

Student Code of Conduct Procedure, 4.01(a)
Chapter 4: Student

Academic Discipline Procedures**I. Initiation of Academic Misconduct Allegations:**

- a. Any member of the College community may file a complaint regarding an alleged academic Code violation to the course instructor, an administrator of the course, or the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) within thirty (30) calendar days of the alleged violation. The complaint must include factual information supporting the allegation.
- b. Upon receipt of the complaint, course instructors shall conduct a preliminary investigation of the allegations included in the complaint. In the absence of sufficient substantive evidence, a complaint will be dismissed.
- c. Should the instructor determine that sufficient substantive evidence exists to substantiate the allegations made in the complaint, disciplinary proceedings will be initiated.

II. Notification of Academic Misconduct Allegations:

- a. When a course instructor believes that a student has committed an act of academic misconduct, the course instructor shall schedule a private conference with the student at the earliest opportunity in order to provide the student with written notification of the allegations prior to any hearing on the charge.
- b. During the conference the student and the course instructor shall fill out the "Academic Honesty Report," (available upon request through the Office of Academic Affairs). This Report shall serve as written notice to the student of the alleged violation and investigation. The Report also details the student's right to either an Administrative Hearing or Academic Integrity Panel Hearing for resolution of academic disciplinary action.

III. Resolution of Academic Disciplinary Actions:

A student charged with alleged academic violations of the Code has the right to plead responsible for the allegations, and accept the disciplinary sanctions imposed after an Administrative Hearing with the course instructor; or request an Academic Integrity Panel Hearing for resolution of academic disciplinary actions. In either case, a registration hold will be placed on the student's Banner account record until the matter is resolved.

a. Administrative Hearing Procedures

A student who is charged with an alleged academic violation of the Code and who chooses to accept responsibility for the Code violation may request an administrative hearing for resolution of the academic disciplinary actions.

- i. The student shall request in writing to have an administrative hearing as to appropriate disciplinary action by the course administrator/instructor. In such situations, the student shall be informed that he/she waives the right to an Academic Judicial Panel Hearing and its related procedural guarantees.
- ii. During the hearing, the student will be provided with:

- a) an explanation of the allegations;

- b) a summary of the information gathered in support of the allegations;
 - c) an opportunity to reflect upon and respond to the allegations;
 - d) an explanation of the applicable disciplinary procedures; and
 - e) the associated disciplinary sanctions to be imposed for the violation.
- iii. If the student agrees to the alleged academic misconduct and the associated sanctions, he/she will sign the Academic Honesty Report to acknowledge commission of academic misconduct and agreement to the associated sanctions. A copy of the signed Academic Honesty Report will be provided to the student and the original shall be forwarded to the Office of Academic Affairs for reference in case of future infractions.
- iv. Following an Administrative Hearing, the student retains the right to request an appeal of the disciplinary sanctions, based upon the grounds established under Section VII (Appellate Process).

b. Academic Integrity Panel Hearing

If the student maintains his/her innocence he/she can request an Academic Integrity Panel Hearing for resolution of the academic disciplinary actions.

- i. Once a student requests an Academic Integrity Panel Hearing, further contact with the student by the course instructor, shall be conducted only in the presence of the department Chairperson or Dean. A Chairperson or Dean who is a member of the Academic Integrity Panel should make arrangements for a substitute Chairperson or Dean to attend any meeting between the student and the course instructor if the topic to be discussed is the alleged academic misconduct.
- ii. The course instructor will file the Academic Honesty Report for the alleged academic misconduct. The Academic Honesty Report will include all relevant evidence and original documents, such as an allegedly plagiarized paper, a test, or computer printouts. Sources of plagiarized materials, with the passages plagiarized clearly marked, should also be provided
- iii. The Chairperson of the academic unit in which the alleged academic misconduct occurred will review the course instructor's Academic Honesty Report and then submit it to the VPAA or designee.
- iv. Upon receipt of the Academic Honesty Report from the appropriate chairperson, the VPAA or designee, on behalf of the Academic Integrity Panel, will review the Academic Honesty Report, and if necessary conduct his/her own investigation. Whether or not to conduct an investigation is left to the discretion of the VPAA or designee.
- v. A student suspected of academic misconduct in a particular course, whether acknowledging involvement or not, shall be allowed to continue in the course without prejudice pending action by the Academic Integrity Panel. If the course ends before the Panel has acted, the course instructor shall assign the student the grade of incomplete.

IV. Notice of Hearing – Academic Integrity Panel:

a. Written Notice

In the event a Panel Hearing is required, the student accused of academic violations shall receive a written notice. The notice may be hand delivered or

mailed to the last known address of the student, either by certified mail or first class mail, no fewer than ten (10) calendar days prior to the hearing. The notice will include the allegations; date, time and location of the hearing; information on the hearing procedures; and a copy or location of the Student Code of Conduct.

b. **Request for Postponement**

The accused student may request a postponement of the scheduled hearing for good cause, or a hearing separate from other persons who may have been involved in the allegations. A request for a postponement of the hearing for good cause and/or a separate hearing must be made in writing, include supporting rationale, and be received in the office of the VPAA or designee, at least two (2) calendar days before the scheduled hearing. The VPAA or designee is responsible for ruling on the request.

V. **Hearing Procedures – Academic Integrity Panel**

Hearings are conducted in order to review the facts and circumstances of the allegations in order to determine whether or not a violation of the Code occurred. Although the procedural requirements are not as formal as those existing in criminal or civil courts of law, to ensure fairness the following procedures will apply:

a. **Case File Review**

Unless otherwise precluded by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and accompanying regulations, a student charged with misconduct may review witness statements and other documentation relative to the charge(s) by sending a written request to the office of the VPAA at least three (3) calendar days prior to the scheduled hearing date.

b. **Attendance of Accused Student**

Because the most accurate and fair review of the facts can best be accomplished when all parties are present, the accused is expected to attend and participate. If an accused student chooses not to attend his/her hearing, he/she will be deemed to have waived the right to personally appear, the charge(s) will be reviewed as scheduled on the basis of the information available, and a decision will be made. Although no inference may be drawn against a student for failing to attend a hearing or remaining silent, the hearing will proceed and the conclusion will be based on the evidence presented. No decision shall be based solely on the failure of the accused student to attend the hearing or answer the allegations.

c. **Attendance Limitations**

Attendance at hearings is limited to those with information relative to the allegations or those requested to attend by the student, or Academic Integrity Panel Chair.

The Panel Chair will take reasonable measures to assure an orderly hearing, including removal of persons who impede or disrupt proceedings.

d. **Advisor**

The accused student and/or the College may have an advisor present at the hearing. The advisor may only counsel the student and/or the College and may not actively participate in the hearing, unless clarification is needed as determined by the Academic Integrity Panel Chair.

e. **Witnesses and Supporting Documentation**

- i. The accused and/or the College may submit notarized written statements, absent other clear evidence of authenticity; may invite relevant witnesses to attend, may ask questions of witnesses called by others, and will be notified of potential witnesses to be called.
- ii. Witnesses shall not attend the entire hearing, but will be called to present information by the Academic Integrity Panel Chair at the appropriate time.
- iii. Pertinent records and supporting documentation may be accepted as information for consideration by the Academic Integrity Panel at the discretion of the Chair.
- iv. The Chair may accommodate concerns for the personal safety, well-being, and/or fears of confrontation during the hearing by providing separate facilities, by using a visual screen, and/or by permitting participation by telephone, videophone, videoconferencing, videotape, and other means, where and as determined by the VPAA to be acceptable.

f. **Consultants**

- i. In cases requiring special expertise, the Senior Vice President or designee may appoint individuals with relevant expertise to serve as consultants to the Academic Integrity Panel.
- ii. The consultants may be present and provide information as called upon during the hearing, but will not vote.

g. **Academic Integrity Panel Quorum**

- i. A quorum of the Academic Integrity Panel must be present to conduct a hearing, unless the student waives the quorum rule in writing. At the conclusion of the hearing, the panel members shall determine, by a majority vote, whether the accused student has violated each section of the Code with which the student is charged.
- ii. In the event of a tie vote regarding a particular allegation, the Panel will continue to deliberate with regard to the allegations that were the subject of the tie vote. If the Panel determines that exhaustive deliberations have occurred and a majority vote cannot be reached regarding the particular Code allegations, the student will be found not in violation of the allegations for which the majority vote could not be reached.

h. **Written Record**

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Panel Chair will submit a written record, of the Panel's disposition and suggested sanctions to the VPAA or designee within ten (10) calendar days.

i. **Notification of Sanctions**

No more than thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the written hearing record the VPAA or designee shall review the hearing record and notify the student(s) of his/her decision and, where applicable, imposed sanction (**see Section VI**). If the student has been found to have violated the Code, the letter shall inform the student of his/her right to appeal under the Code procedures, pursuant to **Section VIII**.

Non-Academic Discipline Procedures:

The following procedures will apply to non-academic misconduct as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct Policy Section II.e Prohibited Conduct.

I. Initiation of Non-Academic Allegations

- a. Any member of the College community may file a complaint regarding an alleged non-academic Code violation to the Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Affairs (VPEMSA) or designee within thirty (30) calendar days of the alleged violation. The complaint must include factual information supporting the allegation and is submitted using the Incident Reporting Form.
- b. In cases where the alleged activity may involve a violation of criminal law in addition to a violation of the Code, the information should be provided to the VPEMSA or designee and the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- c. Upon receipt of the complaint, the VPEMSA, or designee, shall review the allegations included in the complaint. In the absence of sufficient substantive evidence, a complaint will be dismissed.
- d. Should the VPEMSA, or designee, determine that sufficient, substantive evidence exists to substantiate the allegations made in the complaint, an investigation and disciplinary proceedings will be initiated.

II. Notification of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations

a. Written Notice

The VPEMSA or designee shall notify the student, in writing, that an investigation will be conducted. The written notice will include a request that the student make an appointment with the VPEMSA or designee by a specified date to discuss the matter.

b. Request for Postponement

Upon completing the preliminary investigation, and if warranted, the VPEMSA or designee shall prepare a written notice of allegations to be sent to the student. The student will be notified of the allegations and of his/her rights to either an Administrative Hearing or Discipline Review Panel Hearing for resolution of non-academic disciplinary action.

III. Resolution of Non-Academic Disciplinary Action

A student alleged to have violated non-academic provisions of the Code has the right to admit responsibility for the allegations, and accept the disciplinary sanctions to be imposed after an Administrative Hearing with the VPEMSA or designee; or request a Discipline Review Panel Hearing for resolution of disciplinary actions

a. Administrative Hearing Procedures

A student who is alleged to have violated non-academic provisions of the Code and who chooses to accept responsibility for the Code violation may request an administrative hearing for resolution of the non-academic disciplinary actions.

- i. The student shall request in writing to have an administrative decision as to appropriate disciplinary action/sanctions made by the VPEMSA or designee. A signed Administrative Decision Form serves as the written request of the student. In such situations, the student shall be informed that he/she waives the right to a Discipline Review Panel Hearing and its related procedural guarantees.
- ii. During the hearing, the student will be provided with:

- a) an explanation of the allegations;
 - b) a summary of the information gathered in support of the allegations;
 - c) an opportunity to reflect upon and respond to the allegations; and
 - d) an explanation of the applicable disciplinary procedures.
- iii. The signed Administrative Decision Form (student's acknowledgment of the violation), along with all relevant evidence and original documents are maintained in the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Office for reference in case of future infractions.
 - iv. Following an Administrative Hearing, the student retains the right to request an appeal of the disciplinary sanctions, based upon the grounds established under the appellate process **Section VIII c.**

b. Discipline Review Panel Hearing – Non-Academic Allegations

If the student maintains his/her innocence he/she has the right to request a hearing for resolution of the academic disciplinary actions.

- i. The VPMSA or designee will schedule a hearing with the Discipline Review Panel.
- ii. Students suspected of non-academic misconduct, whether acknowledging involvement or not, will, absent extenuating circumstances, be allowed to continue at the College pending action by the College Discipline Review Panel.
- iii. If more than one student is involved in committing an act of non-academic misconduct, the students may be subject to a group Discipline Review Panel hearing or individual hearings based upon the circumstances of the alleged academic non-academic misconduct.

IV. Notice of Hearing – Discipline Review Panel Hearing

- a. In the event a hearing is required, the student accused of non-academic violations of the Code shall receive a written notice. The notice may be hand delivered or mailed to the last known address of the student, either by certified mail or first class mail, no fewer than ten (10) calendar days prior to the hearing. The notice will include the allegations; date, time and location of the hearing; information on the hearing procedures; and a copy or location of the Student Code of Conduct.
- b. The accused student may request a postponement of the scheduled hearing for good cause, or a hearing separate from other persons who may have been involved in the allegations. A request for a postponement of the hearing for good cause and/or a separate hearing must be made in writing, include supporting rationale, and be received in the office of the VPMSA or designee, at least two (2) calendar days before the scheduled hearing. The VPMSA or designee is responsible for ruling on the request.

V. Hearing Procedures – Discipline Review Panel

Hearings are conducted in order to review the facts and circumstances of the allegations in order to determine whether or not a violation of the Code occurred. Although the procedural requirements are not as formal as those existing in criminal or civil courts of law, to ensure fairness the following procedures will apply:

a. Case File Review

Unless otherwise precluded by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and accompanying regulations, a student charged with misconduct may review witness statements and other documentation relative to the charge(s) by sending a written request to the office of the VPEMSA at least three (3) calendar days prior to the scheduled hearing date.

b. Attendance of Accused Student

Because the most accurate and fair review of the facts can best be accomplished when all parties are present, the accused is expected to attend and participate. If an accused student chooses not to attend his/her hearing, he/she will be deemed to have waived the right to personally appear, the charge(s) will be reviewed as scheduled on the basis of the information available, and a decision will be made. Although no inference may be drawn against a student for failing to attend a hearing or remaining silent, the hearing will proceed and the conclusion will be based on the evidence presented. No decision shall be based solely on the failure of the accused student to attend the hearing or answer the allegations.

c. Attendance Limitations

Attendance at hearings is limited to those with information relative to the allegations or those requested to attend by the student, or Discipline Review Panel Chair.

The Chair will take reasonable measures to assure an orderly hearing, including removal of persons who impede or disrupt proceedings.

d. Advisor

The accused student and/or the College may have an advisor present at the hearing. The advisor may only counsel the student and/or the College and may not actively participate in the hearing, unless clarification is needed as determined by the Discipline Review Panel Chair.

e. Witnesses and Supporting Documentation

- i. The accused and/or the College may submit notarized written statements, absent other clear evidence of authenticity; may invite relevant witnesses to attend, may ask questions of witnesses called by others, and will be notified of potential witnesses to be called.
- ii. Witnesses shall not attend the entire hearing, but will be called to present information by the Discipline Review Panel Chair at the appropriate time.
- iii. Pertinent records and supporting documentation may be accepted as information for consideration by the Discipline Review Panel at the discretion of the Panel Chair.
- iv. The Panel Chair may accommodate concerns for the personal safety, well-being, and/or fears of confrontation during the hearing by providing separate facilities, by using a visual screen, and/or by permitting participation by telephone, videophone, videoconferencing, videotape, and other means, where and as determined by the Senior Vice President f to be acceptable.

f. Consultants

- i. In cases requiring special expertise, the VPEMSA or designee may appoint individuals with relevant expertise to serve as consultants to the Discipline Review Panel.

- ii. The consultants may be present and provide information as called upon during the hearing, but will not vote.

g. Discipline Review Panel Quorum

- i. A quorum of the Discipline Review Panel must be present to conduct a hearing, unless the student waives the quorum rule in writing. At the conclusion of the hearing, the panel members shall determine by a majority vote whether the accused student has violated each section of the Code with which the student is charged.
- ii. In the event of a tie vote regarding a particular charge or allegations, the Panel will continue to deliberate with regard to the charge or allegations that were the subject of the tie vote. If the Panel determines that exhaustive deliberations have occurred and a majority vote cannot be reached regarding the particular Code allegations, the student will be found not in violation of the allegations for which the majority vote could not be reached.

h. Written Record

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Panel Chair will submit a written record, of the Panel's disposition and suggested sanctions to the VPMSA or designee within ten (10) calendar days.

i. Notification of Sanctions

No more than thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the written hearing record the VPMSA or designee shall review the hearing record and notify the student(s) of his/her decision and, where applicable, imposed sanctions (**see Section VI**). If the student has been found to have violated the Code, the letter shall inform the student of his/her right to appeal under the Code procedures, pursuant to the appellate process, **Section VIII**.

VI. College Sanctions and General Guidelines:

College Sanctions are imposed for both academic and non-academic violations. Sanctions to be imposed by the College, for either type of violation are varied and should be commensurate with the violation(s) found to have occurred.

a. Determination of Sanctions

In determining the sanction(s) to be imposed for either academic or non-academic violations, consideration should be given to mitigating circumstances and/or aggravating factors, including, but not limited to:

- i. Past misconduct by the student;
- ii. Provocation by the subject of the conduct that constituted the violation;
- iii. Failure of the student to comply fully with previous sanctions;
- iv. Potential and/or actual harm caused by the violation;
- v. Degree of intent and motivation of the student in committing the violation; and
- vi. Severity and pervasiveness of the conduct that constituted the violation.

Note: Impairment resulting from voluntary use of alcohol or drugs, other than is medically necessary, shall be considered an aggravating, and not a mitigating, factor.

b. Sanctions and Related Actions

One or more of the following courses of action may be taken when a student has been found to have violated the Code.

i. Disciplinary Warning

A disciplinary warning to a student represents a formal written admonition for a specific conduct violation. A student under warning shall continue to exercise all rights and privileges of the College as a student in good standing.

ii. Disciplinary Probation

Disciplinary probation is a sanction imposed for a specific period of time and may include conditions restricting the student's privileges or eligibility for and participation in activities. Such privileges and eligibility are automatically restored upon completion of the probationary period if the student has complied satisfactorily with all conditions and has refrained from further Code violations.

iii. Suspension

Suspension is a sanction that terminates the student's enrollment, separating the student from the College for a period not to exceed two (2) full semesters (including summer session) following the effective date of the imposition of the suspension. Readmission at the end of the suspension period may require satisfactory completion of specified stipulations to be met.

a) Interim Suspension

1. When the appropriate Vice President or designee has reasonable cause to believe that a student has violated the Code and that the student's presence on College premises or at a College-related or registered student organization activity poses a significant risk of substantial harm to the health or safety of others or to property, the student shall be required to vacate the College premises immediately or at a time determined by the appropriate Vice President.
2. In addition the student shall be denied all privileges afforded a student and is not permitted to participate in or complete academic coursework.
3. The Interim Suspension will be confirmed in writing and shall remain in effect until the conclusion of a full hearing, without undue delay, typically, within 1-5 calendar days after the issuance of the Interim Suspension.
4. The student shall also be entitled to the same appeal process that other students receive as described in the Code procedures, pursuant to the appellate process, **Section VIII.**

b) Continued Suspension

Following a Discipline Review Panel Hearing for a student on Interim Suspension, the student may be continued on suspension for an indefinite period of time, if the appropriate

Vice President or designee determines that the student's behavior poses an imminent danger of causing physical harm to self or to others; or his/her behavior directly and substantially disrupts or impedes the lawful activities of other members of the campus community, including faculty, staff, students, visitors, and guests of the College.

Under the terms of a continued suspension, the student:

1. Will be required to leave College premises immediately upon notification;
2. Will not be allowed to return to the College premises without authorization from the College official who ordered the suspension;
3. Will be eligible to receive a refund of tuition and fees for the term of separation in accordance with the "Refund Schedule" established by the College;
4. Will have the grade "AW" (Administrative Withdrawal) entered upon his/her official College transcript for any courses not completed during the term of separation (the "AW" grade will not be calculated in the student's GPA); and
5. Will have a registration hold placed upon his/her file to prevent future unauthorized registration at the College.

iv. Disciplinary Dismissal

Disciplinary dismissal is a sanction by which the student is involuntarily separated from the College for three (3) full semesters (including summer session) or more following the effective date of the imposition of the dismissal.

- a) A student receiving a Disciplinary Dismissal shall be required to vacate the College premises immediately or at a time determined by the appropriate Vice President.
- b) In addition, the student shall be denied all privileges afforded a student and is not permitted to participate in or complete academic coursework.
- c) Upon reinstatement, a student may be required to meet other conditions imposed by the appropriate Vice President such as eligibility to participate in specified student activities; or periodic contact with a designated College staff member.

v. Revoke Admission

The student loses admitted status to the College. Admission may be revoked as a result of fraud, misrepresentation, or other violations of college rules and policies prior to or after enrollment. A permanent notation will be made on the student's transcript indicating that the "admission was revoked" and the date of action. The appropriate Vice President shall review all recommendations for revocation of admission.

vi. Expulsion

The student is permanently separated from the College, may not be present on the College premises, or in attendance at College-sponsored events.

- a) Permanent notification will appear on the student's transcript indicating the student has been "Involuntarily Separated from the College."
- b) The appropriate Vice President shall review recommendations for expulsion that are for academic and non-academic misconduct cases,

vii. Revoke Degree

The student loses the right to claim a degree from the College. The awarded degree will be removed from the student's transcript and a permanent notation will be made on the transcript indicating that "the degree has been revoked," the degree involved, and the date of the action. The appropriate Vice President shall review all recommendations for degree revocation.

viii. Other Sanctions

Other sanctions may be imposed by the Disciplinary Review Panel or appropriate Vice President or the Academic Integrity Panel, whichever is applicable to the violation, as deemed appropriate for the student and the conduct violation in question. These may be imposed singularly or in combination with any of the aforementioned sanctions listed in **Section IVa**. Other sanctions can be assigned as the recommended sanctions or as conditions to another sanction. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- a) Research assignments;
- b) Community service projects;
- c) Special workshop participation;
- d) Restitution for property damage or misappropriation of College property or services, or the property of any person;
- e) Restriction of access to specified campus facilities and/or property;
- f) Referral to medical resources or counseling personnel;
- g) Removal from class.

ix. Sanctions of Student Clubs and Organizations

Student clubs or organizations may lose privileges or registration for violation of the Code or the regulations contained within the Student Organization Handbook.

Upon issuance of a sanction(s), an electronic discipline file is created by the office of the appropriate Vice President. The file will be consulted in determining sanctions for any further proven code violation by the student.

VII. Hearing Panels

a. Academic Integrity Panel

The Academic Integrity Panel exists to protect academic standards and integrity of the College and is responsible for adjudicating allegations of academic misconduct referred by the VPAA.

i. Hearing Officer Role

The Hearing Officer shall investigate or establish procedures for investigation in all reported cases of student academic misconduct and serves as a Council ex-officio member without the authority to vote.

ii. Panel Chair Role

The Panel Chair shall manage the Academic Integrity Panel Hearing in accordance with **Section I.E.** and coordinate the writing and submission of the report to the Senior Vice President.

iii. Panel Membership

The Academic Integrity Panel members are appointed annually in the spring and training is conducted prior to October 1. Training content is housed in the Office of the VPAA. The Academic Integrity Panel membership includes:

- a) Up to five (5) regular faculty members to be appointed by the VPAA in consultation with the President of the Rhodes State College Faculty Association;
- b) One (1) or two (2) Rhodes State College students appointed by a Rhodes State Student Government Association (SGA) officer or, when the SGA is not functioning, appointed by the VPMSA. Student appointments shall be for a one-year term beginning with the fall term. To be eligible for appointment, a student must possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average and be under no current disciplinary sanction from the College. Students may be reappointed to subsequent terms.
- c) One (1) Academic Chairperson to be appointed by the VPAA in consultation with the President of the Rhodes State College Faculty Association; and
- d) A quorum for a hearing shall be no fewer than four (4) voting panel members and include no less than one (1) student and three (3) faculty members.

b. College Discipline Review Panel

The College Discipline Review Panel is responsible for adjudicating allegations of non-academic misconduct referred by the VPMSA. The Discipline Review Panel members are appointed annually in the spring and training is conducted prior to October 1. Training content is housed in the VPMSA. The Discipline Review Panel roles and membership includes:

i. Hearing Officer Role

The Hearing Officer shall investigate or establish procedures for investigation in all reported cases of student non-academic misconduct and serves as a Council ex-officio member without the authority to vote.

ii. Panel Chair Role

The Panel Chair shall manage the Discipline Review Panel Hearing and coordinate the writing and submission of the report to the Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs and VPMSA.

iii. Panel Membership

a) The College Discipline Review Panel membership includes:

1. One (1) Academic Dean or chairperson appointed by the VPAA and serving as the Panel Chair;
2. One (1) or two (2) faculty members recommended by Academic Dean to the VPAA;
3. One (1) or two (2) professional or administrative staff members assigned to Enrollment Management & Student Affairs and appointed by the VPEMSA ; and
4. One (1) or two (2) Rhodes State College students appointed by a Rhodes State Student Government Association (SGA) officer or, when the SGA is not functioning, appointed by the VPEMSA. Student appointments shall be for a one-year term beginning with the fall term. To be eligible for appointment, a student must possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average, be under no current disciplinary sanction and in good standing with the College.

b) A quorum for a hearing shall be no fewer than four (4) voting panel members and shall include no less than one (1) student member.

VIII. Appellate Process

a. Right to Appeal

A student found to have violated this Code has the right to appeal the decision from the Administrative Hearing, Discipline Review Panel Hearing, or Academic Integrity Panel Hearing.

- i. Unless an interim suspension is issued, a student may continue to attend classes and exercise other rights and privileges of a registered student during the appeal process, but the College reserves the right to impose the sanction(s) retroactively to the date of notice of sanction(s) letter issued by the appropriate Vice President or designee.
- ii. A registration hold will be placed on a student's Banner account record pending completion of the appeal.
- iii. An appeal must be based upon one or more of the following grounds:
 - a) Procedural error;
 - b) Misapplication or misinterpretation of the Code rule alleged to have been violated;
 - c) Findings of facts not supported by a preponderance of the evidence;
 - d) Discovery of substantial new facts that were unavailable at the time of the hearing; or
 - e) That the disciplinary sanction imposed is grossly disproportionate to the violation committed.
 - f) An appeal of a decision must be submitted in writing and postmarked or hand delivered to the appropriate Vice President or designee within ten (10) calendar days after the date on which the College mailed the student the Notification of Sanctions letter.

b. Appropriate Appeal Officers

- ii. Student appeals regarding the administrative hearing decision will be submitted to the appropriate Vice President for decision.
- iii. Student appeals regarding the College Discipline Review Panel or Academic Integrity Panel hearing decision shall be submitted to the appropriate Vice President for decision.

a) Appeal Proceedings

The appropriate Vice Presidents, as appeal officers, shall manage the appeal as follows:

1. The Vice President shall dismiss any appeal which is not based upon one or more of the grounds set forth in **Section VIII.a. (iii)**.
2. The Vice President may decide the appeal based upon a review of the hearing record alone.
3. The Vice President may request additional written information or an oral presentation from relevant person(s) and then decide the appeal based upon the enhanced record.

b) Possible Dispositions by the Appeal Officer

After a review of the hearing record, the appropriate Vice President, as appeal officer may pursue the following:

1. Uphold the Administrative Hearing, ruling and/or sanctions;
2. Uphold the Discipline Review Panel or Academic Integrity Panel ruling and/or sanction;
3. Dismiss the Discipline Review Panel or Academic Integrity Panel ruling and/or sanction; and/or
4. Impose a lesser sanction or greater sanction.

IX. Maintenance and Confidentiality of Student Conduct

A single record consisting of written notes, tape recording, or other medium selected by the Discipline Review Panel or Academic Integrity Panel will be made of all hearings. Such record will remain the property of the College. A completed file for each case of misconduct shall be maintained in the office of the appropriate Vice President or designee. Once the case is resolved, the file will be maintained for a period not to exceed six (6) years or otherwise in accordance with the College's **Records and Retention Manual**.

Materials relating to a disciplinary action are confidential and only available, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA 20 U.S.C. §1232g. et.seq.) regulations, guidelines and standards.

X. Extension of Time

The appropriate Vice President, in consultation with other appropriate parties as needed, may extend the timelines set forth in the Code for good cause. A request for extension for good cause must be made in writing by the requesting party, include supporting rationale, and be received in the office of the appropriate Vice President, at least two (2) calendar days before the deadline the party is seeking to extend.

XI. Revisions and Amendments

The Rhodes State College Student Code of Conduct is an official publication of the College as approved by the Board of Trustees. All petitions for revision and amendment of the Code should be submitted through the Office of the VPMSA for consideration by the appropriate governing bodies and recommendation to the President. Proposed revisions to the Code shall be reviewed, in draft form, by the President, VPMSA, and the appropriate student governing body before being presented for approval to the Shared Governance Councils of Academic and Enrollment Management & Student Affairs.

Revisions must have the approval of the College Board of Trustees, and no revision shall become effective until printed notice of such revision is made available to students. Revisions made to this Student Code of Conduct Policy and Procedure since the date of its publication are available in the Office of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs.

Related Policies or Procedures:

[Student Code of Conduct Policy 4.01](#)

History:

	Date:	Reason:
Issued:	08/18/2020	Corresponds with Policy 4.01 Student Code of Conduct
Revised:	03/16/2021	Change in titles to align with organizational structure
Revised:	05/21/2024	Organizational Restructure

This policy and / or procedure provides operating principles for Human Resources issues at Rhodes State College. It supersedes any prior policy or procedure covering specific subject. This policy and / or procedure may be suspended, modified or cancelled as determined by the College. This policy and / or procedure does not create a contract of employment, nor is it a condition of employment between the College and its employees.