

Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities

Onondaga Community College has a mission of providing quality academic programs and services, which enhance the educational process. Students, faculty administrators and staff have a mutual obligation to conduct themselves in a fashion that is supportive to the basic mission of the college. As an educational community, we openly encourage rational dialogue, mutual respect for varying opinions and support of an atmosphere free from repression.

In keeping with our basic mission and while supporting an open atmosphere for the expression of ideas and opinions, it is appropriate that we have a clearly defined set of policies and procedures that protect the rights, privileges and safety of our community.

It is both essential and proper to define the rights and responsibilities of the individuals in any community. Students, faculty, staff, and visitors are our community. This booklet is to assist you as a student with understanding your role as a community member. The booklet will also provide you with resources that will help keep you and the Onondaga Community College community safe. It is your responsibility to assist this endeavor by knowing the campus rules and regulations and your options should you encounter an unsafe or unwanted situation.

Statement of Mutual Respect

OCC defines a bias incident as any act directed against people or property that is motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, social affiliation, ability or appearance. These include hate crimes, ranging from violent assault and harassment (verbal or non-verbal) to vandalism and graffiti, as well as hate speech, hate literature, derogatory language and imagery in all media. Our goal as a community is to preserve the dignity and value of every member and to never to diminish another by our conduct or attitudes. OCC will continue to seek the best ways to prevent and confront hateful acts on campus. Members of our community who choose to engage in such behaviors will be in violation of the OCC Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Classroom Standards

Specific standards of behavior in classrooms are at the discretion of each individual instructor, as outlined in the course syllabus. The atmosphere of every class, however, should always be one of mutual respect. The following behaviors are ones which often show a disrespect for other members of the class and should be avoided.

1. Being late to or leaving early from class
2. Walking in and out of class while class is in session
3. Carrying on personal conversations or in other ways interrupting classroom presentations
4. Using language or gestures intended to offend others
5. Sleeping in class
6. Using beepers, cellular phones, watch alarms and other such devices that have alarms or beepers.

These items should be turned off or if possible placed on “vibrate mode” while in class.

A student who believes that any instructor’s classroom standards are unreasonable should speak to the instructor to express that concern. If no satisfactory solution is achieved through that discussion, the student should present the concern in writing to the Chairperson of the instructor’s department and seek resolution. If there is still no satisfactory resolution, the Chairperson will forward the complaint to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, whose decision will be final.

Students who desire guidance in dealing with issues regarding classroom standards should contact the Director of Student Life. This process is intended to resolve issues quickly, and students should anticipate responses at each stage within 7 business days.

Important Campus Telephone Numbers

Campus Security	Service & Maintenance	(315) 498-2478 Campus Emergency 2311
Office of Student Services	Gordon Student Center, Room 220	(315) 498-2228
Office of Multicultural Resources & Diversity Awareness Office	Whitney, Room 106C	(315) 498-2565
Counseling	Gordon Student Center, Room 240	(315) 498-2675
Health Services	Coulter, Room 103	(315) 498-2599 (On Campus) Medical Emergency – 2311