. Disruptive and abusive behavior are inconsistent with the purposes of CCSN.

Both faculty and students are responsible for maintaining an environment that is conducive to learning. Faculty should treat students with understanding and respect their personal dignity. Faculty have the further responsibility of guiding classroom discussion and setting reasonable limits on the manner in which students express their opinions and interact with each other. Disruptive or abusive behavior in the academic setting hinders the educational process and creates a hostile work environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Although disruptive and abusive conduct is already prohibited by the Board of Regents Code and the

CCSN student conduct code, the purpose of this policy is to clarify what constitutes disruptive and abusive behavior. The accompanying procedure describes the actions that faculty, Department Chairs or Program Directors, and Dean's offices may take in response to disruptive and abusive conduct and the authority of the Administrative Code Officer to initiate disciplinary proceedings against students for such conduct.

The purpose of this policy is to create standard mechanisms for dealing with abusive and disruptive behaviors so that they can be minimized both quantitatively and qualitatively.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- CCSN is committed to maintaining a positive learning environment for its students and a positive working environment for its faculty and staff.
- Every member of the CCSN community has a right to enjoy an environment free from all forms of conduct that can be considered disruptive or abusive. Such behavior is antithetical to the purpose of this institution. In addition, academic freedom can exist only when every person is free to pursue ideas in a non-threatening atmosphere of mutual respect.
- CCSN is committed to protecting academic freedom and freedom of expression for all members of the college community. This policy against disruptive and abusive conduct will be applied in a manner that is consistent with those freedoms.
- Disruptive and Abusive conduct is reprehensible. It endangers careers, interferes with the educational experiences of other students, and threatens the well being of all members of the CCSN community.
- Disruptive and abusive conduct will not be tolerated at CCSN.
- Faculty should follow the procedures for dealing with disruptive and abusive conduct that accompany this policy.

3. AUTHORITY AND CROSS REFERENCE

- Title 2 , Chapter 6 of the UCCSN Code
- CCSN Student Conduct Code
- "Student Rights and Responsibilities" section of the *Student Handbook*
- CCSN Procedure for Dealing with Disruptive and Abusive Students

4. KNOWLEDGE OF THIS POLICY

All CCSN faculty, staff, and students, should have knowledge of this policy.

5- DEFINITIONS

Abusive Conduct

Behavior is abusive when it creates, or can reasonably be expected to create, an environment that is intimidating or threatening and/or is likely to interfere with the work or the education of members of the CCSN community. This conduct may involve speech (verbal, written, or electronic in form), gestures, or physical contact. Such conduct would either be directed against a faculty member as an individual or as an instance of a type (i.e., a member of a race, ethnic group, sex, or religious group).

The examples that follow form a non-exhaustive, non-exclusive classification of behaviors that may be considered abusive:

- Intimidating behavior or speech directed at a faculty member or other persons in the classroom or other educational setting.
- Threatening behavior or speech directed at a faculty member or other persons in the classroom or other educational setting.
- Profanities directed at a faculty member or other persons in the classroom or other educational setting.
- Obscenities, including gestures, directed at a faculty member or other persons in the classroom or other educational setting.
- Intimidating, threatening, or obscene jokes directed at a faculty member or other persons in the classroom or other educational setting.
- Screaming and/or yelling either at or around and about a faculty member.
- Directing character aspersions at a faculty member or other persons in the classroom or other educational setting.
- Acting so as to endanger the safety of a faculty member or other persons in the classroom or other educational setting.
- Physically assaulting or otherwise manhandling a faculty member or other persons in the classrooms or other educational settings.

The fact that someone did not intend his or her conduct to be abusive is irrelevant if the individual's conduct can be reasonably expected to be perceived as intimidating or threatening.

Disruptive Conduct

Behavior is disruptive when it interferes with the maintenance of an environment that is conducive to learning, civility or academic freedom in the classroom.

The behaviors that follow form a non-exclusive, non-exhaustive classification of behaviors that may be considered disruptive:

- Any form of behavior that may be considered abusive that takes place in a classroom or other educational setting

- Use of cell phones, pagers, beepers, text messaging machines or other electronic communication devices in the classroom or other educational setting
- repeated side conversation in the classroom
- eating in the classroom
- repetitive noises including but not limited to cracking gum, clicking pens, drumming the desk top with fingers or writing implements
- consistently arriving to class late
- consistently leaving class early
- argument that goes beyond the scope of the topic under discussion after having been instructed that it is beyond the scope of the topic
- repeated emotional outbursts in class
- repeatedly moving around the room during class
- exchange of personal insults between students in class or through electronic media
- fighting words exchanged among students in class or through electronic media
- physical altercations between students

Note

Abusive and disruptive conduct must be distinguished from behavior which, though it may be experienced as unpleasant by a faculty member, is perfectly appropriate in a college classroom. Most notably, this would include disagreements regarding subject matter, particularly disagreements in which the student marshals reasons in support of his/her view. This policy cannot be permitted to function as a gag to the expression of reasoned dissent in the classroom. Students should be encouraged to think for themselves and should not be discouraged from expressing their thoughts in a civil manner.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES

In the Classroom or Other Educational Setting

The instructor is responsible for dealing with disruptive behavior at the classroom level in accordance with the procedures accompanying this policy. The CCSN Administrative Code Officer is responsible for dealing with disruptive or abusive behavior at the institutional level in accordance with the UCCSN Code Chapter 6 and the CCSN Student Conduct Code.

7. EXCEPTIONS

Not applicable

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about this policy should be directed to the CCSN Administrative Code Officer.

9. HISTORY

XX/XX/XX - Reformated
08/25/05 - Approved

minor grammatical
and punctuation
changes made by
ACC on 10/10/05