

2. Student Rights and Non-Academic Conduct

Columbia Gorge Community College is an academic community comprised of multiple constituencies including students, faculty, and staff. Membership within the College community invokes certain privileges, rights, and responsibilities. This section focuses on the opportunities, rights, and responsibilities of students at Columbia Gorge Community College.

2.1 Student Rights

A. Free Inquiry, Expression, and Assembly

CGCC respects community members' constitutionally-protected free speech activity. The welfare and strength of CGCC and of society at large depend upon the ability to engage in free expression in the search for meaning. These ideals help to create the stimulating and challenging learning environment that should characterize higher education. In the spirit of a true educational environment, individuals are encouraged to invite, rather than inhibit, discourse on ideas. CGCC strives to foster free and open expression of divergent views by students, student organizations, faculty, staff, and visitors. To this end, CGCC recognizes and protects full freedom of inquiry, discussion, study, publication, and for artists, the creation and exhibition of works of art.

CGCC also recognizes its responsibility to provide a secure learning environment that allows members of the community to express their views in ways that do not disrupt the operation of CGCC. CGCC reserves the right to limit the time, place, and manner of speech activity as deemed necessary by CGCC in order to serve the interests of health and safety, prevent disruption of the educational process, and protect against the invasion of the rights of others.

This policy does not permit expression that is unlawful or otherwise prohibited by law. Such expression includes, but is not limited to, defamation, incitement to unlawful conduct, imminent threats of actual violence or harm, obscenity, fighting words, copyright or trademark violation, harassment, trespassing, and false or deceptive advertising. CGCC will vigilantly protect individuals against discrimination or harassment.

CGCC will not make viewpoint-based restrictions on speech.

An individual, organization, or department hosting an event is responsible for all reasonable costs associated with the event. These costs may include but are not limited to those related to security and cleanup. For questions and options related to any health, safety, fire or other regulations that must be observed by users of a facility please contact Facilities Planning and Management.

In addressing all complaints and reports under this policy, CGCC will take permissible actions to ensure the safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors while honoring individuals' rights to engage in speech activity.

- Enforcement Guidelines

To ensure that speech activity does not interfere with the operation of CGCC or the rights of others, all speech activity must meet the following criteria:

- Speech activity must not interfere with the free flow of traffic, vehicle or pedestrian, or the ingress and egress to buildings on campus.
- The use of microphones, bullhorns, or any sound amplification device is not permitted.

- Speech activity must not impede the orderly conduct of CGCC classes, scheduled college ceremonies, events, or other CGCC activities.
- CGCC employees may not allow their speech activity to interfere with their work time or the work time of other CGCC employees.
- Pamphlets, handbills, circulars, newspapers, magazines, and other written materials may be distributed on a person-to-person basis.
- The individual or organization that reserves the speech and demonstration area shall be responsible for seeing that the area is left clean and in good repair. Persons or organizations responsible for the event may be held financially responsible for cleanup costs or destruction of property owned or operated by CGCC.
- Individuals and programs using the speech and demonstration areas must comply with all applicable state and federal laws and institutional policies, rules, and regulations.

- Violations

Violations of these guidelines may result in one or more of the following:

- A requirement that an individual or organization cease and desist, relocate, or vacate the premises or property owned or controlled by CGCC by law enforcement or an authorized representative of CGCC.
- Commencement of institutional disciplinary proceedings by the appropriate department or academic unit.
- Arrest and prosecution for violation of local, state, and federal law(s).

1. Handbills, Posters, Flyers, Banners, and Signs

Building administrators or other College officials may designate areas in classrooms and/or in or around College buildings for students or student organizations who wish to post handbills, posters, flyers, banners, signs, and other similar items on campus. All such materials must be stamped and approved by Student Services prior to distribution. Columbia Gorge Community College prohibits the posting or display of these items by students or student organizations outside of these designated areas, including on the exterior of any College building, telephone/utility pole, tree, sidewalk, window, trash can, or any other exterior surface located on the campus, including vehicles.

2. Use of Chalk on Sidewalks:

Columbia Gorge Community College limits the use of sidewalk chalk, sidewalk art, or other sidewalk chalk displays to College messages in support of College sponsored events or activities. Sidewalk chalk should not be used on College structures and buildings, including but not limited to steps, verandas, porches, and columns.

3. Political Activity

CGCC's students are free to express their political opinions and engage in political activities so long as they do so only in their individual capacities and they avoid even the appearance that they are speaking or acting for CGCC. Students taking political positions for themselves or groups with which they are associated should clearly indicate by words and actions that their positions are not those of CGCC and are not being taken in an official capacity on CGCC's behalf.

- **Activities and Events**

Political activities hosted at but not sponsored by CGCC may be undertaken in compliance with CGCC's policies and procedures. Similarly, student political clubs and organizations may invite candidates or campaigns to speak on campus. The use of CGCC's facilities for such a purpose shall require compliance with CGCC's facility use policies and procedures. Posters, social media, emails and websites advertising any such event should include a disclaimer that the opinions expressed will be neither the opinions of CGCC nor are they sanctioned by CGCC. CGCC's policies and procedures regarding the use of its facilities prohibit discrimination against political organizations or candidates on the basis of their particular political viewpoint.

- **Publications**

Student publications may run editorials expressing the editor's views on candidates for public office, provided that the editorial page indicates that the views expressed therein are those of the student editors and not those of CGCC.

- **Contributions**

Student clubs and organizations are prohibited from using CGCC funds to contribute to a political organization, candidate or cause.

- **Campaign Materials**

The placement of political posters and banners are subject to CGCC's guidelines regarding posters and banners on campus.

- **Use of College Resources**

CGCC's supplies, materials, equipment, telephones, printing or copying services and its email service may not be used to promote or oppose a political candidate or organization.