

## STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of Clarendon College is to encourage individuals of all ages to develop their skills and talents based on their abilities and interests, so that collectively they may contribute to the growth and development of this democracy. College policies, procedures, and regulations are formulated to promote an appropriate teaching and learning environment where each student has the freedom to learn and where the constitutional rights of others are protected.

The concept of rights and freedom, no matter how basic or widely accepted, carries with it corresponding responsibilities. Students, as well as other members of the college community, enjoy the same constitutional and civil rights guaranteed all citizens; at the same time, they are subject to the laws of the nation, the State of Texas, and the local community. All members of the college community have a strong responsibility to protect and maintain an academic climate in which the freedom to learn can be enjoyed by all. To this end, certain basic regulations and policies have been developed to govern the behavior of students as members of the college community.

Violations of student conduct regulations will be handled through the Office of the Vice President of Student Services. Violations of federal, state, and/or local laws make a student subject to civil or criminal action in addition to disciplinary action by the College. Each student is responsible for knowing the policies and regulations of the College.

### **Freedom of Expression**

The rights of free speech and peaceable assembly are fundamental to the

democratic process. The College supports the rights of students of the college community to express their views and opinions on actions or ideas, to associate freely with others, and to assemble peacefully.

Whether expressing themselves as individuals or in organized groups, members of the college community are expected to conduct themselves responsibly, according to law, and to respect the basic educational goals of the College. Accordingly, the College insists that free expression not violate the rights of others. Disruption of the educational process and functions of the College, or violation of law, would constitute such a violation.

Students wishing to assemble must complete an official request with the Vice-President of Student Services. The institution reserves the right to determine the time and location of such assemblies in order to ensure that the educational process is not disrupted. The use of amplified equipment is prohibited in student assembly and speech. The institution will not tolerate hate speech, defined as "...the lewd and obscene, the profane, the libelous, and the insulting or 'fighting' words – those which by their very utterance inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace." (Chaplinsky vs State of New Hampshire, 315 U.S. 568, 1942)

### **Freedom of Access**

Within the limits of its resources, Clarendon College shall be open to all applicants who are qualified according to current admission requirements. Clarendon College does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, mental or physical disabilities, age, or sex in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This

includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services, programs, and activities.

### **Freedom of Association**

Students are free to associate to promote their common interests. They have the right to seek, through official procedures, and establish organizations of their choosing so long as such are not in conflict with the educational purposes of the College.

Students have the right to affiliate with officially recognized campus organizations of their choice, within the requirements of those organizations relative to membership.

### **Academic Rights of Students**

The College has the responsibility of providing a program of quality education in keeping with its financial resources; students have protection through campus-designed procedures against prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation. Student performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students are responsible for completing their academic program, being familiar with all requirements of the College Catalog, and for maintaining their grade point average for degree requirements.

### **Student Records**

Student records are maintained in confidence and in compliance with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission retention schedule. Student records are used to promote the instruction, career development, guidance, and educational progress of the

student. In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93-380, as amended, the student has access to specific information contained in his or her official records as specified by that act. Student records may be released to other persons, agencies, or institutions with a demonstrated interest in the student only if a written release has been signed by the student. College staff shall have access to student records when there is a demonstrated educational interest in the student.

### **Student Participation in Institutional Decision-Making**

The primary route of Clarendon College students in decision-making is through participation in the Student Government Association (SGA). Students also may be invited to serve on one of the various institutional committees. Student opinion of food services, student housing, student activities, etc., are gathered from a number of surveys. All student input, whether it be through organized clubs, committees, or questionnaires, is given serious consideration as suggestions for change in and improvement of the College.

### **Student Responsibilities**

The Board of Regents of Clarendon College expects employees, students, visitors, and guests of the College to accept the following responsibilities:

- (1) Compliance with and support of duly constituted civil authority,
- (2) Respect for the rights of others and cooperation to ensure that such rights are maintained, whether or not one agrees with the views of those

exercising such rights.

- (3) Cooperation to ensure that the will of the majority is implemented after due consideration, but not to include the suppression of the minority,
- (4) To exercise disagreement in a responsible manner and within a framework compatible with the orderly resolution of differences.
- (5) Knowledge of and active support of college regulations.
- (6) A person who is required to register under the Code of Criminal Procedures 62.152 must register not later than the seventh day after the date on which the person begins to attend school to the Director of Student Life as well as any other local law enforcement agencies as required by Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure.