

**EASTERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**POLICY NO. BP-4.2**

**TITLE :                   STUDENT ACADEMIC RIGHTS**

**SECTION 1.           GENERAL**

- 1.1    Scope -                               This policy regards academic rights and responsibilities of students.
- 1.2    Authority -                            West Virginia Code § 18-26-8
- 1.3    Filing Date -                        May 17, 1986
- 1.4    Effective Date -                    July 11, 1986
- 1.5    Repeal of Former Rule -        Revises and replaces Section 7 of Series 57, and Series 60 dated November 13, 1984.

**SECTION 2.           ACADEMIC RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES of STUDENTS**

- 2.1    The College shall define and promulgate, consistent with the rules and procedures of the Board of Governors, the academic requirements for admission to the College, and for admission to limited enrollment programs; the criteria for maintenance of satisfactory academic progress, for the successful completion of the program, for the award of a degree or certification, for graduation; the requirements or criteria for any other academic endeavor; and the requirements for student honesty and originality of expression.
- 2.2    A student, by voluntarily accepting admission to the College or enrolling in a class or course of study offered by the College accepts the academic requirements and criteria of the College. It is the student's responsibility to fulfill course work and degree or certificate requirements and to know and meet criteria for satisfactory academic progress and completion of the program.

### **SECTION 3. ACADEMIC RIGHTS**

- 3.1 Concomitant with the academic standards and responsibilities established pursuant to Section 3 of this policy, each student shall have the following academic rights:
  - 3.1.1 The student shall be graded or have his/her performance evaluated solely upon performance in the course work as measured against academic standards. The student shall not be evaluated prejudicially, capriciously, or arbitrarily. The student shall not be graded nor shall his/her performance be evaluated on the basis of his/her race, color, creed, sex, or national origin.
  - 3.1.2 Each student shall have the right to have any academic penalty, as set out in Section 4.2 of this policy below and more specifically defined by the College, reviewed.
  - 3.1.3 Each student shall have access to a copy of the college catalog or program brochure in which current academic program requirements are described (e.g., required courses, total credit requirements, minimum grade point average, probation standards, professional standards, etc.). Students have the right to receive from the instructor written descriptions of content and requirements for any course in which they are enrolled (e.g., attendance expectations, special requirements, laboratory requirements including time, field trips and costs, grading standards and procedures, professional standards, etc.).
  - 3.1.4 The instructor of each course is responsible for assigning grades to students enrolled in the course, consistent with the academic rights set out in the preceding sections.

### **SECTION 4. APPLICATION of POLICY to STUDENTS**

- 4.1 Student: any person who has been admitted to the College to pursue a course of study, research, or service, who is currently engaged in a College sponsored activity, and who has some right or privilege to be on the campus or in the facilities of the College, or to use the same, in connection with study, research, or service, or who yet has some right or privilege to receive some benefit or recognition or certification from the College, under the policies of the Board of Governors.
- 4.2 A student, as defined in this policy, shall be subject to any applicable penalties for failure to comply with the academic requirements and standards promulgated by the College. Students are expected to adhere to these academic standards in all academic settings, classrooms, laboratories, clinics, and any other activities which are part of academic requirements.

**SECTION 5. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS and CONSEQUENCES of FAILURE to MEET REQUIREMENTS**

- 5.1 The College shall define and promulgate the academic requirements, criteria and standards as set out in Section 2.1 of this policy. Normally, students may finish a program of study according to the requirements under which they were admitted to the program. However, requirements are subject to change at any time, with reasonable notice provided to the students.
- 5.2 A student who fails to meet the academic requirements or standards, including those for academic honesty as defined by the College according to Section 2.1 of this policy, may be subject to one or more of the following penalties:
  - 5.2.1 A lower grade or failure of the course or exclusion from further participation in the class (including laboratories or clinical experiences), all of which may be imposed by the instructor.
  - 5.2.2 Academic probation as determined and defined by the College.
  - 5.2.3 Academic suspension as determined and defined by the College.
- 5.3 Academic dismissal is defined as termination of student status, including any right or privilege to receive some benefit or recognition or certification. A student may be academically dismissed from a limited enrollment program and remain eligible to enroll in courses in other programs at the College, or a student may be academically dismissed from the College and not remain eligible to enroll in other courses or programs at the College.
- 5.4 A student may appeal any penalty according to the procedures in Section 6 of this policy below. The College shall determine and specify the point at which penalties, excluding those specified in Subsection 6.3.1. of this policy, may be imposed. Each instructor determines the point at which the penalties specified in Subsection 6.3.1. of this rule may be imposed. The College shall determine the method(s), if any, by which a student may correct the condition(s) leading to imposition of these penalties and thereby have them removed.

**SECTION 6. APPEALS**

- 6.1 The College shall establish policies and procedures by which a student may appeal or challenge any academic penalties imposed by a faculty member or by the College, including those described in Section 5.2 of this rule.

- 6.2 Additional procedures may include but not be limited to:
  - 6.2.1 Appeals of a grade penalty or exclusion from class;
  - 6.2.2 Appeals of final course grades;
  - 6.2.3 Appeals of imposition of academic probation;
  - 6.2.4 Appeals of imposition of academic suspension;
  - 6.2.5 Appeals of dismissal from programs; and
  - 6.2.6 Appeals of dismissal from the College.
- 6.3 Policies and procedures relating to appeals of academic penalties shall be governed by due process and shall include, as a minimum:
  - 6.3.1 Written notice to the student of his/her failure to meet or maintain an academic standard, of the methods, if any, by which the student may correct the failure, and of the penalty which may be imposed.
  - 6.3.2 An opportunity for the student to meet with the faculty member(s) or other individual(s) who have judged his/her performance to be deficient, to discuss with these faculty member(s) or other individual(s) the information forming the basis of the judgment or opinion of his/her performance, to present information or evidence on his/her behalf, and to be accompanied at any such meeting by an advisor of his/her choice from the College. Such advisors may consult with but may not speak on behalf of their advisees or otherwise participate directly in the proceedings, unless they are given specific permission to do so by the individual or committee conducting the appeal.
  - 6.3.3 An opportunity for the student to appeal the decision or judgment of faculty members through the established college appeals procedure within thirty calendar days after written notice of the decision or judgment.
  - 6.3.4 An opportunity to appeal to the President of the College or his/her designee within thirty calendar days after the receipt of written notice of the decision or judgment.
  - 6.3.5 The decision of the president or his/her designee regarding an academic appeal is final.

## **SECTION 7. APPEALS PROCEDURES for ACADEMIC DISMISSAL**

- 7.1 The appeal will be subject to the following conditions:
  - 7.1.1 The appeal must be filed within thirty calendar days after written notice of the decision.
  - 7.1.2 The appeal to the appropriate academic officer or appeals committee is not adversarial in nature; the formal rules of evidence do not apply.
  - 7.1.3 The student may be advised by a person of his/her choice from the College; likewise, the faculty member, academic officer, or committee recommending academic dismissal may have an advisor from the College. Such advisors may consult with but may not speak on behalf of their advisees or otherwise participate directly in the proceedings, unless they are given specific permission to do so by the individual or committee conducting the appeal.
  - 7.1.4 Witnesses may be called by any of the parties involved.
  - 7.1.5 A record of the appeal shall be prepared in the form of summary minutes and relevant attachments and will be provided to the student upon request.
  - 7.1.6 The decision of the President or his/her designee regarding academic dismissal is final.

## **SECTION 8. PUBLICATION**

- 8.1 All standards, criteria and procedures of the institution shall be published in one or more appropriate college publications such as catalogs, student handbooks, academic pamphlets, and handouts. Such requirements are subject to change with reasonable notice provided to the students.