

**Rancho Santiago Community College District**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION**  
Chapter 5  
Student Services

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**AR 5500 Standards of Student Conduct**

**Reference(s):**

Education Codes 66300, 66301, 72122, 76030-76038, and 76243  
ACCJC Accreditation Standards I.C.8 and 10 (formerly II.A.7.b)

The Rancho Santiago Community College District may impose discipline for the commission, or attempted commission, of the following types of violations by students or for aiding or abetting, inciting, conspiring, assisting, hiring, or encouraging another person to engage in a violation of the Standards of Student Conduct, or for any violation of state or federal law.

**I. CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS**

The following conduct shall constitute good cause for discipline, including but not limited to the removal, suspension, or expulsion of a student, except for conduct that constitutes sexual harassment under Title IX, which shall be addressed under Interim AR 3425 Title IX (9) Sexual Harassment (Interim).

- A. Dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, lying, or knowingly furnishing false information to the district or a college official performing their duties.
- B. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of district documents, records, or identification.
- C. Causing or attempting to cause damage to any real or personal property owned by the district or district employees (damage includes, but not limited to vandalism, such as cutting, defacing, breaking, etc.)
- D. Obstruction or disruption of pedestrian or vehicular traffic or of teaching, research, administration, or of other district activities on or off district premises. This includes obstruction or disruption of administration, disciplinary procedures or authorized college activities.
- E. Causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical injury to another person. Or any threat of force or violence upon a student, college personnel, or campus visitor.
- F. Willful misconduct which results in injury or death to a student, college personnel or campus visitor or which results in cutting, defacing, or other injury to any real or personal property owned by the district. This includes fighting on district property or at a district sponsored event, on or off district premises.

- G. Detention of any person on district-owned or controlled property or at district-sponsored or supervised functions or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of another.
- H. Stealing or attempting to steal district property or private property on campus, or knowingly receiving stolen district or private property on campus.
- I. Unauthorized entry into or unauthorized use of district property, supplies, equipment, and/or facilities.
- J. Misrepresentation of oneself or of an organization to be an agent of the district or failure to identify oneself to, or comply with the directions of a district official, policy, or other public official when requested to do so; or resisting or obstructing such district or other officials in the performance of, or the attempt to, perform their duties.
- K. Sexual assault or physical abuse, including rape, forced sodomy, forced oral copulation, rape by a foreign object, sexual battery, sexual coercion, or threat or assault, of any conduct that threatens the health and safety of the alleged victim, which includes students, college personnel or campus visitors.
- L. Dating violence, defined as violence committed, on the basis of sex, by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the Complainant. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: length of the relationship, the type of relationship and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. For the purposes of this definition, dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse. Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence.
- M. Domestic violence, defined as conduct, on the basis of sex, that includes the requisite components of felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by (a) a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim; (b) a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; (c) a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse; (d) a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under California law; or (e) any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under California law.
- N. Stalking, defined as a course of conduct directed at a specific person on the basis of sex that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others, or to suffer substantial emotional distress. For the purposes of this definition: (a) a course of conduct is two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the Respondent directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property; (b) reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the Complainant; and (c) substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may but does not necessarily require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

- O. Sexual exploitation defined as an act or acts committed through non-consensual abuse or exploitation of another person's sexuality for the purpose of sexual gratification, financial gain, personal benefit or advantage, or any other non-legitimate purpose. Some examples are prostituting another person; recording images; viewing or distributing images of an individual's sexual activity, body parts, or nakedness; and inducing incapacitation for the purpose of making another person vulnerable to non-consensual sexual activity.
- P. Use, unlawful possession, distribution, furnishing or being under the influence of alcoholic beverage or an intoxicant of any kind on district property or at any district sponsored event.
- Q. Use, unlawful possession, distribution, furnishing, or being under the influence of any controlled substance listed in California Health and Safety Code Sections 11053 et seq. or unlawful possession of, or offering, arranging or negotiating the sale of any drug paraphernalia, as defined in California Health and Safety Code Sections 11014.5.
- R. Engaging in expression which is libelous, slanderous, obscene (according to current legal standards) or which incites students so as to create a clear and present danger of commission of unlawful acts on district premises, or violation of district regulations, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the college.
- S. Possession, sale, use or otherwise furnishing any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object, including but not limited to any facsimile firearms, knife or explosive. Exceptions include those participating in a criminal justice educational program who are authorized such possession or those who are enrolled in a course which authorizes such possession.
- T. Unauthorized preparation, giving, selling, transfer, distribution, or publication, for any commercial purpose, of any contemporaneous recording of an academic presentation in a classroom or equivalent site of instruction, including but not limited to handwritten or typewritten class notes, except as permitted by any district policy or administrative regulation.
- U. Engaging in harassing or discriminatory behavior based on disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation or any other status protected by law. Harassment does not include conduct protected by the First Amendment.
- V. Disruptive behavior, willful disobedience, harassment, stalking, habitual profanity or vulgarity, open and persistent abuse of college personnel, or open and persistent defiance of the authority of college personnel.
- W. Willful or persistent smoking in any area where smoking has been prohibited by law or by regulation of the Board of Trustees.
- X. Violation of the Computer Usage Policy applies to students using computer classrooms, computer labs, the wireless network or other locations on and off district property. A violation is considered any of the following:

- a. Accessing with or without permission, or causing to be accessed without authorization, altering, damaging, deleting, hacking, destroying, or otherwise using any data, computer, computer system, computer software and programs, or computer network belonging to or used by the college or any member of the district.
  - b. Accessing with or without permission, taking, copying, or making use of any data from a computer, computer system, or computer network, or taking or copying any supporting documentation, whether existing or residing internal or external to a computer, computer system, or computer network belonging to or used by the college or district.
  - c. Using or causing to be used, computer services without permission.
  - d. Disrupting or causing the disruption of computer services or denying or causing the denial of computer services to an authorized user of a computer, computer system or computer network belonging to or used by the college or district.
  - e. Introducing any computer contaminant or virus into any computer, computer system or computer network belonging to the college or district.
  - f. Sending any message using any computer system or network without authorization or sending any message in the name of another person or entity.
  - g. Using any account or password without authorization.
  - h. Allowing or causing an account number or password to be used by any other person without authorization.
  - i. Accessing or causing to be accessed, downloading or causing to be downloaded, pornographic or obscene materials except when accessing such material which is part of the instruction process or assignment for a class in which the student is currently enrolled.
  - j. Use of systems or networks for personal commercial purposes.
  - k. "Cyberstalking" which is to be understood as any use of the college or district computer system, computer network, or computer programs to stalk another person via excessive messages or inquiries, inappropriate or threatening messages, racially motivated communications, photos or other means of communication.
- Y. Deliberately making false and/or malicious accusations against a member of the campus community. This does not include allegations that are made in good faith but are ultimately shown to be erroneous or do not result in a policy violation determination.

- Z. Any act constituting good cause for suspension, expulsion or violation of district policies or campus regulations, including AR 3425 Title IX (9) Sexual Harassment.

Students who engage in any of the above are subject to the procedures outlined in AR 5520 Student Discipline Procedures.

**Adopted:      April 8, 2024**