Student Code of Conduct

Blinn College District
Revised December 2019
Introduction

Blinn College District expects each Blinn student to conduct himself or herself in accordance with acceptable standards of good behavior. Blinn students should not behave in a manner that is loud, obnoxious, offensive, or unlawful. Student behavior should also not disturb the rights, comforts, or conveniences of other persons. To that end, each student who enrolls at Blinn College District (the College District) accepts the policies and rules set forth in the College District’s Board Policy Manual and Administrative Regulations. In addition to the College District’s policies and regulations, each student agrees to abide by this Student Code of Conduct. Failure to follow the College District’s policies, regulations, or code of conduct will result in appropriate disciplinary action. The College District will determine what constitutes a violation of the policies, regulations, and code of conduct. The College District will consider each offense on a case-by-case basis and will determine and impose disciplinary action when necessary.

*Students must present proper identification (Blinn ID or state-issued ID) when requested to do so by any College District police officer, faculty, or staff person.*

College District Disciplinary Point System

The College District has designed the disciplinary point system to promote the consideration and safety of all community members. The College District assesses violations utilizing the disciplinary point system, at the discretion of the Judicial Officer. The College District may expel any student who accumulates six (6) or more points. Points do not expire and remain part of the student’s educational record even if the student withdraws and subsequently reenrolls at the College District.

Failure to Meet with Judicial Officer

When a member of the College District’s staff issues a disciplinary summons to a student, the student must meet with the Judicial Officer within 24 hours. If the incident occurs on Saturday or Sunday, the student must meet with the Judicial Officer no later than 5:00 PM of the next College District business day. Students must call (979) 830-4494 or (979) 830-4643 to arrange an appointment with the Judicial Officer. Failure to schedule a meeting, show up for a scheduled meeting, or correspond with the Judicial Officer may result in additional disciplinary action.

Incident Reports

College District staff members may issue an incident report whenever the staff person witnesses a violation, or suspects that a student has violated this Student Code of Conduct. When a staff member writes an incident report, the College District will issue a summons to all students involved. Any student receiving the summons must meet with the Judicial Officer by the end of the next business day. The College District will consider a failure to meet with the Judicial Officer (or designated appointee) within the timeframe allowed as an additional violation. The College District will write incident reports to document any other situations that require a record of events.

Summons to Judicial Office

When a student receives a summons, the student must make an appointment to see the Judicial Officer within 24 hours. The summons slip contains the telephone number, date, and time to call the office for an appointment. Failure to make and/or keep the appointment will result in more severe and additional disciplinary action.
Restitution

Restitutions are sanctions for policy violations that are in addition to any disciplinary points assessed. The College District designed restitution to provide a learning experience for its students, and to assist them with their own personal development as a member of the campus community. These restitutions must be appropriate to the circumstances of the violation and can include, but are not limited to:

- coaching with a student affairs professional
- counseling with an on campus professional counselor
- probation or disciplinary contract,
- community service, or
- reflection essays.

Plagiarism in a reflection essay and/or failure to complete any assigned restitution will result in additional judicial sanctions. The Judicial Officer will determine and assign restitutions.

***If a resident accumulates any combination equaling six (6) points, the College District may expel the student, remove the student from housing, and issue the student a criminal trespass warning. ***

Points listed in the Cumulative Sanction Matrix (see Addendum I) are the maximum number of points that the Judicial Officer may issue for that particular violation. Disciplinary points issued by the Judicial Officer do not expire and remain part of the student’s educational record even if the student withdraws and subsequently reenrolls at the College District.

In addition to the infractions listed on the following pages, illegal activities on or off campus may be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the College District and/or removal from campus housing.

Appeals

Students have the right to appeal some disciplinary actions or sanctions imposed by the College District. For information regarding appeals of most disciplinary sanctions, please see Board Policy FMA(LOCAL). For information regarding appeals of removals from housing, please see Board Policy FG(LOCAL).
Student Code of Conduct: A-Z

This section contains further information regarding the topics below. For information regarding the specific sanctions that the College District may assign for violation of the Student Code of Conduct, please see Addendum I – Cumulative Sanction Matrix.

Alcohol

The College District prohibits the possession of alcohol products or paraphernalia, including promotional materials, on College District premises. College District staff will issue a summons to any student found drinking, in possession of, or in the presence of alcoholic beverages, alcoholic containers, or paraphernalia on College District property. These students will face disciplinary action by the College District, as well as any penalties issued in accordance with Texas law. Individuals found to have violated the College District’s alcohol policy will be subject to discipline or criminal charges, even if the student is of legal age.

Any student who appears to be intoxicated while on campus will be subject to College District disciplinary action. The student either will be subject to arrest or sent to the hospital for treatment. College District staff will not allow students to “sleep it off.” The District Police will determine whether a student’s behavior merits arrest or medical attention.

Students in campus housing may not keep empty alcohol containers in any campus housing room. Alcohol containers found in a resident’s room will be poured out and confiscated. Students in campus housing are responsible for their visitors if the visitor violates this policy. District Police or the appropriate law enforcement agency may enter any residence hall when deemed necessary. If the student is a minor, law enforcement may issue a Minor in Possession citation.

Students who violate the alcohol policy must complete an alcohol awareness course within 15 days of the date the Judicial Officer issues the penalty. If the student fails to complete this course within the time limit, the student is subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the College District and/or removal from campus housing.

Arrest Resulting in Criminal Charge(s)

Board Policy FG(LOCAL) requires removal from housing of any student charged with or convicted of a felony, or any Class A or B misdemeanor.

Deferred adjudication constitutes legal acceptance of responsibility on the part of the accused defendant and is not a finding of innocence. Therefore, a student who receives deferred adjudication for the offenses listed above is not eligible to remain in campus housing.

Assault

Physical assault and/or sexual assault are serious violations of Board Policy. Such assaults include unwanted fighting, unwanted bodily contact, unwanted sexual contact, and sexual harassment. Students who participate in or commit either violation are subject to suspension from the College District. Please report assaults or suspicious behavior immediately to the Title IX Coordinator at (979) 830-4701 or the District Police Department at (979) 830-4100. For more information, please refer to the Title IX webpage at https://www.blinn.edu/title-ix/index.html.
Verbal Abuse/Assault – the College District requires that each Blinn community member respect College District personnel, including the Residence Life Staff, campus constituents, and guests. No campus resident is entitled or allowed to abuse or be disrespectful toward any College District staff member. Students may not mistreat staff members or fellow students in any way. This prohibition includes:

- Shouting at a staff member or student
- Argumentativeness toward a staff member or student
- Rude, vulgar, indecent, or obscene comments and/or gestures toward staff members or students
- Rudeness – whether by act of commission or omission – toward staff members or students
- Abusive language or verbal assault, including bullying, unwanted sexual comments, harassment, or stalking directed at a staff member or student.

Harassment/Threats - Any act or threat, including profane or abusive language, used for the purpose of harassing or subjecting a student or employee of the College District to cause pain, discomfort, or indignity, whether on or off College District property, will result in disciplinary action. This includes racial, ethnic, or sexual harassment. Criminal charges may apply.

Disruptive or Violent Conduct

Disruptive behavior is inappropriate behavior that interferes with the proper functioning and flow of the College District such as yelling, using profanity, waving arms or fists, verbally abusing others, and refusing reasonable requests for identification. Threatening behavior includes physical actions, short of actual contact/injury (e.g., moving closer aggressively), general oral or written threats to people or property (“You better watch your back” or “I’ll get you”) as well as implicit threats (“You’ll be sorry” or “This isn’t over”). Violent behavior includes any physical assault, with or without weapons; behavior that a reasonable person would interpret as being potentially violent (e.g., throwing things, pounding on a desk or door, or destroying property), or specific threats to inflict physical harm (e.g., a threat to shoot a named individual) toward yourself or others. A violation of College District policy could result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the College District and/or removal from campus housing.

Horseplay/Shadow Boxing/Slap Boxing – The College District prohibits water fights, water guns, water balloons, water balloon launchers, toy guns, darts, and any other horseplay including wrestling and running in campus hallways with water or other substances (i.e., shaving cream, whipped cream, toothpaste, super glue, Vaseline, etc.). In addition to any disciplinary sanctions, students will be subject to and held responsible for any damages resulting from this behavior. Students who engage in any form of shadow boxing/slap boxing will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the College District and/or removal from campus housing.

Throwing Objects (Water Balloons, Eggs, etc.) – The College District prohibits water balloons within all residence halls. The College District prohibits throwing these items -- or similar items such as eggs -- at a person, building, vehicle, or anything else on College District property.

Drugs

The College District maintains a zero tolerance policy for the possession, use, sale, or distribution of narcotics, dangerous drugs, and related paraphernalia on any College District campus or property, and in any vehicle on College District property. Any student who possesses, participates in the use of, is in the presence of, under the influence of, uses, sells, manufactures, or distributes illegal drugs and/or mood enhancing substances will be subject to disciplinary action and/or criminal proceedings.
The College District prohibits drug odor and drug paraphernalia, including bongs, promotional materials, hookah pipes, clips, residue seeds, or any other items used in the preparation or consumption of illegal drugs and/or mood enhancing substances on any College District campus. Authorized College District staff, accompanied by independent contractors with canine units, may conduct periodic random room inspections to enforce the College District’s zero tolerance drug policy. District Police may confiscate illegal or unauthorized items. College District staff shall contact District Police to ensure proper handling of any items to be confiscated. Disciplinary or criminal charges may be filed against the student(s) or staff involved. Room inspections may encompass, but are not limited to, an individual room, whole apartment, or entire facility.

A student found in violation of the College District’s drug policy must complete a drug awareness course. The student must complete the course, monitored by the Judicial Officer, within 15 days of the date the Judicial Officer issues the penalty. If the resident fails to complete the course within the time limit, the student is subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the College District and/or removal from campus housing.

Fire Code Violations

The College District prohibits the following:

- Open flames of any type in any campus housing room or common area.
- Using acetate, cellophane, tissue paper, or combustible materials near a light fixture
- Space heaters, electric blankets, other heating devices, halogen lamps, lava lamps, and personal microwaves
- Cooking in the residence hall rooms
- Hot plates, heaters, microwaves, appliances with a heating element, and grills

Each College District residence hall is equipped with several fire alarm pull stations located throughout the building. If a student sees a fire, activate a pull station on the way out of the building. A false fire alarm is a violation of state law. Violators could face as much as $100.00 or more in fines and damages.

- Permitted Appliances – The College District permits the following electrical appliances only:
  - Personal computer
  - Television
  - Coffee/tea maker
  - Refrigerator up to 4.0 cubic feet.

Students must use a surge protector when plugging in multiple items. Students may not use extension cords and multi-plug adapters that do not have a switch. Students should keep cords away from walkways.

- Banned appliances and items include, but are not limited to:
  - Candles, Incense, and/or Scentsy-type items – Candles, incense, potpourri pots, “Scentsy” type heaters, scented plug-ins, or anything that melts wax, creates smoke, embers, or ashes. College District staff will confiscate these items. One or more repeat offenses is a major violation and will result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the College District and/or removal from campus housing.
  - Fireworks – City ordinance prohibits the possession of fireworks or any explosive device. Possession of fireworks or explosive device on College District property will result in damage charges and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the College District and/or removal from campus housing.
Fire Drill/Alarm: Mandatory Evacuation

When a fire alarm is in effect for a building (audible and/or visual alarms), students must evacuate in a timely manner. Students must follow instructions from College District staff and emergency personnel on site. Failure to exit during a fire drill or fire alarm will result in a disciplinary summons.

Fire Safety Equipment

The College District maintains appropriate fire safety equipment in all of its buildings, including student housing. Disabling or misusing fire safety equipment is a serious violation that may result in criminal charges and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the College District and/or removal from campus housing.

- **Fire Extinguishers** – The College District maintains fire extinguishers in each residence hall and apartment. Fire extinguishers are for appropriate use in the event of a fire emergency. The College District prohibits tampering with fire extinguishers or using fire extinguishers for any purpose other than to put out a fire or suspected fire. The cost for replacing a missing fire extinguisher is $75. The cost for refilling an extinguisher that has been inappropriately used is $50, plus damage and cleanup charges, if applicable.

- **Smoke Alarms** – The College District maintains smoke alarms in each student room. The College District prohibits students from disarming, removing, or maliciously triggering smoke detectors. College District staff check and maintain the smoke detectors regularly. The cost for rewiring or replacing a smoke alarm is $50 plus the cost of equipment. There is no cost to replace batteries unless replacement becomes excessive. Tampering with smoke alarms is illegal and includes “bagging” or disabling the alarm. Such conduct will result in a $25 charge per occurrence and possible removal from housing.

- **Sprinkler Heads** – Tampering with a sprinkler head is a violation of Texas law that may result in criminal charges and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the College District and/or removal from campus housing. Sprinkler heads are very fragile; do not touch or hang anything from the sprinkler heads. If you accidentally touch a sprinkler head, please report it immediately to College District staff.

Gambling

The College District prohibits gambling on all College District campuses and property.

Hazing

Texas law strictly prohibits hazing by a club, group, organization, or individual. Hazing includes “any act that injures or degrades a student or person.”

Loitering

The College District prohibits loitering on and Blinn campus Sunday-Thursday from 11:00 P.M. to 6:00 a.m., and Friday and Saturday from 12:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m. Loitering on College property is lingering idly or aimlessly in any areas of the campus without official authority during the designated hours. This includes hanging around in clusters and creating/causing unusually loud, disturbing noises.
This policy is not intended to be a curfew. Students going from the library, cafeteria, or other locations to their residence halls, apartments, vehicles, etc. are not loitering as long as they are *en route* to their destination.

The primary responsibility for enforcing the prohibition against loitering will rest with the District Police. District Police will remove visitors deemed loitering during this period. District Police officers may issue a summons to students found in violation of this prohibition.

**Noise**

The College District prohibits any loud noise (*i.e.* music from stereos, computers, car stereos, TV’s, radios, etc.) that can be heard outside the room or apartment. Students must not play music from windows or on porches. If students ignore warnings concerning loud music, College District staff may restrict the equipment’s use for a period, or the staff member may remove the equipment from the room/premises. The volume of music from radios, televisions, video games, computers, or other sound equipment must not disturb other residents.

**Removal from Housing**

The College District may remove students from housing for various reasons, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Failure to maintain the minimum number of enrolled semester hours for the duration of the semester. *See FG(LOCAL).*
- Failure to attend classes. *Id.*
- Failure to maintain at least the minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) in any given semester. *Id.*
- Accumulating six or more discipline points.

Individuals removed from housing lose visitation rights to any and all College District housing facilities. The College District may remove residents who allow former residents who have been dismissed from housing access to any resident’s room.

The College District may issue a criminal trespass warning for students removed from housing. Violators of the criminal trespass warning are subject to criminal sanctions, fines, and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

**Smoking and Smokeless Tobacco**

The College District is a smoke- and tobacco-free environment, and prohibits all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and smokeless tobacco on College District grounds and in College District buildings, facilities, and vehicles. Violators of this policy are subject to fines and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

**Tampering with College Property**

Any student who tampers with any College District property, including but not limited to, doors, locks, signs, furnishings, bike racks, College District vehicles, and/or residence hall equipment, may be subject to a disciplinary summons and/or criminal charges and restitution.
Tampering with Personal Property

Any student who tampers with any other student’s property, food, clothing, jewelry, personal belongings, vehicle, bike, etc. may be subject to a disciplinary summons and/or criminal charges and restitution.

Theft

Theft or illegal possession of any property belonging to the College District, any member of the College District community, or any campus visitor is subject to disciplinary action. Victims of theft should immediately file a report with the College District Police Department. Student residents should also inform their Hall Director/Apartment Manager of the theft. Contact campus police at 979-830-4100 as soon as you know an item has been stolen.

Uncooperative Manner

Uncooperative Manner is behavior where a student chooses not to obey or comply with commands of those in authority, including all Blinn personnel. A violation of this policy could result in disciplinary points, as determined by the Judicial Officer. Students must present proper identification (Blinn ID or state-issued ID) when requested to do so by any College District police officer, faculty, or staff person.

Weapons

*If you are a License to Carry Handgun (LTC) holder, you are allowed to conceal said firearm in an approved safe within your room or apartment. Please see the requirements below for LTC holders.

The College District prohibits any and all weapons in College District rooms and/or stored in vehicles on College District property. A resident commits an offense if he or she brings a weapon into a residence hall. This includes, but is not limited to Air-Soft guns, pellet guns, BB guns, stun guns, slingshots, darts, arrows, bows, axes, machetes, nun chucks, throwing stars, rifles, handguns, brass knuckles, firecrackers, or knives. The District Police Department will confiscate any weapon or explosive. Possession of such may lead to disciplinary action up to, and including, expulsion. Criminal charges may apply.

ATTENTION LTC HOLDERS: College District policy prohibits students under the age of 21 from possessing a weapon in on-campus student housing. Only qualified students at least 21 years of age and older are permitted to carry a legally approved weapon on campus and in a residential facility. Any resident who is licensed to carry a concealed handgun and chooses to bring the handgun into their residence hall room/apartment must store his/her handgun and ammunition in a combination or electronic locking steel safe when the handgun is not on or about their person. Qualified LTC holders may not carry concealed handguns within the College District premises during any College District sporting event or UIL-sponsored event. For more information visit http://www.blinn.edu/campus-carry/.

Any resident of campus housing, who is a handgun license holder and who wishes to store a handgun in his/her room, must provide and properly install their own steel safe, in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.

- The safe shall be designed and manufactured for the storage of a handgun.
- No safe may be affixed permanently to the housing facility.
- The College District will not provide a primary storage device.
- Residents are responsible for the actions of their guests, including family and friends.
Minimum Requirements:

- Electronic lock, minimum of two 3/4 inch locking bolts.
- Walls composed of at least 10 Gauge steel or thicker

Examples:

- Barska AX11618 Digital Keypad Safe
- Barska AX11902 Fireproof Digital Keypad Safe
- Ivation™ Biometric Fingerprint Home Safe
- Mesa Safe Company Model MH101
- Mesa Safe Mesa MHRC916E-BLK
- Mesa Safe Company Model MHRC916E
- Polet Large Hotel Safe
- Sentry®Safe X105 Security Safe
- Stack-On Personal Safe with Electronic Lock
- Stack-On Extra Wide Strong Box Safe with Electronic Lock
- Viking Security Safe VS-25BL Biometric Safe Fingerprint Safe

The College District considers any violation of state law regulating firearms to be a violation of College District rules. Accordingly, such a violation is subject to disciplinary action through the College District’s student judicial process, which may include removal from campus housing. Additionally, the handgun license holder must comply with Texas law at all times.
Code of Conduct – Special Program Students (Athletics, Band, Choir, Theatre, Agriculture, Resident Associates, and Students Involved in Clubs or Organizations)

The College District sponsors many special programs for athletics, band, choir, theater, agriculture, clubs, organizations, and resident associates. In addition to the College District’s Student Code of Conduct, all students involved in these programs (Special Program Students) shall adhere to the following rules and standards of conduct.

Drug and Alcohol Use

The College District prohibits the unlawful use, sale, dispensing, transfer, or possession of controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, or drugs not medically authorized. Use or possession of drugs and/or alcoholic beverages by any student during any practice, activity, performance, or competition is prohibited and will result in the participant’s removal from that activity. Any Special Program Student involved in the unlawful use of drugs or alcohol or who violates the alcohol or drug policies in the Student Code of Conduct may face suspension or dismissal from the College District team, band, cast, or group (as appropriate) and/or College District. All students are subject to local, state, and federal laws.

Special Program Students are highly visible representatives of the College District. It is very important that students act in a responsible and respectful manner while representing the College District. Therefore, in addition to any college sanctions that may be imposed for misconduct, Special Program Students may be suspended or dismissed from participation in program activities for any of the following:

- Academic dishonesty
- Violation of College District rules
- Arrest for any crime other than a minor traffic offense
- Possession of any illegal drug, including the unlawful possession or consumption of alcohol
- Unauthorized possession of any steroid
- Fighting with, threatening the safety of, or harassing any individual
- Destruction or theft of College District property
- Unauthorized entry into any College District building
- Any conduct that reflects unfavorably upon the College District or the athletic program.

The individual program director, or designated appointee, will be responsible for imposing disciplinary sanctions in addition to those assigned by the Judicial Officer. Students may appeal the decision of the program director or designee under Board Policy FLD(LOCAL). The sanction imposed may be indefinite, pending the outcome of an investigation, hearing, or other future event.

First Offense

May result in suspension from the next game/contest/performance or dismissal from the program depending on the severity of the misconduct and the surrounding circumstances. Misconduct may result in the cancellation or non-renewal of a program scholarship.

Second Offense

May result in suspension from program activities and dismissal from the program. Students on scholarship may be required to pay back all tuition and fees covered by the program scholarship.
Subsequent Offense

In most cases, may result in suspension or dismissal from the program. Student will receive no further program scholarship and may be required to pay back all tuition and fees covered by the program scholarship. The College District’s Administration will address each situation on a case-by-case basis.

Conduct During Travel

Special Program Students shall adhere to the following travel rules:

- Each student must inform his or her instructors prior to program trips if said trips will adversely affect the student’s class attendance.
- Each student must make every effort necessary to ensure the timely completion of his or her academic assignments.
- Each student must be on time for scheduled trip departures.
- Each student must travel to and from a school-authorized event in school-authorized transportation unless released by the program director.
- Each student must conduct himself or herself in an appropriate manner as an official representative of the College District.
- Each student agrees to pay for any damage the student causes to hotel/motel rooms.

Summary

The information contained in this Student Code of Conduct is not all-inclusive. Each College District student should speak with his or her coach or director whenever any problem, concern, or questions arise regarding academics or athletics at Blinn College District.
## Addendum I – Cumulative Sanction Matrix

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<td></td>
<td>• Misuse of College District laundry facilities</td>
<td>• Tampering with or damaging College District fire safety equipment, including fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and sprinklers</td>
<td>• Using prohibited objects on College District property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Violations</strong></td>
<td>• Tampering with or abusing College District Property.</td>
<td>• Tampering with or abusing College District Property.</td>
<td>• Tampering with or abusing College District Property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Gambling</td>
<td>• Tampering with or abusing College District Property.</td>
<td>• Tampering with or abusing College District Property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Failure to complete restitution</td>
<td>• Tampering with or abusing College District Property.</td>
<td>• Tampering with or abusing College District Property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Failure to meet with the Judicial Officer</td>
<td>• Tampering with or abusing College District Property.</td>
<td>• Tampering with or abusing College District Property.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blinn College District – Student Code of Conduct

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Smoking and/or Tobacco Violations</th>
<th>Level 1: Up to 2 Points</th>
<th>Level 2: Up to 4 Points</th>
<th>Level 3: Up to 6 Points</th>
<th>Level 4: Expulsion, including Removal from Housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Possession of tobacco or tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and chewing tobacco, on College District property</td>
<td>• Use of tobacco products on College District property</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>• Theft of property valued below $100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>• Damage to property resulting in pecuniary loss below $100</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Theft of property valued at or above $100 (Felony, Class B misdemeanor, Class A misdemeanor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>