

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2012 2013



Discover Your Future at
www.minnesota.edu

M|State

Career, Technical and Transfer Education.

Our Mission

Providing dynamic learning for living, working and serving.



Our Vision

A success story for every student and stakeholder.

Dear M State Student:



Welcome to Minnesota State Community and Technical College, and thank you for choosing M State as the college to discover and pursue your future! Our mission is to provide education for dynamic learning, living, working and serving, so we sincerely hope that your journey in our family of campuses leaves you energized and ready to commit to a plan and a pathway to accomplish your educational, career and life goals.

You are now a member of the M State community. It is a community that will provide you with multiple opportunities and experiences for academic, career and personal growth and development. We want you to fully engage in the M State community of academic programs and services, student life, athletics, housing and possible employment opportunities so you can maximize your experience with us. We want you to succeed in reaching your goals.

This handbook is an important resource during your college experience. Please be sure to read it for important information which will be helpful to you while at M State. If you have any questions, contact our helpful and friendly student services staff.

Best wishes for success - it is a pleasure to have you at M State!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy D. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Dr. Peggy D. Kennedy,
President*

2012-2013 M State Student Academic Calendar

August 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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September 2012

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October 2012

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November 2012

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December 2012

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January 2013

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August 2012

August 27: First day of classes
August 31: Last day to drop or add courses

September 2012

September 3: Labor Day **COLLEGE CLOSED**
September 21: Spring 2013 registration begins
September 26: Fall ceremony participation* graduation application date
September 27 - January 30: Fall degree posting graduation application date

October 2012

October 17-19: Fall break **No Classes/College Open**

November 2012

November 12: Veterans Day **COLLEGE CLOSED**
November 22-23: Thanksgiving break **COLLEGE CLOSED**

December 2012

December 5: Last day to withdraw from full-term fall semester courses
December 14: Last day of classes
December 17-21: Finals week
December 24-January 11: Semester break **No Classes**
December 25: Christmas **COLLEGE CLOSED**

January 2013

January 1: New Year's Day **COLLEGE CLOSED**
January 14: Spring classes begin
January 18: Last day to drop or add courses
January 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day **COLLEGE CLOSED**

February 2013

February 1: Summer/Fall 2013 registration opens
February 1: Spring ceremony participation graduation application date
February 2 - July 1: Spring degree posting graduation application date
February 18: Presidents Day **COLLEGE CLOSED**

March 2013

March 11-15: Spring break **No Classes**
March 29: **No Classes/College Open**

April 2013

April 23: Last day to withdraw from a full-term spring course

May 2013

May 6-10: Finals week
May 10: Spring semester ends
May 27: Memorial Day **COLLEGE CLOSED**
May 20: Summer-term begins

June 2013

June 3: Summer-term liberal arts courses begin

July 2013

July 4: Independence Day **COLLEGE CLOSED**

Visit minnesota.edu for more information.

* Check with a student services representative on your campus to learn if there is a fall commencement ceremony.

February 2013

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March 2013

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July 2013

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Access to Information

The College will make available the following information to all enrolled and prospective students:

Student Right to Know

(Graduation/Completion Rate)

The purpose of this information is to disclose annual student completion and graduation rates. This report is available on the College website at www.minnesota.edu or by calling 1-877-450-3322.

Campus Security Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the campuses of campus crime prevention programs, crime reporting procedures, emergency response and a three-year statistical history of criminal activity on the College campuses. A copy of the Campus Security Report is distributed annually to students and employees and is available from the Student Services office on each campus. Prospective students and employees can obtain this information from the College Website at www.minnesota.edu or by calling 1-877-450-3322.

Cost of Attendance

Information on tuition, fees, estimated book and supplies costs and any additional known costs associated with particular programs can be obtained online at www.minnesota.edu. Visit www.minnesota.edu for laptop requirements and costs.

Tuition Refund

Information regarding the Tuition Refund Policy for the return of Title IV grants or loans is provided in this student handbook, in the College catalog and at www.minnesota.edu.

Drop/Add/Withdrawal

The purpose of this policy is to explain how to make course enrollment changes. Refer to the College Drop/ Add/Withdrawal Policy in this student handbook and in the College catalog.

Academic Program Information

A listing of faculty associated with programs and other instructional personnel is available on the College Website at www.minnesota.edu.

Accreditation

The College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission; Member of the North Central Association (NCA); 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411; phone: (312) 263-0456. Additional program-specific accreditation information can be found in the College catalog and on the Website at www.minnesota.edu.

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The purpose of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act is to afford certain rights to students concerning their education records. Primary rights include the right to inspect and review education records, the right to seek to have the records corrected and the right to have some control over the disclosure of information from the records. The College FERPA Policy is located in the catalog and is included in this handbook.

Financial Assistance

Information on the availability (types of aid available), eligibility, selection criteria, criteria for amount determination, satisfactory progress standards, re-establishing satisfactory progress status, disbursement methods, student work conditions and conditions for repayment of loans is provided in this handbook and the College catalog, on the Website and in campus financial aid offices.

College Policies

Many M State policies are under review. M State may make changes to existing policies during the academic year. Please visit www.minnesota.edu for current updates to policy information which may include the following topics:

Academics
Admission
Campus Environment
Financial Aid
Nondiscrimination in Education and Employment
Online Majors
Registration
Student Records
Student Support Services

If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact a college representative to receive the policy in an alternate form.

Admission

As an open door institution, M State provides students with the opportunity to advance their education regardless of prior academic preparation. We offer comprehensive academic offerings and student support services to educate and train students with diverse backgrounds, academic and personal experiences and life goals. For specific information about the admission process, visit www.minnesota.edu.

Advanced Standing/Placement

M State awards credit for previously gained knowledge and skills that are equivalent to coursework at the College. Such credit may be granted through various means such as direct transfer of courses of equivalent nature that were completed at regionally accredited institutions of higher education, through Articulation Agreement for College Credit, AP, CLEP, credit for prior learning or credit by examination.

The amount of credit granted by the College for an exam or other method will not exceed the credit the College grants for an equivalent course or course sequence. The College will not grant credit for exams that overlap completed coursework or for standardized tests for which the student has already gained credit. Credit granted through AP and CLEP may be used for partial fulfillment of the general education distribution requirements for the AA, AS and AAS degrees. Please contact the Registration Office with any questions about advanced standing/placement.

Assessment for Course Placement

Assessments in reading and math are required of all new students who enroll in more than eight credits at M State. Testing must be completed before registration. Schedules of test dates and times are available online at www.minnesota.edu. Accommodations for students with disabilities who need to complete assessment testing should be arranged in advance through the College's Center for Students with Disabilities.

Students who do not meet minimum test scores in reading and math will be required to enroll in developmental courses in those areas. Students must demonstrate proficiency in those courses by receiving passing grades before enrolling for the next course in the particular discipline. These courses provide the basic skills required for success in all college courses.

Developmental courses are not intended for transfer; credits earned in these courses will not meet distribution or elective requirements for graduation.

Immunization Requirement

All students must show proof of immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps and rubella. There are two exceptions: 1) if born prior to 1957, or 2) if graduated from a Minnesota high school in 1997 or after. Immunization forms are available at www.minnesota.edu.

Notice to Students Regarding

Possible Impact of Criminal Records

If you have been arrested, charged or convicted of any criminal offense, you should investigate the impact that the arrest, charge or conviction may have on your chances of employment in the field you intend to study or on your chances to obtain federal, state, and other higher education financial aid.

The following sites may provide information regarding the impact of criminal records on future employment: Minn. Stat. Ch.609B COLLATERAL SANCTIONS, <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=609B>, Minnesota Legislature's Overview of Background Check Statutes, <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/bkgdchck.pdf>.

Visiting Students

A student who registers for seven credits or less in a semester and who does not intend to immediately pursue a certificate or degree program need not go through formal admission procedures. No proof of high school graduation is required of this type of student.

Veterans Benefits

The majors offered by M State have been approved by the Minnesota State Approving Agency for veterans and their dependents eligible for educational benefits under Chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of the Veterans Readjustment Act of 1977. Under the new GI Bill, Chapter 106 (educational assistance program), Reserve and National Guard personnel may be eligible for educational benefits. Students should contact the Veterans Certifying Official or their local Veterans Administration office to obtain applications and determine eligibility and entitlement. Veterans may receive credit for appropriate military training. The campus transfer specialist personnel will determine the number of credits acceptable to transfer.

Registration

All students who have completed both the requirements for admission and have orientation are eligible to register for courses.

Independent Study

In special circumstances, a student may obtain permission to take a regular course on an independent study basis. Students also have the opportunity to expand on an area of special interest by developing an independent study project with an instructor and obtaining the approval of the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Preparing To Transfer

Preparing to Transfer to a Four-Year University

Colleges and universities are working to make transfer easier. Students must plan ahead, ask questions and use pathways created by transfer and/or articulation agreements.

Students Currently Enrolled at M State:

Discuss your plans with your M State advisor and campus transfer specialists. Call or visit the intended transfer institution. Obtain the following materials and information:

- College catalog
- Transfer brochure
- Information on admissions criteria and on materials required for admission (e.g. portfolio, transcripts, test scores). Note that some majors have limited enrollments or their own special requirements such as a higher grade point average.
- Information on financial aid (how to apply and deadlines for application).

After reviewing these materials, make an appointment to talk with a program advisor or counselor at the transfer institution. Be sure to ask about course transfer and admission criteria.

If not currently enrolled in a college or university, students might begin to plan by meeting with a transfer specialist or admission officer from the intended transfer institution.

Understanding How Transfer of Credit Works:

Completion of the 40-credit Minnesota Transfer Curriculum at M State assures the acceptance of these credits as having satisfied the general education requirements of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and some colleges within the University of Minnesota system. In addition, the four-year institutions in the state strongly recommend that students complete their associate degrees before transferring. The College has articulation agreements with several of these institutions guaranteeing the acceptance of the associate degree as completing the first two years of a baccalaureate degree. Check with the College counselors for more information.

For students who transfer without completing an associate degree or the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, the receiving college or university will decide which credits transfer and whether those credits meet its degree requirements. The accreditation of both sending and receiving institution can affect the transfer of credits earned.

Institutions accept credits from courses and programs like those they offer. They look for similarity in course goals, content and level.

Baccalaureate degree programs usually count credits in three categories: general education, major/minor courses and prerequisites and electives. The key question is whether credits fulfill the requirements of the degree or program. Not everything that transfers will apply toward graduation.

Students who change career goals or majors may not be able to complete all degree requirements within the usual number of graduation credits.

Students interested in transfer will find additional resources on which credits may transfer at: www.MnTransfer.org and www.transfer.org/uselect.

Applying for Transfer Admission:

Application for admission is always the first step in transferring. Fill out the application prior to the deadline. Enclose the application fee. Request that official transcripts be sent from every institution attended. Be prepared to provide a high school transcript or GED test scores as well.

After the College notifies students of acceptance for admission, transcript credits will be evaluated for transfer. A written evaluation should indicate which courses transfer and which do not. How courses specifically meet degree requirements may not be decided until orientation or upon declaring a major. Be advised that some major departments may evaluate courses and credits differently than the evaluator who approves admission. Some courses may not meet specific department or major requirements.

Questions about the evaluation may be addressed to the registrar's office. Ask to speak with the credit evaluator. Ask why judgments were made about specific courses. Many concerns can be cleared up if you understand why decisions were made. If not satisfied, you can appeal.

Your Rights as a Transfer Student:

- A clear, understandable statement of an institution's transfer policy.
- A fair credit review and an explanation of why credits were or were not accepted.
- A copy of the formal appeals process and the ability to appeal any decision made.

Usual Appeals Steps Are:

- Student fills out an appeals form. Supplemental information provided to reviewers (a syllabus, course description or reading list) can help.
- Department or instructor reviews.
- Student receives, in writing, the outcome of the appeal.
- Student can appeal decision to the College's academic dean.

Upon student request, a review of eligibility for financial aid or scholarships is held.

Transfer of Credit

Students wishing to transfer credit from another institution to M State must make that request by submitting the proper course transfer request form and requesting that an official transcript of their grades be sent to the registrar's office at the appropriate campus for evaluation. Students may be required to provide course descriptions from their previous institution. Technical courses need to have been completed within the last five years unless this requirement is waived by the Dean.

Transfer of D grades:

If the student's overall GPA is less than a 2.00 transferring institution, "D" grades are listed but not transferred into M State for college credit (coded as NTD - non-transfer D). If the overall GPA is a 2.00 or higher, "D" grades are transferred into M State for credit (coded as TD - transfer D). Each department indicates whether or not a grade of "D" is acceptable within the major, and DARS is encoded accordingly. Individual programs reserve the right to not accept D-graded courses in fulfillment of program requirements.

Transfer of Program Within M State

Students who desire to transfer to a program at another campus of M State must initiate the process at the Admissions Office of the new campus to determine if enrollment space is available. Prior to registration or transfer, students must declare, subject to the approval of both campuses, their program major and the campus from which they intend to graduate.

Student Records

Confidentiality of Student Records /FERPA

Notification & Student Directory Data

M State maintains records about students in various places within the College. For example, the admissions office and the registration office maintain student records. Under federal and state law, students have certain rights concerning the records the College maintains.

Under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), students have rights:

- To inspect and review their educational records.
- To request an amendment of records for the purpose of correcting inaccurate or misleading records, or records that violate student privacy or other rights in some fashion.
- To have a hearing regarding records which students believe are inaccurate or misleading, if the College does not amend records upon request.
- To place a written statement explaining the disagreement with the College in their records, if the College does not amend records after the opportunity for hearing about whether the records are inaccurate or misleading.
- To consent to disclosures of information that identify students personally, except to the extent that disclosures are allowed without consent under state and federal law.
- To file a complaint with the United States Department of Education if students believe the College is not meeting the requirements of the federal law. Written complaints should be sent to: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20202-4605.
- To obtain a copy of the College's complete policy regarding education records. The College has policy information available in the College Catalog and this Student Handbook.

FERPA and the MGDPA permit disclosures of student information without consent to college officials with legitimate educational interest. A college official is a person employed by the college in an administrative, supervisory, academic support or support staff position, a person or company with whom the College has contracted, a student serving on an official College committee, a person serving on the Board of Trustees or in the Office of the Chancellor, a person assisting another College official in performing his or her tasks, and/or contractors, consultants, volunteers and other service providers. A College official has legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Records maintained on students are categorized as follows:

- Public Data – Data that has been designated as directory data is considered public. The Student Directory Data policy defines directory data for M State.
- Private Data – Almost all educational data is private. Private data is accessible to the subject of the data and to those who have a business need for access to the data. Students must provide the College with prior written consent for disclosure of private data.
- Confidential Data – Confidential data is not accessible to the subject of the data. Confidential data is accessible only to individuals or agencies authorized by law to have access to the data.

Student Directory Data

Student directory data is considered public data, and the College may release it without a student's written consent. A student may, however, make a written request to Student Services to prevent

the College from releasing directory data without the student's written consent. M State defines directory data to include:

- Name
- Major field of study
- College e-mail address
- Honors and awards
- Most recent educational agency or institute attended
- Dates of attendance
- Weight and height (used for student athletes only)
- Dates of graduation, certification and awards

Notice to students: If you are currently enrolled in or receiving services from one college or university within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), your academic records from that institution are available to officials of other schools within MnSCU while you are in attendance. M State forwards education records to other agencies or institutions that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer. Disclosures of your records to other schools under other circumstances may require your prior written consent. Students should contact the Dean of Student Success if they have questions about their rights.

Change in Student Record

The College expects students to report any name, address, program/major, telephone number or other record changes to the Student Services Office. This ensures accuracy of student information and allows the College to communicate important information to students. eCampusstudents should use the appropriate on-line form to make such changes.

Students who have name changes must provide legal documentation when completing the change in student record process.

Academic

Classification of Students

A student who has earned less than 30 credits is classified as a freshman. One who has earned 30 credits or more is classified as a sophomore. Two other terms are used occasionally to refer to a student's status: "Part-time" refers to students who carry less than 12 credits, and "visiting" refers to occasional students who are not currently pursuing a degree or certificate.

Graduation Policy

M State grants Associate in Arts Degrees (AA), Associate in Science Degrees (AS), Associate in Applied Science Degrees (AAS), Associate of Fine Arts Degrees (AFA), Diplomas and Certificates. The following general requirements apply to all candidates for each of the degrees.

General Requirements:

- Achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00.
- Successfully complete all required coursework for the program major(s) according to criteria established by the College. The actual graduation date will be within the semester in which all coursework, transfer credits and related materials required for program completion are finalized.
- Programs may have additional program graduation requirements. These requirements are published and available from program faculty and advisors.
- Students must earn 20 semester credits/equivalent or one-third of the credits required for graduation at the granting institution, whichever is less.
- Requirements are established at the time of admission to the program.
- Students must complete an application for graduation. The application can be obtained at www.minnesota.edu.

Career Exploration and Placement Services

The College assists students with career exploration through one-on-one and/or group assistance and counseling. Each campus offers career interest inventories and other resource information and customized coursework and services to help students create and meet their educational and career goals.

For technical programs, the College also assists students with placement services for one year following graduation. While the College does not accept responsibility for a student securing employment, we offer services designed to assist students in the job-seeking process. The College services include assistance with portfolio and resume development, and interviewing and job searching techniques.

Carl D. Perkins Vocational Career and Technical Education Act of 2006

M State partners with Lakes Country Service Cooperative and various education, business and community agencies to carry out services as part of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

The purpose of the Act is to improve career and technical education and create opportunities to enter high-skill, high wage and high demand employment in Minnesota for all learners. The Act places special emphasis on improving access and services for special student populations defined by law. These special populations include:

- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals from economically disadvantaged families, including foster children
- Individuals preparing for non-traditional fields
- Single parents, including single pregnant women
- Displaced homemakers
- Individuals with limited English proficiency

Non-traditional fields also receive special emphasis in the Act. A non-traditional field is defined as a high skill career field for which students from one gender comprise fewer than 25% of the students enrolled in the field. Examples include women in construction electricity or men in dental hygiene. M State encourages students to consider non-traditional fields, and we welcome questions and inquiries from all students and members of the public. For more information about non-traditional fields, please contact the enrollment manager at any M State campus. For E-campus programs, contact the Dean of Enrollment Management for the College.

You will find M State's Perkins Plan at <http://www.cte.mnscu.edu/perkinsIV/applications.html>, click on the Lakes Country Consortium. For information about how to access Perkins services and programs at any M State campus, contact Carrie Brimhall, Associate VP of Academic and Student Affairs, at Carrie.Brimhall@minnesota.edu.

Academic Assessment

Program faculty assess the effectiveness of student learning in programs and disciplines each year. Career programs share results with their industry-based advisory committees and then adjust their curriculum as appropriate. All program assessment plans and results are posted on the College intranet.

Academic Support Services

The College provides students with numerous services to support their educational experience. Each campus has tailored its services to meet the needs of its student population and may include:

- Academic advising, counseling and support
- Career counseling, resources and assessment
- Career placement services
- English Language Learner services
- Free one-on-one and/or group tutoring, study skills assistance and other learning services
- Individual counseling and aid in making referrals
- Library services
- Multicultural programming and services
- Services for students with disabilities
- Writing assistance

For more information or to obtain any of these services, contact Student Services.

International Students (F-1, M-1 Visa)

International students are required to be enrolled in 12 or more credits each semester (fall and spring). Upon arrival at the college, students must present their visa and passport bio page to the international student advisor. International students must purchase health insurance through MnSCU. International students are responsible for maintaining their legal status while enrolled at M State.

English Language Learners (ELL)

The ELL and multicultural advisors offer assistance to English language learners who seek aid in getting admitted and enrolled at M State. M State offers courses and support services to assist ELL students reach their educational goals. See the ELL advisor, multicultural advisor or Learning Center director for more information on support services.

Student Credit Load

The maximum number of credits that a student is allowed to take in any one semester is 20. A student may complete the appeal form to petition the academic dean to take more than 20 credits in one semester.

Credit by Examination

A student may challenge any program-level course at M State through an examination for credit with the appropriate department by the drop/add date. The student should obtain a Credit by Examination form at www.minnesota.edu to secure approval for such an examination from the appropriate faculty. A \$50 per credit (lecture or lab) fee will be assessed for the course that the student intends to challenge. If the student passes the test, a grade of CR (credit) is recorded on the student's transcript and the credits are awarded toward their degree. If the student fails the test, the attempt is not recorded on the student's transcript. A student MAY NOT repeat a challenge examination.

Financial aid amounts are based in part on the number of credits students register for each semester. Any test-out credits are not counted toward determining a student's status of full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time, or less than half-time to determine financial aid awards.

A student may not test-out of a course which already appears on the student's record. Students are encouraged to complete the credit by examination process well in advance of the term but must complete it by the drop/add date.

Refer to the College Residency Policy #2020-1-01 to determine any limitations to earning credits by examination.

Auditing Courses

Students intending to audit a course (earn no credit) are required to register for the course indicating audit. Auditing students may not need to meet regular course requirements but should confer with the instructor as to their privileges and responsibilities in the course. A student may change from credit to audit status or audit to credit status any time during the first five days of the semester. Courses audited are not included in determining the total credits earned toward a major or the cumulative grade point average.

Drop/Add /Attendance/Non-Attendance

A student must drop a class through the first five instructional days of a semester to avoid being billed for the course. No entry will be made in the student's academic record if a course is dropped within the first five instructional days of a semester.

A student may add a class through the fifth day of instruction. Proportional time limits may be applied to courses of shorter duration.

A student must withdraw from a course no later than the eightieth (80) instructional day of the semester.

A course dropped after five (5) instructional days and by the eightieth (80) instructional day of the semester will appear on the student's record as a withdraw (W).

Tuition and fees will be assessed for all courses for which the student is registered after the fifth instructional day of the semester. Courses dropped after the fifth instructional day will not reduce the tuition obligation.

Student financial aid is calculated based on the number of credits a student is registered for at the end of the drop period. Accumulated withdrawals will impact financial aid eligibility and may require repayment of received funding.

The college does not automatically drop or withdraw a student for non-attendance. Should a student fail to begin attendance by the sixth day of the semester, a grade of "FN" may be issued by the instructor. An FN grade will prevent the disbursement of financial aid for that course. Should a student cease attendance and/or participation in a course for 14 consecutive calendar days without prior arrangements made with the instructor, a grade of "FW" may be issued by the instructor.

When students do not officially drop or withdraw, they will receive the earned grade in each course for which they are registered and will be responsible for tuition and fees for those courses. It is the student's responsibility to drop or withdraw from a course.

The College reserves the right to administratively drop a student for non-attendance in special circumstances.

Withdrawing from the College

Students needing to initiate a withdrawal from all their college courses can do so online at www.minnesota.edu.

The College encourages students to visit with their academic advisor and the Student Services Office prior to making a decision to complete the withdrawal process. Withdrawing may have an impact on student repayment of financial aid, eligibility to receive financial aid and satisfactory academic progress.

The College refunds tuition and fees to students who withdraw in accordance with MnSCU policy. Students receive a proportionate refund for tuition and fees provided the withdrawal process is completed within the established deadline.

After the fifth day of the semester, the College issues refunds according to the following schedule:

Fall and Spring semesters:

Date of Withdrawal	Refund allowed
6th through the 10th day of the term	75%
11th through the 15th day of the term	50%
16th through the 20th day of the term	25%
21st day and after	No refund allowed

Summer sessions and other terms at least three weeks in length but less than ten weeks in length:

Date of Withdrawal	Refund allowed
6th through the 10th day of the term	50%
11th day and after.....	No refund allowed

Please note that tuition and fee refunds do not apply to withdrawing from individual courses.

Minnesota General Education Transfer Curriculum

The Minnesota General Education Transfer Curriculum is the result of a collaborative effort by all of the two- and four-year public colleges and universities in Minnesota to define a common philosophy toward general education. The goal of this effort is to help students transfer their work in general education. Completion of a defined transfer curriculum at one institution enables a student to receive credit for all lower-division general education upon admission to any other institution.

Students who complete a general education transfer curriculum are certified in 10 areas of competency by faculty at the sending institution. Beginning January 1, 2002, all Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Courses offered by MnSCU institutions must transfer within MnSCU into the goal areas as designated by the original institution. The following are the 10 goal areas of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum:

Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Areas:

1. Written and Oral Communication
2. Critical Thinking
3. Natural Sciences
4. Mathematics/Symbolic Systems
5. History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
6. The Humanities—the Arts, Literature and Philosophy
7. Human Diversity
8. Global Perspective
9. Ethical and Civic Responsibility
10. People and the Environment

The College catalog contains a complete listing of all the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Courses and their corresponding goal areas. The College Website also contains this listing.

Degree Requirements

The requirements for the AA, AS, AAS, AFA degrees, diplomas and certificates are detailed in the College catalog, in addition to being located on the M State Website.

Please consult your academic advisor or contact Student Services if you have any questions about the course requirements for your chosen degree, diploma or certificate.

Academic Program Assessment

All academic programs at the College shall develop and implement plans for assessing effectiveness of student learning. For academic programs, these plans will include assessment of all approved Program Learning Outcomes to provide evidence of student learning at the entry-level and/or at the level deemed appropriate for graduates of college programs. The results of these assessments shall be used by the program faculty to plan strategies for improved student learning.

In addition to assessing student learning, the College works in other ways to assess the quality of students' experiences at the College, both inside and outside the classroom. As a result, students will be asked to participate in a variety of surveys and other assessments, such as course surveys, satisfaction surveys, comment cards and focus groups. The College will use the feedback from these assessments to determine ways to improve.

Academic Advising

It is the College's philosophy that academic advisement is essential to the growth and development of each individual student. Academic advising will be available to all students to assist with scheduling and academic issues. It is the intent of the College to provide the student with personally relevant information and instructional assistance.

Mid-Term Progress

Students should meet with their advisors to review mid-term progress.

Final-Term Grades

Final grades are provided to students upon completion of an academic term.

Grading

The College will use the following letter grades to document student achievement:

A = Excellent	V = Audit**
B = Above Average	I = Incomplete***
C = Average	W = Withdraw
D = Below Average	CR = Credit by examination
F = Failing	NC = No Credit

Other Designations:

H = Honors project****	AU = Audit of a class for no credit.
Z = Designator to indicate faculty member has not submitted grade.	
FN = Unearned F/Never attended.	
FW = Earned F/Ceased attendance prior to the end of the term.	

** A student auditing a course will pay the normal tuition rate.

***A student may request faculty to assign the student a grade of incomplete (I). A grade of I may be assigned to a student, at the faculty's discretion. Typically, the student has been doing satisfactory work, has met the majority of the course requirements and is unable to complete course work due to illness or other extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control.

**** The H designation does not impact grade point average or satisfactory academic progress.

An incomplete grade must be removed by completing course requirements at the end of one semester, excluding summer semester. Any incomplete grade not removed will be changed to an "F."

An "I" grade automatically becomes an "F" grade at the end of the next term (not including summer sessions) if requirements have not been satisfactorily met. The faculty member has the option of setting an earlier completion date.

Repeating Courses

All courses taken at M State may be repeated. A student may repeat a course an unlimited number of times, unless stated otherwise. Both the original and the repeat grade will appear on the student's transcript. The highest grade will be used to compute the student's GPA. Exceptions include: choir, music lessons and student newspaper. Financial aid may not cover the cost of repeated courses. The College advises students to check this with the financial aid office.

Grade Point Average

Academic progress will be evaluated, in part, in terms of grade point average. The following system will be used to establish a student's grade point average and will be the only grades included in the GPA calculation:

A = 4 grade points per credit

B = 3 grade points per credit

C = 2 grade points per credit

D = 1 grade points per credit

F = 0 grade points per credit

A (GPA) is determined by the sum of all grade points divided by total credits attempted, except those credits that carry grades other than the usual A - F grades.

Academic Forgiveness

Academic forgiveness gives an undergraduate student who has been away from M State at least five calendar years a one-time opportunity to establish a new grade point average. Students who seek academic forgiveness must meet the following conditions:

- The student must not have been enrolled at M State for a minimum of five consecutive years prior to the point of academic forgiveness.
- Upon readmission, the student must successfully complete 12 credits at M State as defined by the Academic Progress policy prior to applying for academic forgiveness.

Academic forgiveness cannot be granted if a student has earned a postsecondary degree following his/her initial M State attendance and has applied M State credits toward that degree. Courses that have been used for completion of certificate, diploma or degrees are not subject to academic forgiveness.

Academic forgiveness will be indicated on the transcript, and the calculation of the student's grade point average will not include grades received prior to the point of academic forgiveness. Course titles and grades for these courses will remain on the transcript. Academic forgiveness does not relate to or affect Financial Aid eligibility.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

All students in a program of study must meet satisfactory academic progress standards in order to remain enrolled and maintain eligibility for financial aid. Students must maintain an acceptable grade point average and completion rate for their registered credits to meet Minnesota State Community and Technical College's standards for satisfactory academic progress. The acceptable grade point average and completion rate is progressive based on cumulative registered credits and is detailed below:

Qualitative Measure

Grade Point Average (GPA): All students are required to meet the minimum cumulative GPA as shown below.

Cumulative Registered Credits	Minimum Required GPA
0 – 5	0.00
6 – 23	1.75
24 or more	2.00

Quantitative Measure

Completion Percentage: All students are required to earn a minimum of their cumulative registered/attempted credits. Grades of F, FN, FW, I, NC, W, and Z (or blank/missing) are treated as registered credits but NOT earned credits and thus negatively impact the percentage of completion. Formula:

$$\text{Percent earned} = \left[\frac{\text{cumulative earned credits}}{\text{cumulative registered credits}} \times 100 \right]$$

Cumulative Registered Credits	Minimum Required Completion
0 – 5	0%
6 – 23	58%
24 or more	66.6%

Evaluation Period

The College will evaluate satisfactory academic progress after each term which includes fall, spring and summer. All students with registered credits during a term will be evaluated at the end of that term.

Failure to Meet Standards

Warning Status: If at the end of the evaluation period a student has not met either the College's GPA or completion percentage standard, the student will be placed on warning status for one evaluation

period. Students on warning status are eligible to register and receive financial aid.

Reinstatement of Students on Warning Status: If at the end of the academic warning period a student who has been on warning status has met both the cumulative GPA and cumulative completion percentage standards, the warning status is ended and the student is returned to good standing.

Suspension of Students on Warning Status

If at the end of the warning period a student who has been on warning status has not met both the College's cumulative GPA and completion percentage standards, the student shall be suspended. Students on suspension are not eligible to register or receive financial aid. Without an appeal (see "Appeals and Probation" below), the suspension period is for one calendar year. Students seeking to return after the one year suspension period must still appeal for potential financial aid reinstatement.

Suspension of Students for Other Reasons

Suspension for Inability to Meet Program Requirements within the Maximum Time Frame: If at the end of the evaluation period the College determines it is not possible for a student to raise her or his GAP or course completion percentage to meet the standards before the student completes their program of study at the College, the student shall be suspended from financial aid eligibility.

Suspension for Exceeding the Maximum Time-Frame: If at the end of the evaluation period a student has failed to meet the College's standard for measurement of maximum time-frame, the student shall be suspended from financial aid eligibility.

Suspension for Extraordinary Circumstances: The College may immediately suspend students in the event of extraordinary circumstances, including but not limited to previously suspended (and reinstated) students whose academic performance falls below acceptable standards during a subsequent term of enrollment; students who register for courses, receive financial aid, and do not attend any classes; and students whose attendance patterns appear to abuse the receipt of financial aid.

Suspension at another MnSCU Institution: Students who have been suspended from another MnSCU institution that have an active suspension on their record will not be allowed to register for courses at the College. Students whose suspension period has elapsed may enroll at the College, but may not be eligible for financial aid until they've academically performed at an acceptable term level (75% completion and a term GPA of 2.25 or greater). These students will enter the College on Probationary status.

Appeals and Probation

Appeals: Students may appeal their suspension based on unusual or extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances include:

- Serious illness or injury to student or immediate family member (parent, spouse, sibling, or child) that required extended recovery time
- Death of an immediate family member (parents, spouse, sibling, or child)
- Significant trauma in student's life that impaired the student's emotional and/or physical health
- Other unexpected documented circumstances beyond the control of the student
- Suspension due to excessive number of credits without completing a degree, diploma or certificate

The student shall submit, as part of the appeal, information as requested regarding why the student failed to make satisfactory academic progress, and what has changed in the student's situation that would allow the student to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress at the end of the next evaluation period.

An appeal may only be approved if the College:

- Has determined that the student should be able to meet SAP standards at the end of the next evaluation period; or
- Develops an academic plan with the student that, if followed, shall ensure that the student is able to meet SAP standards by a specific point in time; and
- That the student shall maintain a standard of term performance of a minimum of 75% completion rate AND a minimum GPA of 2.25 until such time as satisfactory cumulative measures are met.

Probation: A student whose suspension period of one year has passed or who has been granted reinstatement through the appeal process shall be placed on probation for one evaluation period. If, at the end of that evaluation period, a student on probation status:

- Has met the College's cumulative grade point average and completion percentage standards, the student shall be returned to good academic standing.
- Has not met the College's cumulative grade point average and completion percentage standards but has met the conditions specified in his/her academic plan AND a standard of term performance of a minimum of 75% completion rate AND a minimum GPA

of 2.25, the student shall retain his/her financial aid and registration eligibility under a probationary status for a subsequent evaluation period.

- Has not met the College's cumulative GPA and completion percentage standards and has also not met the conditions specified in his/her academic plan, the student shall be re-suspended immediately upon completion of the evaluation period. The suspension period is for one calendar year; students must appeal for potential financial aid reinstatement.

Notification of Status and Appeal Results

Status Notification: Students are notified in writing (email or letter) when the evaluation of satisfactory academic progress results in "Warning", "Suspension", or "Probation". The notice includes the conditions of the current status and the conditions necessary to regain eligibility for registration and financial aid (where applicable). Notice of suspension also includes the right and process necessary to appeal suspension.

Appeal Result Notification: Students are notified in writing (email or letter) of the results of all appeals. Approved appeals may include specific conditions under which the appeal is approved and any conditions necessary to retain eligibility for registration and financial aid.

Reinstatement

A student who has been suspended from financial aid eligibility may be reinstated after an appeal has been approved or the minimum cumulative GPA and completion percentage standards have been achieved. A student suspended from the College may be reinstated to enroll for classes after an appeal or after the suspension period of one year has passed, but may not be eligible for financial aid until they've met the conditions of their appeal for financial aid reinstatement.

Definitions

Credits: The unit by which academic work is measured

Registered (Attempted) Credits: The total number of credits for which a student has officially enrolled in at the end of the registration drop/add period each term.

Cumulative Registered Credits: Cumulative registered credits are the total number of credits registered for all terms of enrollment at the College, including summer terms and terms for which the student did not receive financial aid.

Earned Credits: Earned credits include the grades of A, B, C, D, AH, BH, and P. They are successfully completed credits that count towards the required percentage of completion (66.6%) as defined by the quantitative measure.

Attempted, NOT earned: Grades of F, FN, FW, I, NC, W, Z (or a blank/missing) will be treated as credits attempted but NOT successfully completed (earned).

Academic Forgiveness: Credits for which a student has been granted academic forgiveness WILL be included in all financial aid satisfactory progress measurements.

Audited Courses: Audited courses are not aid eligible courses and are not included in any financial aid satisfactory academic progress measurements.

Consortium Credits: Consortium credits are those credits for which a student is registered at another college/university, which are accepted in transfer by this college and are included for purposes of processing financial aid at this college. These credits are included in all satisfactory academic progress measurements.

Developmental Credits: Developmental credits are those awarded for remedial course work (below 1000 level). Students may receive financial aid for developmental credits up to a maximum of 30 credits (excluding ELL). These credits are included in all satisfactory academic progress measurements. However, up to 30 developmental credits are excluded from the maximum timeframe calculation.

Incompletes: The grade/mark of "I" (incomplete) is a temporary grade which is assigned only in exceptional circumstances. It will be given only to students who cannot complete the work of a course on schedule because of extraordinary circumstances beyond their control. An "I" grade/mark will automatically become an "F" grade at the end of the next term (not including summer sessions) if requirements to complete course work have not been satisfactorily met. Faculty have the option of setting an earlier completion date for the student. A grade of "I" is not included when calculating grade point average or earned credits. Thus, it does not impact GPA but does negatively impact earned credits and, therefore, negatively impacts the student's percent of completion.

Repeat Credits: Repeat credits are credits awarded when a student repeats a course in order to improve a grade. A student may repeat a class as allowed by the College. The College will determine, based on its Repeating Courses Policy, which grade will become the grade calculated in the GPA. All repeated credits are included in the percent of completion and maximum time frame calculations.

Transfer Credits: Transfer credits are credits earned at another institution which are accepted by this college. Transfer credits which are accepted by Minnesota State Community and Technical College and are applicable to the student's program of study shall be counted as credits attempted and completed for calculation of completion percentage and maximum time frame. Grades associated with these credits are not included in calculating GPA.

Withdraw: The grade/mark of "W" (withdrawal) is assigned when a student withdraws from a class after the drop period. It is not included in calculating grade point average or earned credits. Thus, it does not impact GPA but does negatively impact earned credits and, therefore, negatively impacts the student's percentage of completion.

RESPONSIBILITY:

President - Ensure compliance with the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

Registrar and Financial Aid Director - Ensure the implementation of the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

Associate Registrar/Registration Personnel - Evaluate student academic standing at the end of each term. Notify students of status and inform students of the process for appeal.

Academic Appeals

Students may appeal any academic issue and discuss it with the appropriate employee(s) and/or administrator(s) as established by College policy or procedure. Students have the right to seek remedy through the College's designated academic appeal process. Students should use available informal means (direct conversation) to resolve disputes before filing an appeal. There will be no retaliation of any kind against students, faculty or staff who participate in the appeal process. For more information about filing an academic appeal, contact Student Services.

Student Grievances

Students have the right to file a grievance in writing if they have allegations of improper, unfair, arbitrary or discriminatory action by an employee involving the application of a specific provision of a college rule or regulation. Students should use available informal means to have decisions reconsidered before filing a grievance. No retaliation of any kind shall be taken against a student for participation in a complaint or grievance. These procedures shall also protect data privacy rights. For more information on filing a grievance, visit www.minnesota.edu.

Program Interruption

The academic calendar of M State is subject to modification or interruption due to occurrences such as fire, flood, labor disputes, interruption of utility services, acts of God, civil disorder and war. In the event of any such occurrences, the College will attempt to accommodate students. The College will not, however, guarantee that courses of instruction, extracurricular activities or other college programs or events will be completed or rescheduled.

Financial

Tuition

Tuition for all students is set annually by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees and charged on a per credit basis.

All applicable tuition charges are billed to the student and are payable on or before the tuition and fee due date. Tuition not paid by this date as defined by the registration cancellation for non-payment policy (listed below) will result in the cancellation of all courses.

Don't Get Dropped for Not Paying Your Tuition

Minnesota State Colleges and University policy requires that minimum payment criteria must be met one week prior to the first day of each semester to avoid an administrative drop of all courses you are enrolled in for the term. In order to ensure your courses are not canceled, you must have one of the following payment criteria in place one week prior to the first day of classes.

1. Pay in full using cash, check or credit card.
2. Create a payment plan. You have made a down payment of 15 percent of tuition and fees charges or \$300, whichever is less, and an active payment plan with FACTS Management Company is in place.
3. Apply for federal financial aid. Once you have applied for financial aid and M State has received your application (FAFSA) results from the Department of Education, your courses will be confirmed. To access the FAFSA application, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov.
4. Submit a scholarship or third-party authorization. As soon as M State has received payment in the form of scholarships, third-party authorizations or tuition waivers that meet

- the minimum down payment of 15 percent or \$300, your courses will be confirmed.
- Apply for Veteran's Education Benefits and complete the Veteran's Sign-Up form.
 - For international students, an active I-20 or DS20.19 is on file.

Manage Your Account Online

Students can manage their account online at SpartanNet by clicking on the E-Services link. Once student tuition and fee bills are posted, there will be messages to indicate whether the payment criteria to avoid an administrative drop have been met. If any known payment or financial aid information does not appear on the online screens, students should contact Student Services for resolution as early as possible. Students who register and later change their plans for attendance should not rely on the cancellation for nonpayment (drop for non-payment) process to complete administrative drops for them. Students who do not wish to be enrolled must drop their courses via the online registration process and officially withdraw from M State for accurate determination of their financial obligation to the College, if any.

Tuition Reciprocity

Reciprocity agreements exist between the state of Minnesota and the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri and Nebraska. Students of these states and the province of Manitoba are permitted to pay tuition at a rate below the nonresident rate. Reciprocity application forms are available from high school counselors or from the campus admissions office.

Non-resident Tuition

M State allows students from states other than Minnesota and from states that do not have reciprocity agreements to attend and pay resident tuition rates.

General Fee for Senior Citizens

As defined in Minnesota Statutes §135A.51, senior citizens who have reached 62 years of age before the beginning of any term, or a person receiving a railroad retirement annuity who has reached 60 years of age before the beginning of the term, can pay an administrative fee of \$20 per semester credit to be enrolled in credit courses on a space-available basis after all students who pay regular fees have been accommodated."

Residency

Students who seek to qualify for in-state tuition must first meet the following threshold requirements:

- Students must have resided in Minnesota for at least one calendar year immediately prior to applying for in-state tuition.
- Residence in Minnesota must not be merely for the purpose of attending the College.

Each of the following additional facts and circumstances will be considered when responding to a petition for in-state tuition. Not one of these factors is either necessary or sufficient to support a claim for in-state tuition.

- Continuous presence in Minnesota during period when not enrolled as a student
- Sources for financial support are generated within Minnesota
- Domicile in Minnesota of family, guardian or other relatives or persons legally responsible for student
- Ownership of a home in Minnesota
- Permanent resident in Minnesota

The following circumstances, standing alone, shall not constitute sufficient evidence of domicile to affect eligibility for in-state tuition under these regulations but may be considered as part of the demonstration of the facts and circumstances listed above.

- Voting or registration for voting
- The lease of living quarters
- A statement of intention to acquire a domicile in Minnesota
- Domicile of student's spouse in Minnesota
- Automobile registration
- Other public records, e.g. birth and marriage records

College Fees

Various fees will be assessed to students depending upon enrollment status, courses attempted and services offered by the campus attended. The following is a list of the fees that may be assessed. Fees unique to a program or a class offering are detailed in the course requirement list. Fees shall be established annually by the President. A fee schedule is available from the campus business office for the current academic year. Fees may vary based on the campus where the student is enrolled.

Application Fee

All students entering the College will be assessed a one-time, non-refundable application fee.

Chef Training Fee

All students in the chef training program are assessed a fee to cover meals the student consumes during the courses.

Clinical Makeup Fee

In the event that a student is absent from excessive clinical time, he or she will be required to make up some or all of that time. Because this is extra time for the faculty and extra expense for the College, this fee will be assessed to the student.

CNA/HHA Testing Fee

Any nursing assistant or home health aide student wishing to take the certification test through the College is assessed this fee. The fee is used to pay for the cost of scoring the exam.

Credit by Examination Fee

When a student wishes to test out of a course through credit by examination, a credit by examination fee shall be assessed.

Golf Green Fee

Students taking golf will be assessed a fee to pay for the green fees at the community golf courses.

Late Payment Fee

Late payment fees will be assessed on the 21st day of each semester to any student who has not paid tuition, when no proof of financial aid or other funding is provided. The fee is based on the number of credits for which a student is registered.

Nursing Application Deposit

A deposit is required of all students applying for the nursing programs. The deposit is returned to the applicant if he or she is not accepted into one of the College's nursing programs. If the student is accepted, the deposit is credited toward the student's first term tuition.

Parking/Common Area Fee

Parking fees will be assessed on a per credit basis. The proceeds from this fee are used to upgrade and maintain the College parking facilities.

Pottery Clay Fee

Students taking the pottery course will be creating and keeping clay projects throughout the course. Each student will be assessed a fee to pay for the cost of the clay projects.

Private Music Lessons

Students wishing to take private vocal or instrumental music lessons will be assessed a fee for the lessons.

Pre-Test Assessment Fee

All nursing students are required to take an initial assessment of skills when entering the program. This fee is used to pay for the analysis of the assessment.

Post-Test Assessment Fee

In order to ensure that the nursing students have a firm understanding of the curriculum that has been delivered to them, each student is required to take a post-test assessment exam. This fee is used to pay for the analysis of the assessment.

Professional Liability Fee

Professional liability fees will be assessed to students enrolling in courses requiring clinical/internship experience. This fee is used to purchase professional liability insurance on the student's behalf.

Replacement of Student Identification Card

Each student will receive a student identification card at no charge. In the event the card needs to be replaced, a fee will be assessed to the student.

Technology Fee

Technology fees shall be assessed on a per credit basis as outlined in the technology fee plan. Proceeds from this fee shall be used to upgrade and maintain the technical infrastructure of the College and to assist in the staffing of technology-related positions.

Student Activity Fee

A student activity fee shall be charged to students. The activity fee is allocated to Student Life activities.

Student Association Fee

All students shall be assessed a fee which is passed on to the Minnesota State College Student Association for college membership dues. This fee shall be assessed on a per credit basis.

Uniform Deposit Fee

This fee will be assessed to all students who rent a uniform from the College. The deposit is charged to ensure all uniforms are returned to the College in the same condition they were received (less ordinary wear). The fee is refundable at the end of the year if all uniforms are returned undamaged.

Uniform Rental Fee

This fee is assessed to students in programs that require student uniform rental. The fee is used to pay for the rental of the uniform.

Student Payments

All tuition and fees are due on the tuition and fee due date which will be established annually by the College. All courses will be cancelled unless the student has met the payment definition outlined in the Registration Cancellation for Non Payment section of this handbook.

In the event that the student does not receive enough financial aid, scholarship or third-party agency payment to cover all charges, the account will be considered delinquent. Also, if the student does not stay current with the agreed-upon payment plan, the account will be considered delinquent.

In the event that the account becomes delinquent, a written notice will be sent to the student which will make the student aware of the delinquency and notify him or her that payment in full must be received immediately. Any student who does not make payment after the above notice is received will be sent a State of Minnesota 20-day letter. This letter will inform the student that the account will be turned over to the Minnesota Collection Entity if payment is not received.

In addition, no student with an outstanding account will be allowed to register for future courses, and his or her college transcript will be held until payment in full has been received.

Deferment/Payment Plan

In accordance with MnSCU policy 5.8 Minnesota M State has the ability to grant deferments and payment plans to students demonstrating the need for such arrangements.

A deferment is defined as an agreement between the College and the student to delay payment until financial aid, which is sufficient to cover all student charges, arrives at the College. Financial aid, for this purpose is described as grants, loans, scholarships or third-party authorizations. Deferments may be granted from authorized representatives of the financial aid or business offices.

M State has made arrangements with FACTS Tuition Management Services which allows students to pay for their charges throughout the term. To access these services, go to our Website at www.minnesota.edu and click on the e-Cashier link.

All payment plans must be paid in full before students will be allowed to register for future terms. Failure to stay current with a payment plan will put a student's account in a delinquent status, and collection efforts will begin.

Tuition Refund

Tuition will be refunded to students canceling their registration at the College through a formal withdrawal process and in accordance with MnSCU policy. Refunds are only applicable to complete withdrawals from the College.

The following refund schedule is for students who do an official complete withdrawal from the College. To constitute a complete withdrawal, a student must withdraw from all courses for which he or he is registered in the term.

Refund for fall and spring term courses (at least 10 weeks in length):

- Withdrawal from 1st through 5th instructional day: 100% refund
- Withdrawal from 6th through 10th instructional day: 75% refund
- Withdrawal from 11th through 15th instructional day: 50% refund
- Withdrawal from 16th through 20th instructional day: 25% refund
- Withdrawal after the 20th instructional day: 0% refund

Refund for summer session courses (at least three weeks in length):

- Withdrawal from 1st through 5th instructional day 100% refund
- Withdrawal from 6th through 10th instructional day 50% refund
- Withdrawal after 10th instructional day 0% refund

Courses that start after the fifth instructional day of the term or courses that are less than three weeks in length will have a 100 percent refund of tuition if the student withdraws prior to the end of the first business day following the first class meeting. If the withdrawal request is made on the second or third business day following the first class meeting AND the withdrawal results in 100% course withdrawal, the student is entitled to a 50% refund. There is no refund for withdrawal from such short-term courses after the third business day following the first class meeting.

Federal pro rata refund will apply to federal financial aid recipients enrolled for the first time at the College.

Return of Title IV Funds for Financial Aid Recipients

Students who receive Federal Title IV financial aid (Pell Grant, SEOG Grant, Direct Loan, Stafford Loan or Perkins Loan) and who completely withdraw prior to completion of 60 percent of the term shall be required to repay the unearned portion of that aid. Federal financial aid is earned on a pro rata basis up to the 60 percent point of the term (e.g. after 40 percent of the term has elapsed, 40 percent of the federal aid has been earned while 60 percent is unearned and subject to repayment). After the 60 percent point in the term, the student will be considered to have earned 100 percent percent of his or her federal aid. Students should consult with financial aid office personnel before completely withdrawing from college to accurately determine repayment liability to federal financial aid sources. Students who earn all F's for a term will be considered to have unofficially withdrawn from the course at 50 percent of the term for the purpose of determining if the student has earned their financial aid. If a student did attend at least 60 percent of the term, and that student can get documentation from the instructor within the 15 days of the end of the term, the student will not have to repay the financial aid.

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

In addition to meeting and maintaining the standards set forth in the college Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy (see policy on page 12); student recipients of financial must complete their degree, diploma or certificate within a maximum allowable period of time.

Measuring the time period: All students must complete their degree, diploma, or certificate within 150% of the published length of the program. (e.g. 60 credit programs must be completed within 90 attempted credits) When it becomes clear that a student cannot complete the program within the maximum allowable period, the student becomes ineligible for financial aid.

Seeking a second degree, diploma, or certificate: The credits a student has earned in the successful completion of a degree, diploma, or certificate program shall not be counted in the maximum time period calculation for a subsequent program, excepting for those credits which apply to both programs.

Changing programs prior to completion: Students who change programs (majors) without successfully completing a program, shall remain subject to the 150% rule.

Appeals: Students may appeal the suspension of financial aid for exceeding the maximum allowable time frame based on special circumstances. The appeal form can be found on the Student Services forms page of the M State website.

Student Information

Academic Advising

Academic advising is a teaching and learning process focused on student success. Students partner with their academic advisor to develop a plan for achieving their academic and career goals. The desired outcome of academic advising is that students learn to make informed and increasingly independent decisions about their educational plans and other academic issues.

Academic planning is a continual process during a student's enrollment at Minnesota State Community and Technical College. Current students meet at least once each semester with their academic advisor to review their Degree Audit Report (DARS), discuss educational goals, determine progress towards graduation and receive their access code to register for the next semester. Students should schedule an appointment with their assigned academic advisor and bring a copy of their DARS report and sample schedule to their advising session.

There are two types of academic advisors at M State, program advisors and professional advisors. Each admitted student is assigned an advisor based on their program of study.

Program advisors

- Faculty members advise students who are enrolled in technical/career programs

Professional advisors

- Advise all Liberal Arts & Sciences - Associate in Arts (AA) students
- Advise students completing their Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC)
- Advise candidates for programs with selective admission (e.g. criminal justice, dental assisting, dental hygiene, nursing, and radiological technology)
- Advise Engineering - Associate in Science (AS) students
- Advise students who are undecided or undeclared

Moorhead:

John Edmonds: Nursing candidates (218)-299-6880

Penny Brynildson: Dental Assisting candidates, Dental Hygiene candidates, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA (Last Names A-I), PSEO, Social Sciences Emphasis AA (Last Names A-K) (218)-299-6880

Michele Burns: Criminal Justice candidates, Engineering, International Students (Last Names L-Z), Liberal Arts & Sciences AA (Last Names M-Z), Social Sciences Emphasis AA (Last Names L-Z) (218)-299-6880

Kate Johnson: English Language Learners, International Students (Last Names A-K), Liberal Arts & Sciences AA (Last Names J-L) (218)-299-6880

Claudia Simon: Operations Management, Dual-Enrolled and Course Exchange, (218)-299-6880

Fergus Falls:

Jennifer Bieniek: Liberal Arts & Sciences AA, Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO), Biological Sciences AS, Engineering AS, Environmental Science AS, Online Liberal Arts & Sciences AA, Online PSEO Liberal Arts (218)-736-1533

Ann Nelson: Liberal Arts & Sciences AA, Nursing candidates, Accounting AS, Business AS, Management AS, Management Information Systems AS, Music AFA (218)-736-1533

Nancy South: Multicultural, English Language Learner (218)-736-1533

Detroit Lakes:

Karen Buboltz: Radiologic Technology candidates, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA, Registered Nursing candidates, Online RN Mobility candidates (218)-846-3670

Sarah Carter: Practical Nursing candidates (218)-846-3670

Mark Nelson: Accounting, Paralegal, Early Childhood & Paraprofessional Education (DL and White Earth), Carpentry (White Earth) (218)-846-3670

Wadena:

Christian Breczinski: Nursing candidates (A-M), Liberal Arts & Sciences AA (A-M) (218)-631-7800

Holly Doyle: Nursing candidates (N-Z), Liberal Arts & Sciences AA (N-Z), PSEO (218)-631-7800

Bookstore

Each M State campus has a bookstore where students can purchase textbooks, school-related supplies and M State apparel. Bookstores are usually open Monday through Friday during the academic year, with special hours during the first week of each semester and holidays. Credit cards and personal checks are accepted.

Textbook Return Information

Students may return texts and items within 10 business days from the date of sale, or by the fifth day of the semester, whichever is later. Items must be in new, salable condition. A sales receipt is required, and returns are subject to these conditions:

- For books for courses that are less than 10 days in length, books returned within the 10-day window will be considered used.
- Full credit will be given if no markings have been made in or on the book.
- Tool/supply kits must be complete.
- New books, if marked, are considered used and will be refunded at 50 percent if the book will be used in future semesters. If the book will not be used again, a refund will not be issued.
- Books purchased used may be returned for full credit.
- Flawed books or materials may be returned for full credit with a receipt, with the exception of computer software. The computer Help Desk at the campus must validate that the software is faulty in order to be returned.
- Returns are subject to the discretion of the bookstore coordinator and do not include clearance items.

In addition to processing returns, each campus bookstore offers book buybacks at the end of fall and spring semesters.

Please contact your campus bookstore with specific questions:

Detroit Lakes: 218-846-3727

Fergus Falls: 218-736-1556

Moorhead Campus Crossing: 218-299-6570

Wadena: 218-631-7825

eCampus: 877-450-3322

Bulletin Boards

Bulletin boards are specified on each campus for general use, while others are for office or faculty use only. All bulletins are to be placed on regular bulletin boards only. Check the bulletin boards for announcements of meetings, activities and part-time job opportunities.

Campus Dining

Each College campus offers dining services to provide students and guests with a variety of snacks, light meals and entrees. Food items are served Monday through Friday during the regular academic year. Students may ask campus dining about options to pre-pay. Campus dining services may also cater events upon request. Vending machines are also available for the convenience of students and guests.

Child Care

Child care resource information may be available from the Student Services office at each campus. Contact Child Care Resource and Referral for information about child care options in specific communities. Minnesota Child Care Resource and Referral can be reached at 1-888-291-9811 or www.mnchildcare.org. North Dakota Child Care Resource and Referral can be contacted at 701-772-1106 or www.ndchildcare.org.

Consumer Information

The College, in compliance with Title IV of the Educational Amendments of 1976 to the Higher Education Act and subsequent Federal legislation, will provide and disseminate consumer information to all prospective and enrolled students. This information shall include but not be limited to the following: admission requirements, financial aid programs, costs, job placement, probation/suspension policy and refund policy.

Counseling Services

M State counselors assist in the total development of each student and his or her personal and life-career planning goals. College counselors strive to provide an accepting environment in a confidential setting. They can assist with career guidance, career selection, transfer process information, personal and life-career planning resources, short-term individual counseling and in making referrals.

Campus Counselors

Fergus Falls campus: Lon Laager 218.736.1539

Moorhead campus: Tom Dubbels 218.299.6516, Maronda Robertson 218.299.6618

Disabilities

M State complies fully with the provisions for the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits discrimination in employment and public educational services on the basis of an individual's disability. An individual with a disability is one who has or is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of that individual's major life activities.

All M State campuses are accessible by ramps or doorways. Designated handicapped parking spaces are located near main entrances. Vehicles bearing a state handicapped license are the only vehicles allowed to park in these spaces. Temporarily disabled students (e.g. broken leg) may obtain handicapped permits for a limited time from the receptionist. Students need a letter of verification from a doctor for all temporary handicapping conditions (this letter must state the approximate length of the handicapping condition).

Assistive technology devices such as microcomputers, laser printers, screen enlargers and computerized dictionaries and encyclopedias are available. Tape-recorded books, adapted testing and tutoring are provided. Information on note taking, study skills and time management plus developmental courses in math and composition is available. The College is equipped to serve students with various physical challenges such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, spinal cord injuries or closed head injuries.

In order to ensure equal access to the full range of collegiate experiences in the most integrated setting possible, the College provides a wide range of supplemental services. Students who provide the College with a recent assessment documenting a disability may receive the following special services:

- support, counseling and information about assessment and referral services;
- academic assistance services that may include early registration services, early syllabus availability, course selection and program advising, course work and testing assistance and modification, and tutoring; and
- advocacy services that may include assistance from a Disability Services Coordinator for students needing services, assistance in working individually with faculty and administrators, intervention procedures and grievance procedures.

Disability Services Coordinators:

Detroit Lakes Campus: Mark Nelson 218-846-3756

Fergus Falls Campus: Jon Kragness 218-736-1595

Moorhead Campus: Claudia Simon, 218-299-6882

Wadena Campus: Mike Heino: 218-631-7870

Emergency/Weather Closings and Drills

If a weather emergency situation develops, Campus officials will consult with local authorities, including law enforcement officials, to determine whether to cancel classes or to close a Campus. Campus closings or class cancellations are announced at www.minnesota.edu and on local and regional television and radio stations. For campus-specific information, contact Student Services.

Emergency drills are held periodically during the school year. Information regarding emergency evacuation of buildings is posted throughout each Campus. In the case of a tornado warning, please go immediately to an area that has been designated as a "Safe Area."

The Star Alert wireless emergency notification system alerts students and staff if a campus is closed or if classes are delayed or cancelled. It will be in place at every MnSCU institution, so students who attend more than one campus may choose to receive Star Alerts from each. Sign up for Star Alert at Spartan Net.

Employment Information

Students seeking part-time employment on campus are urged to contact the Financial Aid Office. Off-campus employers provide information to each campus about part-time opportunities available for students. The information will be posted on the campus bulletin boards. Each student who is planning to work is cautioned to carefully consider his/her college course load so that the workload does not interfere with academics.

Health Services/Insurance

Students are encouraged to carry some type of health coverage while attending school. Group health insurance is available to all M State students. (NOTE: Students should check coverage within their family insurance programs.) Information and applications for student health and dental insurance may be obtained from Student Services. International students are required to purchase an MnSCU International Student Medical Insurance Policy. Health and accident insurance is the responsibility of the student. Student injuries that occur during class time are the responsibility of the student, not the College.

The College does not assume responsibility for any illness or accident to a student. The student is responsible for making financial arrangements for costs that are incurred at any health care facility.

All accidents shall be reported. If there is an accident or illness in a classroom or laboratory, an ambulance may be called to transport the student to a local emergency room. All campus laboratories are equipped with first aid kits, eyewash and showers for first aid treatment of minor injuries.

Laptops

To meet the laptop requirement, the student in some M State majors and programs must possess adequate computing resources. The requirement can be met with a student-owned laptop or a laptop procured through a lease with a vendor; however, the minimum hardware specifications and general software requirements must be met to accommodate communication, research and general and specific program computing activities.

Annually, the College Information Systems Department identifies a minimum hardware specification and required general software to meet all program majors. These specifications are available from each Campus Help Desk. In addition, the specifications are posted to the College Website. Due to the changing nature of curriculum, software and course sequencing, the College will not endorse an alternate specification. Students interested in using an alternate specification are strongly advised to consider the numerous changing variables that will affect their computing needs throughout the program of study prior to leasing or purchasing an alternate specification.

All students are required to:

- on request, produce proof of licensure for all software installed on the computer, and
- register, upon request, with a Help Desk.

All students using their own laptop computers or campus computer labs are subject to the rights and responsibilities of M State Policy 5200-1-01 Acceptable Use of Computers and Information Technology Resources.

Library Services

The four M State libraries located on the Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Wadena campuses contain thousands of books and hundreds of magazines, journals, videos, DVDs and CD-ROMs.

The library catalog can help you find books and other resources on all four M State campuses and at all state colleges and universities. Several private college library catalogs and the University of Minnesota library catalog can be accessed using the M State library catalog. It also provides access to thousands of full textbooks online. The electronic periodical databases on the library page provide access to thousands of full text periodicals. Both the library catalog and electronic periodical databases can be accessed off campus. The library catalog can also be used to renew library materials and check on accounts.

Lost And Found

The lost and found service is located at the reception desk on each campus. Please turn in any item that you find to the reception desk.

Representing the College

When a student appears in public, the College is judged by that student's conduct. Care must be taken that a student or student groups not imply or state that the student or group represents the College unless specifically authorized to do so.

Software and Printing

M State participates in the Microsoft Student Selection Option campus agreement. Students may purchase the following Microsoft products (includes DVD media) at a reduced rate through their campus bookstore. Technical assistance and installation support is also available through the Campus Help Desk.

- Office Enterprise 2007 \$79 (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Publisher, Access, OneNote & Groove)
- Vista Ultimate Upgrade \$99
- Office 2008 for the Mac \$99

At the start of each semester, each student will receive a printing credit of \$12.50 added to his or her network account. The printing credit provides students with a limited amount of free printing to the campus networked printers. If a student uses the \$12.50 free printing credit and needs additional printing, additional printing can be purchased at the printing kiosks on each campus. Printing costs are 5 cents for black & white and 25 cents for color. Student printing balances can be viewed on the SpartanNet portal.

Spartan Net

Spartan Net is a one-stop personal portal to college resources, e-services, desire2learn (D2L), student e-mail, Star Alert and more. Students can contact their campus Help Desk if they have any problems logging in to or using Spartan Net.

Student Clubs and Activities

The M State philosophy is that student activities and organizations promote the complete development of the individual. Activities and organizations also help motivate students to enroll in and continue in school. Through the number and variety of activities and organizations, all students have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular programs. The student life budget supports the expenses of approved student body activities.

All student club membership and activities are governed by the Student Code of Conduct. Anyone interested in establishing a student organization should contact the Student Services Dean.

Student Clubs

Anime & Manga Club – Fergus Falls

Special interest group surrounding Japanese cartoon club.

Athletics – Fergus Falls

The Fergus Falls campus has a strong tradition of exciting, successful athletic teams. The College is a member of the Minnesota Community College Conference (MCCC) and Region XIII of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). Men's athletic teams represent the College in football, basketball, golf and baseball. Women's teams compete in softball, volleyball, golf and basketball. Athletic competition includes teams from Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Business Professionals of America – Moorhead

Business Professionals of America is a national career and technical student organization that serves students enrolled in business programs. The mission of BPA is to contribute to the preparation of world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic and technological skills. Members are involved in leadership, community service projects at the local level, and competitions at the state and national levels.

Cultural Activities Can Touch US – Fergus Falls

CACTUS is a student organization designed primarily to celebrate diversity on campus. All students are welcome to participate.

Campus Crusade for Christ – Fergus Falls

Campus Crusade for Christ provides regular opportunities to study and discuss the Bible, worship and pray, all in a group setting, which also provides opportunities for fellowship, encouragement and spiritual development among members.

Carpentry Club - Wadena

Circle K - Fergus Falls

Circle K is an international collegiate service organization that promotes fellowship, leadership and volunteer service. M State's Circle K engages students in volunteer activities throughout the community while providing leadership and management training to members. Sponsored by the two local Kiwanis chapters, Noon Kiwanis and Otter Risers, Circle K members also have the opportunity to work side-by-side with community leaders and mentors in the Kiwanis family.

College Ambassadors – Fergus Falls & Moorhead

Ambassadors is an organization whose purpose is to represent and promote M State. Students have the opportunity to develop and strengthen their leadership, communication public relations and organizational skills.

Criminal Justice Association – Moorhead

The Criminal Justice Association is primarily for those students who are interested in the criminal justice program.

Delta Epsilon Chi (DEX) - Moorhead

DEX offers opportunities for students pursuing careers in marketing, management and entrepreneurship. Students develop and enhance job-related skills in leadership, communication and networking through competitive events and partnering with businesses and through civic involvement. Conferences are held each year to encourage development in leadership, career development, community service and professionalism.

International Association of Administrative Professionals – Moorhead

The IAAP Student Chapter Program serves as a venue to introduce students to professional organizations as administrative assistants. IAAP's purpose is to provide information, education and training

and to set standards of excellence recognized by the business community on a global perspective. A student must be enrolled in at least one course in the business curriculum to join a Student Chapter or to join IAAP as a student member.

Intramural Athletics

Each semester the College offers sports and activities such as baseball, football, basketball, bowling, softball, table tennis, darts, racquetball, volleyball and tennis, plus others as interest dictates.

Music Organizations – Fergus Falls

The Concert Choir, Voice Ensemble, Area Chorale and the Jazz Ensemble provide excellent opportunities for participation in vocal and instrumental music. One semester credit is given to students enrolled in these group activities and in private vocal or instrumental lessons. Approximately 20 scholarships are awarded to participants in music groups each year.

Mu Alpha Theta – Fergus Falls

Mu Alpha Theta is an international mathematical honor society. Students who have completed at least one mathematics course at or above the College algebra-precalculus level are eligible.

Organization of Creative Writers – Moorhead

This organization's purpose is to gather and share ideas to promote creativity in a respectful and supportive manner. This organization is open to all M State students.

Phi Theta Kappa - Fergus Falls & Moorhead

Phi Theta Kappa is the national honor society for two- year colleges. The Fergus Falls chapter, Omicron (Tulice), was chartered in 1966.

Practical Nursing Organization & Associate Degree Nursing Student Organization – Fergus Falls

Students currently enrolled in the practical nursing program are members. Each organization promotes student activities, both professional and social, for its members.

Skills USA-VICA –Detroit Lakes, Moorhead, Wadena

Vocational Industrial Clubs of America is the official organization of vocational education. It is open to all students enrolled in education throughout the world and is intended to develop an appreciation for the world of work. Competition in VICA is on both state and national levels.

Student American Dental Hygienists' Association – Moorhead

SADHA is composed of students of the Dental Hygiene program. This organization promotes the art and science of dental hygiene, represents the common interests of the members of the dental hygiene profession and contributes toward the improvement of the oral health of the public.

Student Human Resources Organization – Moorhead

SHRO is a cocurricular organization designed to acquaint students considering a future in business within the field of human resource management and/or labor relations. Students increase their knowledge of new developments in the human resource field and develop leadership and content competencies through interaction with human resource professionals and participation in college and community events. SHRO is a chartered student organization with the Society for Human Resource Management. Students are able to join the society for Human Resource Management as student members, allowing further development of their professional skills.

Students in Free Enterprise – Fergus Falls

Students in Free Enterprise is an organization dedicated to the preservation of America's free enterprise system.

Student Senate

The Student Senate is the students' voice with the administration, faculty and the Minnesota State College and Universities system, promoting the needs and concerns of the students and the College.

United for Africa

United for Africa is committed to improving the lives of women and children in refugee camps in Africa, especially Darfur, Sudan, by promoting social, educational, health and basic needs through donations and fundraising and by raising awareness.

Student Email

Students are automatically issued an e-mail address once they are registered. Students should check their e-mail on a daily basis, as the College uses e-mail to send information about financial aid, registration, student services and other important topics. Students can check their M State e-mail from off campus, as well. Student e-mail account addresses will be in the format of firstname.lastname@student.minnesota.edu. If you do not know how to activate your e-mail or have any questions, contact the Computer Help Desk on your campus as soon as possible.

Student Housing

Each campus may maintain information about community and on-campus housing options. However, the individual student does the actual inquiry and selection of proper housing. The individual campus communities offer many types of housing which are available to college students. Please contact the appropriate campus for more information.

M State Housing - Fergus

On-campus housing is available on the Fergus Falls campus. Students wishing to live on campus can choose between two different apartment style complexes, College Manor or Williams Hillside Village. Both complexes are furnished and house four students to each apartment. The College recommends on-campus living as a positive college experience. These facilities are "no-alcohol," and the College shares in the management of both facilities.

Student Identification Cards

The student identification card is the required form of identification for M State students. The College issues a photo identification card to students attending on-campus courses. The College issues student identification cards after students complete their initial registration. Students must show their identification cards for admission to various College events, to vote in student elections, to check out library materials, to conduct transactions in the Business Office and for other purposes as required by the College. If an identification card needs to be replaced for any reason, students may obtain a replacement identification card for \$5.

Student Lockers

Lockers are available to students on the Detroit Lakes and Wadena campuses. Locker services are extended as a convenience to students. Students must keep lockers in good condition. Students may place a lock on the locker at their expense. The College reserves the right to inspect lockers at any time. If the College needs to enter a locker when the student is not available or does not wish to be available, the College reserves the right to remove the lock at the lock owner's expense. The College is not responsible for lost or stolen articles/items. Contact Student Services for questions about locker services.

Student Right To Know

It is the policy of the College to annually prepare and make available to all enrolled and prospective students, statistics on completion or graduation rates, transfer-out rates and employment, pursuant to the Student Rights To Know Act of 1990. This information shall be made available through appropriate publications, mailings and the College Web page.

Student Services Appeals

Students should contact the Student Services Office to initiate the Student Services appeal process.

Spartan Official Team Colors

The official team colors are blue, gold and white. All intercollegiate teams and organizations carry the name of "Spartans."

Theater

The College Theater Department on the Fergus Falls campus produces two plays a year ranging from period to comedy to contemporary drama. The music and drama departments cooperatively produce a musical once a season.

Transcript Requests

Official transcript requests are fulfilled at no charge. For privacy protection, students must submit a written, signed request. The official transcript request form is available at www.minnesota.edu. Please submit official transcript request forms to the M State Processing Center, PO Box 309, Perham, MN 56573, or by fax to M State at 218-347-6236. Online majors may use the appropriate online form.

Travel Abroad

The Fergus Falls and Moorhead campuses offers students a study/travel abroad program where students register for selected spring semester courses that are tied to a trip overseas at the end of spring semester. The credits taken for both the spring semester course work and the field experience apply

to the transfer portion of the Associate in Arts degree. The courses and the cost of the program are announced during the fall semester.

Visual Arts

The Fergus Falls campus has long been committed to the visual arts through course offerings, exhibits in the Waage Gallery and the Charles Beck Gallery, and a permanent collection of more than 250 works displayed prominently throughout the campus. The collection began when, as a faculty member, Charles Beck often encouraged students to leave a work of art for the College. Throughout the years, through budgeted funds and gifts to the Fergus Area College Foundation, the College also has purchased the work of regional artists for the permanent collection.

The Moorhead campus Art Fund was created in 2006 as part of a State College and University Awards for Excellence faculty award to M State Art Instructor Pamela Sund. The focus of the collection on the Moorhead campus is to acquire art works that represent a variety of art traditions from the Western world, especially American traditions, and world traditions that represent diverse cultures, especially those cultures represented by the M State student population and the multi-cultural populations in our region.

Campus Environment

Animals on Campus

It is the policy of M State to provide a safe environment for all students, employees, visitors and guests by establishing and enforcing regulations for animals on campus. With the exception of service animals for persons with disabilities and/or the written permission of the Provost or Dean, animals are not allowed in campus buildings. This policy and related procedures apply to all buildings and all members of the campus community, as well as individuals using campus buildings, including leased properties.

Pets are not allowed in M State student housing. If there is an unauthorized animal on the premises and the resident fails to remove it within 24 hours, M State will contact local animal control personnel to remove the animal. Students will be fined \$100 plus the cost incurred for repairing property.

Animals and animal cadavers used for teaching and learning are exempt from this policy.

Safety Expectations Related to Service Animals

Vaccinations: An animal must have its current immunizations against diseases, including rabies, distemper and parvovirus or the appropriate vaccination series for the type of animal. Dogs must wear a rabies vaccination tag.

Owner ID: The animal must wear an owner identification tag (owner name and contact information) any time the animal is on campus.

Health: The animal must be in good health.

Leash: The animal must be leashed and under the control of the partner/handler at all times.

Training: Service animals must be properly trained. An owner of a service animal may be asked to provide verification that the animal has been individually trained as a service animal to provide the service needed.

Care: The care and supervision of the animal is solely the responsibility of its partner/handler.

Cleanup: The partner/handler is responsible for cleaning up animal waste unless the partner/handler is physically unable to perform the cleanup. If an individual with a disability is not able to clean up after the service animal, arrangements should be made with campus maintenance services to designate a specific service animal toileting area.

Campus Security

All crimes occurring on campus should be reported immediately to both campus administration and local law enforcement to ensure that appropriate action is taken. Crimes can be averted and suspects apprehended more quickly if suspicious activity is reported promptly. If someone's actions or the situation is disturbing or out of the ordinary, report it to the Campus Administration. In an emergency, call 911. The administration and police will assess the situation and take any necessary and appropriate action. Forms for "Reporting a Criminal Act" and a "Suspect Description Sheet" are available from the College's front desk receptionist and in the Student Services office. Immediate documentation of an incident provides valuable information to law enforcement should a student be either a victim of or witness to a crime.

College personnel have no enforcement authority over instances of criminal actions, thus college personnel are not expected to attempt to detain a person suspected of such actions. The College cooperates closely with local and state law enforcement.

Crime Bulletins and Statistics

In compliance with the Crime Awareness and Security Act of 1990, M State publishes the Campus Security Report for access at the college Website at <http://www.minnesota.edu/?id=493>.

Each year, the Dean of Student Services in Fergus Falls sends a notice to direct all students and employees to the complete Security report. The report contains statistics of crimes that have occurred over the past three calendar years on each of the M State campuses as well as those reported to local law enforcement to have occurred on the land contiguous to the campuses. The report also contains policies and procedures developed to enhance safety and security. For questions about the Campus Security Report, please contact Robert Anderson, Dean of Student Services, Fergus Falls campus at Robert.Anderson@minnesota.edu or at (218) 736-1530.

The Campus Provost, working with local law enforcement, promptly publicizes any incident of criminal activity that poses a potential threat to the campus. See the publication "Annual Security Report" for statistics concerning the occurrence of crimes reported to campus officials and local law enforcement.

EMERGENCIES: DIAL 911 to report crimes in progress or police, fire or medical emergencies on campus. Dial 0 for assistance from the campus operator on Monday through Friday during campus hours.

If there is a fire and no telephone is available, activate one of the fire alarms located throughout campus.

City Police

- Detroit Lakes (218) 847-4222
- Fergus Falls (218) 736-5438
- Moorhead (218) 299-5120
- Wadena (218) 631-7700
- Perham (218) 346-4452

County Sheriff

- Detroit Lakes (218) 847-2661
- Fergus Falls (218) 736-5421
- Moorhead 911 or (218) 299-5151
- Wadena (218) 631-7600
- Perham (218)736-5421

Security and Access to Campus Buildings and Grounds

The campus maintains posted hours that the campus is unlocked. Access to the buildings and offices is managed by the Facilities Services Supervisor and the building staff. Specific security methods are established by the Campus Safety Committee. Although most buildings can be accessed by key after business hours, many are locked and alarmed after school hours. It is essential that staff, faculty and students cooperate to keep locked facilities locked (do not prop open doors or leave doors unlocked if you enter after hours) and to ensure that unauthorized individuals do not enter campus buildings (do not open the door for individuals you do not know, protect the security of campus keys and report immediately the loss or theft of keys to the Facilities Services Supervisor).

Educational and Prevention Services and Programs

Information concerning campus security procedures and practices is presented annually as part of the student orientation process and at a staff in-service session. The Campus Safety Committee will review campus crime statistics and present the campus security techniques. Information to promote awareness of crime prevention tactics and encouragement for students and staff to be responsible for their own security and the security of others is presented at those times through the use of video tapes, brochures and speakers.

Campus Safety Tips

1. Travel in a group or pairs during evening hours.
2. When attending evening classes, students should attempt to park as close to an entrance as possible.
3. Escort service is available during evening hours. Custodial/security personnel are available on each campus to provide escort services as needed. Courtesy phones are located throughout each campus.
4. The College encourages all members of the College to report any activities and/or conditions that affect campus safety to the campus administration.

5. The College encourages all members of the College to be responsible for their own safety. Be familiar with safety guidelines and use common sense.

Cell Phone Use

The College strives to provide high quality educational programs and services to students and community members. No member of the College community shall use a cell phone, pager or other technological communication device that disrupts the learning environment or the ability to provide high quality services.

During classes, meetings or other activities or events, instructors or employees responsible for those activities may require that all cell phones and pagers be turned off or placed in non-ring/vibrate mode.

Drug-Free Environment

M State is committed to providing an environment free of alcohol and illegal drugs for its students, employees and visitors. Therefore, the College prohibits the unlawful possession, use, manufacture or distribution of controlled substances, including alcohol and illegal drugs, by students and employees on its property, in college- or state-owned vehicles, or as part of any of its activities.

Except as permitted by MnSCU Board Policy 5.18, the possession, use, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages and 3.2 percent malt liquor is prohibited at college-sponsored events on or off-campus.

Listed below are M State standards of conduct, disciplinary sanctions, resources for assistance, health risks and description of legal sanctions, as required by Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations:

Standards of Conduct

M State standards of conduct prohibit the unlawful possession, use, manufacture or distribution of illegal drugs and alcohol by students and employees on all on-campus activities and off-campus activities that are considered to be school-sponsored. Foreign study programs, field trips, etc., also fall under these requirements.

Disciplinary Sanctions

M State shall impose appropriate disciplinary sanctions on students and employees who are found to have violated this policy, up to and including expulsion or termination. Individuals who violate this policy may additionally be subject to legal sanctions, including criminal prosecution, under federal, state or local law. Summary information on legal penalties for violating controlled substance laws is found below.

Students working as employees are covered while on duty under the employee sanctions; otherwise, they are covered under the student sanctions

Resources for Assistance

Students and/or employees seeking assistance with an alcohol or drug problem may contact the following resources for assistance:

State Employee Assistance Program

- Counseling Services..... 866-477-1586
- Website www.doer.state.mn.us/eap/eap.htm

Detroit Lakes

- Alcoholics Anonymous 218-844-9970
- Glenmore Recovery Center 218-846-1605

Fergus Falls

- Alcoholics Anonymous 218-739-9887
- Lakeland Mental Health Center 218-736-6987

Moorhead

- Alcoholics Anonymous 701-235-7335
- Clay County Social Services..... 218-299-5200
- Narcotics Anonymous..... 701-232-9930

Wadena

- Alcoholics Anonymous 218-631-3823
- Neighborhood Counseling Center..... 218-631-1714
- Northern Pines..... 218-631-1714

Health Risks

Alcohol: Alcohol consumption causes a number of changes in behavior and physiology. Even low doses significantly impair judgment, coordination, and abstract mental functioning. Statistics show that alcohol use is involved in a majority of violent behaviors on college campuses, including acquaintance rape, vandalism, fights, and incidents of drinking and driving. Continued abuse may lead to dependency, which often causes permanent damage to vital organs and deterioration of a healthy lifestyle.

Cannabis (Marijuana, Hashish): The use of marijuana may impair or reduce short-term memory and comprehension, alter sense of time, and reduce coordination and energy level. Users often have a lowered immune system and an increased risk of lung cancer. The active ingredient in marijuana, THC, is stored in the fatty tissues of the brain and reproductive system for a minimum of 28 to 30 days.

Hallucinogens: Lysergic acid (LSD), mescaline and psilocybin cause illusions and hallucinations. The user may experience panic, confusion, suspicion, anxiety, and loss of control. Delayed effects, or flashbacks, can occur even when use has ceased. Phencyclidine (PCP) affect the section of the brain that controls the intellect and keeps instincts in check. Because the drug blocks pain receptors, violent PCP episodes may result in self-inflicted injuries.

Cocaine/Crack: Cocaine users often have a stuffy, runny nose and may have perforated nasal septum. The immediate effects of cocaine use include dilated pupils and elevated blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and body temperature, followed by depression. Crack, or freebase rock cocaine, is extremely addictive and can cause delirium, hallucinations, blurred vision, severe chest pain, muscle spasms, convulsions and even death.

Methamphetamines: Methamphetamines are addictive and users can develop a tolerance quickly, so will need more and more to get the same effect. There are many health risks from taking this type of drug. While on the drug the user may become tense and anxious and it can leave them feeling depressed, paranoid and tired for days after. Methamphetamines can also cause violent mood swings and users can become very aggressive. Long-term use can cause paranoia, hallucinations, mental illness, respiratory problems and will put a strain on the heart, due to increased blood pressure.

Amphetamines: Amphetamines can cause a rapid or irregular heartbeat, tremors, loss of coordination, collapse and death. Heavy users are prone to irrational acts.

Heroin: Heroin is an opiate drug that causes the body to have diminished pain reactions. The use of heroin can result in coma or death due to a reduction in heart rate.

State and Federal Legal Sanctions regarding Controlled Substances:

Minnesota Alcohol Violation Sanctions

- It is illegal to drive, operate, or be in physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and/or a controlled or hazardous substance, or with a "blood-alcohol concentration" of 0.08 or more. Motor vehicles include cars, boats, snowmobiles, ATVs, planes, etc. "Operate" or "in physical control" includes starting the motor, steering, or being in position to control a vehicle, including simply sitting or sleeping in a parked vehicle.

PENALTY:

First offense (including juvenile convictions): misdemeanor- fine up to \$700, jail up to 90 days, drivers license revocation of at least 30 days.

Second offense within 5 years or 2 or more convictions within 10 years: gross misdemeanor- fine up to \$3,000, jail up to one year, drivers license revocation of at least 30-90 days and possible chemical dependency treatment.

Third or more offenses: longer periods of revocation.

- Minors in possession or consumption:
Persons under 21 years of age consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages with intent to consume, unless the person is in a parent or guardian's home and drinks with their permission. Possession anywhere other than a parent or guardian's home is prima facie evidence of intent to consume.

PENALTY: Misdemeanor

- Selling, bartering furnishing or giving alcoholic beverages to a person, under 21 years old (except parents in their home).

PENALTY: Gross misdemeanor. Possible civil liability for damages caused by the person under 21 while under the influence.

- Anyone under 21 years of age who purchases or attempts to purchase an alcoholic beverage, or claiming to be 21 or older for the purpose of purchasing alcoholic beverages.

PENALTY: Misdemeanor. Drivers license suspension of 90 days if a driver's license, permit or MN identification is used in making or attempting the purchase.

- Including a person under 21 years to purchase or procure, alcoholic beverages or lending to or permitting use of identification by a person under the age of 21 for the purpose of purchasing or attempting to purchase alcoholic beverages.

PENALTY: Gross misdemeanor. Driver's license suspension of 90 days if a driver's license is lent.

NOTE: Penalties can change with each legislative session. Municipalities and Counties may also have ordinances that regulate gatherings and have specific penalties for violation.

Minnesota Drug Sanctions

Schedule Drugs (I-V)

- Heroin, LSD, mescaline and peyote, amphetamine variants marijuana, other hallucinogens.
- Opium, morphine, codeine, methadone, cocaine, barbiturates.
- Anabolic steroids, opium, codeine, methadone, cocaine, barbiturates.
- Barbiturates, benzodiazepines, choral hydrate, other narcotics, stimulants and depressants.
- Opium, codeine, other narcotics and depressants.

First Degree

Sale: 10+ grams of cocaine, 50+ grams of other narcotic drug, 200+ doses hallucinogen, 50 kilos marijuana, or 25+ kilos marijuana in a school zone, park zone, or public housing zone.

Possession: 25+ grams cocaine, 500+ grams of other narcotic drug, 500+ doses hallucinogen, 100+ kilos marijuana.

PENALTY: 0 to 40 years, 4-year mandatory minimum if prior drug felony; up to \$1 million fine, 0 to 40 years, 2nd offense.

Second Degree

Sale: 3+ grams of cocaine, 10+ grams of other narcotic drug, 50+ doses hallucinogen, 25 kilos marijuana, or sale of a Schedule I or II narcotic drug of 5+ doses hallucinogen or methamphetamine either to a person under 18 or in a school zone, park zone, or public housing zone.

Possession: 6+ grams cocaine, 50+ grams of other narcotic drug, 100+ doses hallucinogen, 50+ kilos marijuana.

PENALTY: 0 to 40 years, 3 year mandatory minimum if prior drug felony; up to \$500,000 fine.

Third Degree

Sale: Narcotic drug: 10+ doses hallucinogen, 5+ kilos marijuana, or sale of a Schedule I, II, or III (except a Schedule I or II narcotic drug or marijuana) to a person under 18 or employment of person under 18 to sell the same.

Possession: 3+ grams cocaine, 10+ grams of other narcotic drug, 10+ kilos marijuana, and any amount of a Schedule I or II narcotic drug or LSD or methamphetamine or 5+ kilos marijuana in a school zone, park zone, or public housing zone.

PENALTY: 0 to 30 years, 2-year mandatory minimum if prior drug felony; up to \$250,000 fine, 0 to 30 years, 2nd or subsequent offense.

Fourth Degree

Sale: Any Schedule I, II, Or III drug (except marijuana), or sale of marijuana in a school zone, park zone, or public housing zone or any Schedule IV or V drug to a person under 18 or conspiracy for the same.

Possession: 10 doses hallucinogen, any amount of a Schedule I, II, or III drug (except marijuana) with intent to sell it.

PENALTY: 0 to 30 years, 1 year mandatory minimum if prior drug felony; up to \$100,000 fine.

- *Fifth Degree*

Sale: Marijuana, or an Schedule IV drug.

Possession: All Schedule I, II, III, or IV drugs except 42.5 grams or less of marijuana. Any prescription drugs obtained through false pretenses or forgery.

PENALTY: 0 to 5 years, 6 months mandatory minimum if prior drug felony; up to \$10,000 fine.

Small Amounts of Marijuana

- For the Possession of up to 1.4 grams of marijuana the person is guilty of a petty misdemeanor including a fine of \$200 and required attendance at an approved drug education program.
- Second conviction of possession of a small amount of marijuana results in a misdemeanor and possible drug treatment. Possession of 1.4 grams or less of marijuana in an automobile is a misdemeanor.

Federal Controlled Substance Sanctions

Schedule I Drugs (Penalty for possession):

- *First Offense:* 0 years to life, 10 year mandatory minimum; if death or serious injury, 20 year minimum; up to \$4 million fine individual, \$10 million other than individual.
- *Second Offense:* 0 years to life, 20 year mandatory minimum; if death or serious injury, not less than life; up to \$8 million fine individual, \$20 million other than individual.

Schedule II Drugs (Penalty for possession):

- *First Offense:* 5 years to 40 years, 5 year mandatory minimum; if death or serious injury, 20 year minimum; up to \$2 million fine individual, \$5 million other than individual.
- *Second Offense:* 0 years to life, 10 year mandatory minimum; if death or serious injury, not less than life; up to \$4 million fine individual, \$10 million other than individual.

Schedule I or II Controlled Drugs (Penalty for possession):

- *First Offense:* 0 to 20 years; if death or serious injury, 20 year minimum, not more than life; up to \$1 million fine individual, \$5 million other than individual.
- *Second Offense:* 0 to 30 years; if death or serious injury, not less than life; up to \$2 million fine individual, \$10 million other than individual.

Schedule III Drugs (Penalty for possession):

- *First Offense:* 0 to 5 years, up to \$250,000 fine individual, \$1 million other than individual.
- *Second Offense:* 0 to 10 years; up to \$500,000 fine individual, \$2 million other than individual.

Schedule IV Drugs (Penalty for possession):

- *First Offense:* 0 to 3 years; up to \$250,000 fine individual, \$1 million other than individual.
- *Second Offense:* 0 to 6 years; up to \$500,000 fine individual, \$2 million other than individual.

Schedule V drugs (Penalty for possession):

- *First Offense:* 0 to 1 year; up to \$100,000 fine individual, \$250,000 other than individual.
- *Second Offense:* 0 to 2 years; up to \$200,000 fine individual, \$500,000 other than individual.

Miscellaneous Penalties:

- *21 U.S.C. 853(a)(2) and 881 (a)(7):* Forfeiture of personal and real property used to possess or to facilitate possession of a controlled substance if that offense is punishable by more than one year imprisonment.
- *21 U.S.C. 881 (a)(4):* Forfeiture of vehicles, boats, aircraft, or any other conveyance used to transport or conceal a controlled substance.
- *21 U.S.C. 844 (a):* Civil fine of up to \$10,000 (pending adoption of final regulations).

- *21 U.S.C. 853 (a):* Denial of Federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts and professional and commercial licenses up to one year for first offense, up to five years for second and subsequent offenses.

- 18 U.S.C. 922 (g): Ineligible to receive or purchase a firearm.

Facilities Use

Use of college facilities, including buildings and grounds, by Student Organizations, non-college groups, organizations or individuals, shall be determined on an individual basis. Individuals groups, or organizations interested in using such facilities should contact the campus Provost's office. A cost may be associated with the use of college facilities. The College shall not be responsible or assume any liability of the using groups, organizations or individuals related to the utilization of the College facilities.

Health And Safety Policy

Minnesota State Community and Technical College is committed to providing a safe and healthy work and educational environment for its employees, students, visitors and contractors.

This policy includes establishing and maintaining programs to identify and appropriately control workplace hazards; providing for health and safety committees to identify and address workplace hazards and workplace health and safety issues; providing appropriate tools and equipment; and providing suitable training to employees concerning workplace health and safety.

While the Occupational Health and Safety Act or its regulations do not cover students, M State is also committed to fulfilling its responsibilities concerning the health and safety of its students, and the College believes this policy helps to facilitate this objective.

Note: Supporting References (at end) lists pages in college handbook, which is not printed this year.

MINNESOTA STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

DIN: 3310-1-01

Policy Name:

Student Conduct Code

Policy

1. Student Conduct

The College strives to provide an environment that facilitates learning. An action by a student that interferes with the education of any other student or interferes with the responsibilities and operations of the College may be considered a violation of the Student Conduct Code. Violations of the Student Conduct Code will be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the process stated herein. Allegations of discrimination, harassment, sexual violence (see [MnSCU 1.B.1. and 1.B.3. policy and procedures](#)) and academic dishonesty shall be adjudicated under separate procedures in accordance with the aforementioned MnSCU and Minnesota State Community and Technical College (M State) policies and procedures. Faculty members retain the right to enforce violations of classroom rules; students will be afforded due process under the grievance policy.

2. Definitions

"College" means Minnesota State Community and Technical College.

"Policy" means the written regulations of the College and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) as found in, but not limited to, the Student Conduct Code, residence life policies and procedures, the College and MnSCU Websites, Board Policy and System Procedure 5.18 and 5.18.1 on Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances on Campus, Board Policy and System Procedures 5.22 and 5.22.1 on Acceptable Use of Computers and Information Technology Resources, and the College catalog.

"Preponderance of evidence" means a standard of responsibility that it is more likely than not that the Student Conduct Code has been violated.

"Student" includes all persons who:

- Are enrolled in one or more courses, either credit or non-credit, through the college;
- Withdraw, transfer or graduate after an alleged violation of the student conduct code;
- Are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the college;

- d) Have been notified of their acceptance for admission or have initiated the process of application for admission or financial aid; and/or
- e) Are living in a college residence hall although not enrolled in the institution.

“Student Organization” means any number of persons who have complied with the formal requirements for official college recognition and are in active or inactive status.

3. College Jurisdiction

The College asserts jurisdiction for violations of the Student Conduct Code that occur on College property. The College also asserts jurisdiction for violations of the Student Conduct Code that occur off College property when:

- a) The violation occurs while participating in a College-sanctioned or sponsored activity, including on-line learning;
- b) The victim of the violation is a member of the College community;
- c) The violation constitutes a felony under state or federal law;
- d) The violation interferes with or adversely affects the educational, research or service functions of the College.
- e) Hazing is involved.

Student Conduct Code Violations

Except for summary suspensions, students who are charged with violating the Student Code of Conduct may continue to be present on campus and attend classes until the charges have been resolved. Conduct covered by Board of Trustees policy 1.B.3 (Sexual Violence Policy) will be subject to the resolution procedures provided in 1.B.1. (See MnSCU 1.B.1. and 1.B.3. policy and procedures)

The College defines the following behaviors as violations of the Student Conduct Code; these behaviors are subject to the disciplinary sanctions outlined in this policy.

1. **Falsification:** Willfully providing College offices or officials with false, misleading or incomplete information; intentionally making false reports of a bomb, fire, natural disaster or other emergency to a College official or an emergency service agency; misusing, altering, forging, falsifying or transferring to another person a College-issued identification; forging or altering official College documents without appropriate authorization or conspiring with or inducing others to forge or alter College records or documents without proper authorization; violating copyright regulations; tampering with the election of any College-recognized student organization; falsely claiming to represent the College or a student organization of the College.
2. **Identification and Compliance:** Failure to comply with directions and/or requests of College officials or law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties and/or failure to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so.
3. **College Facilities and Service:** Acting to obtain fraudulently (by deceit, unauthorized procedure, bad check or misrepresentation) goods, services or funds from College departments or student organizations or individuals acting on their behalf; misuse, alteration or damage of fire-safety equipment or other emergency equipment; interference with the performance of those specifically charged with carrying out emergency services; unauthorized presence in or use of College premises, facilities or property.
4. **Disorderly conduct on the Campus or at a College-sanctioned or sponsored activity:** Intimidation, threats to, physical abuse of, or harassment that threatens to or endangers the health, safety or welfare of a member of the College community; breach of the peace; physically assaulting another; fighting; obstructing or disrupting teaching, research, administration or public service functions; obstructing or disrupting disciplinary procedures or authorized College activities; vandalism; lewd or indecent conduct.
5. **Theft and Property Damage:** Theft or embezzlement of, destruction of, damage to, unauthorized possession of, or wrongful sale or gift of property belonging to the College or a member of the College community or a campus guest.
6. **Theft or other abuse of computers, including but not limited to:**
 - a) Unauthorized installation of software or unauthorized entry into a file to use, read or change the contents or for any other purpose.
 - b) Unauthorized transfer of a file.
 - c) Unauthorized use of another individual's identification or password.
 - d) Use of computing facilities to interfere with the work of another student or college employee.
 - e) Use of computing facilities to send obscene or abusive messages.
 - f) Use of computing facilities to interfere with normal operation of the College computing system.
 - g) Use of campus technologies that would constitute a violation under MnSCU and College Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policies.
7. **Hazing:** Hazing, for the purpose of initiation, admission, affiliation or membership in a group or organization, which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or which destroys or removes public or private property. Hazing is defined to include any actions, activities or situations intentionally created to produce unnecessary or undue mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, ridicule, excessive fatigue, interference with scholarship or personal lives, or exposure to situations where one's physical or mental well-being may be endangered.
8. **College Rules:** Violating MnSCU policy and published College policies, rules or regulations or violating other College department regulations that have been posted or publicized. Provisions contained in College documents shall be deemed “rules” under this code.
9. **Weapons on campus or at College-sponsored activities:** Use or possession of weapons on College property unless expressly authorized by the College. A weapon is broadly defined to mean any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or capable of threatening or producing bodily harm including but not limited to all firearms (including BB guns), dangerous knives, explosives, explosive fuels, dangerous chemicals, billy clubs and fireworks.
10. **Disruptive Demonstrations:** Participation in a campus demonstration that disrupts the normal operations of the College and infringes on the rights of other members of the College community; leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled and/or normal activities of any campus building or area; obstruction which unreasonably interferes with freedom of movement, both pedestrian and vehicular, on campus.
11. **Keys:** Unauthorized possession, duplication or use of keys to any college premises or unauthorized entry to or use of college premises.
12. **Violations of Law:** Violation of local, state or federal law on college property or off college property when such a violation poses a threat to the safety or welfare of the College community or disrupts the operations of the College.
13. **Sound Amplification:** Using sound amplification or loudspeaker equipment except when authorized by a College official.
14. **Controlled Substances:** Use, possession or distribution of any controlled substance or drugs and/or drug paraphernalia.
15. **Abuse of the College Judicial Process, including but not limited to:**
 - a) Failure to comply with the summons of the college Judicial Board, Provost or designee.
 - b) Falsification, distortion or misrepresentation of information before a College judicial body.
 - c) Disruption or interference with the orderly conduct of a College judicial proceeding.
 - d) Initiation of a judicial complaint intentionally without cause.
 - e) Attempting to discourage an individual's proper participation in or use of the judicial system.
 - f) Attempting to influence the impartiality of a member of the College judicial board prior to and/or during the course of the judicial proceeding.

- g) Harassment and/or intimidation of a member of a College judicial board prior to, during and/or after a judicial proceeding.
 - h) Failure to comply with the sanction(s) imposed under the Student Conduct Code.
 - i) Influencing or attempting to influence another person to commit an abuse of the judicial system.
17. **Physical Abuse/Intimidation:** Intentionally, recklessly or negligently causing physical harm or placing any person under mental duress or causing any person to be in fear of physical danger through verbal abuse, defamation, harassment, hazing, intimidation, use of electronic communication devices such as video, computers and telephones, threats or other conduct which threatens or endangers that person's emotional, mental or physical well-being.
 18. **Fire Safety:** Intentionally or recklessly activating a fire alarm without cause, damaging and/or tampering with fire safety equipment or initiating a false report, false warning or threat of fire, explosion or other emergency on College premises.
 19. **Tobacco Use:** Use of any tobacco product in College buildings or classrooms or in non-smoking areas on College property.
 20. **Gambling:** Gambling for money or other items of value on campus or at College-sponsored activities except as permitted by law.
 21. **Alcohol:** Public intoxication or use, possession or distribution of alcoholic beverages except as expressly permitted by law and College regulations.

Violation of Law and College Discipline

1. College disciplinary proceedings may be instituted against a student charged with violation of a law that is also a violation of this Student Conduct Code. For example, College disciplinary proceedings may be instituted if both violations result from the same factual situation, without regard to pending civil litigation in court or criminal arrest and prosecution. Proceedings under the Student Conduct Code may be carried prior to, simultaneously with or following civil or criminal proceedings off-campus.
2. If the alleged offense is also the subject of a proceeding before the judicial board under the Student Conduct Code, the College may advise off-campus authorities of the existence of the Student Conduct Code and how such matters will be handled internally within the College community. The College will cooperate fully with law enforcement and other agencies in the enforcement of criminal law on campus as permitted by State and Federal privacy laws. Individual students, staff and faculty members, acting in their personal capacities, remain free to interact with governmental representatives as they deem appropriate.
3. When a student is found to have violated the Student Conduct Code and disciplinary actions include sanctions which terminate enrollment status of the student, the College may hold the student responsible for payment of tuition, fees and other educational costs associated with attendance in the term of enrollment.

SECTION II. JUDICIAL PROCESS

A. Charges and Informal Process

1. Any member of the college may file a written complaint alleging that a student or organization has violated the Student Conduct Code. Charges should be in writing for the record but can proceed upon verbal notification to the Dean of Student Services or designee.
2. The Dean or designee shall conduct a preliminary investigation to determine the validity of the charges by meeting with the complainant(s) and accused student(s) within a reasonable period of time from receiving the complaint. Upon determination that the charges are valid, the Dean or designee shall:
 - a) Provide written notice to the accused student(s) that a complaint has been filed which accused the student(s) of violating the Student Conduct Code. This notice will be sent to the student's institutional e-mail and to the mailing address on file with the College, and it will include the specific violation(s) alleged and the date the alleged violation(s) occurred. This written notice will be sent to the accused student(s) within a reasonable period of time of the violation determination (typically within 10 business days).
 - b) Provide the accused student(s) with a copy of the Student Conduct Code.
 - c) Inform the accused student(s) of the nature of evidence available to support the complaint.
 - d) Specify a date and time when the student is required to meet with the Dean or designee to attempt to reach a mutually acceptable resolution of the charges. Allow the student(s) at least 48 hours to prepare for this meeting.
 - e) Inform the student(s) that failure to appear for this informal meeting shall result in referral of the charges for a formal hearing before the Judicial Board.
3. Under this informal process, the Dean or designee determines whether a violation occurred and the applicable sanction. If the sanction is less than expulsion or a nine-day suspension, the student does not receive a formal hearing but instead may appeal to the Provost or designee. A student may request a formal hearing before the Judicial Board only if the sanction is expulsion or suspension of more than nine calendar days.

B. Formal Process

The formal process will consist of a hearing following these guidelines:

- a) A Judicial Board will be in place comprised of the Provost or designee, the advisor of the accused student or organization or designee, up to two members of the Student Government Association/Student Senate, a faculty member and a staff member. A counselor or designee may also be in attendance as an ex-officio member to assist with mediation and counseling but shall not be expected to act in a disciplinary role. The person bringing the claim of misconduct may also be in attendance but may not serve on the judicial board.
- b) The Provost or designee shall provide the accused student with advance written notice of the time, place and date of the hearing. The accused student or organization must also be provided in advance with written information regarding: 1) the charges; 2) evidence to be presented against the student/organization; and 3) a list of witnesses and the nature of their testimony. If the accused student or organization representatives fail to appear at the appointed time, the hearing may still proceed as scheduled.
- c) The accused student or organization will be given the opportunity to speak in his/her own defense, to question any witnesses and to have an advisor present. This advisor may give advice to the accused student or organization but may not question the judicial panel members or witnesses. This advisor may not be the same advisor serving on the judicial panel. The advisor may not be an attorney.
- d) A written statement of the findings, conclusions and any sanctions imposed will be postmarked to the address the student has on file with the College no later than five business days following the date of the hearing.

SECTION III. SANCTIONS

The following sanctions may be imposed when students have been found to have violated the Student Conduct Code. More than one of these sanctions may be imposed for any single violation. Failure to comply with imposed sanctions may result in additional sanctions. Additional penalties may be imposed if the student is found to have further violated the Conduct Code.

1. **Reprimand and Warning:** The issuance of a written reprimand and warning that states that the student(s) is violating or has violated institutional regulations.
2. **Restitution:** A student may be required to pay the cost for the repair or replacements of any damaged or destroyed property.
3. **Confiscation:** Goods used or possessed in violation of the Conduct Code, including falsified information or identification, will be confiscated and are not subject to return to the student.
4. **Restricted Access:** A student may be removed from and/or have access restricted from specified College facilities, including student residence halls.
5. **Loss of Privileges:** A student may lose privileges to participate in and/or attend College events, represent the College in specified manners, hold office in any College-sanctioned organization, receive institutional financial aid or maintain on-campus student employment.
6. **Participation in a Specific Program:** A student may be required to participate in a specific program(s), such as an educational program, counseling program or other program as assigned.

7. **Probation:** A written notice of probation for violation of the specified regulations. Probation imposed will be for a designated period of time and will include the probability of more severe disciplinary sanctions if the student(s) is found to be violating any institutional regulation during the probationary period.
8. **Discretionary Sanctions:** Work assignments, service to the College or other related discretionary sanctions. This will be coordinated by the Provost or designee.
9. **Suspension:** Termination of enrollment for specified period of time, after which the student(s) is eligible to return. Conditions for re-admission may be specified.
10. **Expulsion:** Permanent termination of the privilege of enrollment at the college.
11. **Summary Suspension:** A suspension is imposed without a formal hearing to ensure the safety and well-being of members of the College community.

After the student has been summarily suspended, the Provost or designee must provide the opportunity for a Judicial Board hearing within the shortest reasonable time period, not to exceed nine calendar days from the date the student received written notification of the summary suspension.

During the summary suspension, the student may not be on College property without obtaining prior written authorization from the Provost or designee.

SECTION IV. APPEALS

*For appeals of the informal process, see Section A., Number 3.

1. A decision reached by the college Judicial Board may be appealed by the accused student(s) to the Chief Student Affairs Officer/or designee within five (5) business days of the decision. Appeals must be in writing and shall be sent to the Chief of Student Affairs Officer/or designee.
2. An appeal shall be limited to review of the verbatim record of the initial hearing and supporting comments for one of more of the following purposes:
 - a) To determine whether the original hearing was conducted in a fair manner in light of the charge(s) and evidence presented and in conformity with prescribed procedures allowing the accused student(s) a reasonable opportunity to prepare and to present a rebuttal of the charge(s) and evidence.
 - b) To determine whether the evidence confirmed that a violation of the Student Conduct Code occurred.
 - c) To determine whether the sanction(s) imposed were appropriate for the specific violation of the Student Conduct Code.
3. Following a review of the hearing and the appeal presented by the student(s), the Chief Student Affairs Officer or designee shall render a decision. The Chief Student Affairs Officer or designee may: uphold the Judicial Board's decision and sanction(s); determine that the decision was reached in error or inappropriately; or may determine that the sanction was inappropriate. In the latter case, the Chief Student Affairs Officer or designee may issue a lesser sanction. If the Chief Student Affairs Officer or designee decides that the sanction(s) was reached in error or inappropriately, the Chief Student Affairs Officer or designee may require the Judicial Board to hear the case de novo or may choose to absolve the student(s).
4. The Chief Student Affairs Officer or designee shall notify the student(s) in writing of the decision of any new sanction imposed. This written notice will be provided no later than ten business days following the date of receiving the appeal.
5. The Chief Student Affairs Officer or designee's decision shall be final with the College and MnSCU.
6. If the sanction involved suspension for 10 days or more, the student(s) shall be informed of the right to a contested case hearing under Chapter 14 of Minnesota Statutes which states that an appeal may be made to an Administrative Law Judge at the Minnesota State Hearing Examiners Office, St. Paul, Minnesota. The student(s) may request a hearing in writing within five (5) business days of receipt of written suspension notice. If the student(s) does not file an appeal within the five (5) business days, any further right to appeal shall be waived. The attorney assigned to MnSCU by

the Attorney General shall represent the College at this hearing. The Administrative Law Judge shall prepare a report, which contains a recommendation, to the College President. Within a period of not less than twelve (12) business nor more than twenty (20) business days following receipt of the recommendation, the College President will make a decision. The decision of the College President is final. During this appeal process, the student(s) shall have the right to attend classes and to receive services related to the College program until a final decision has been made, unless the process is the result of actions deemed harmful or potentially harmful to other persons or property.

SECTION V. INTERPRETATION

1. Any questions of interpretation regarding the Student Conduct Code shall be referred to the Chief Student Affairs Officer or, in the case of academic dishonesty, to the Chief Academic Affairs Officer of the College.
2. The Student Conduct Code shall be reviewed every year under the direction of the Chief Student Affairs Officer.

SECTION VI. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

Records relating to students' histories of student conduct shall be kept as required by law and the college records retention schedule and shall be kept separate from students' regular records. The only persons having access to these records shall be the College President, the Chief Student Affairs Officer, the Chief Academic Affairs Officer, the Provost or designee, and the Deans. Any other person who wishes to review these files must have permission from the Chief Student Affairs Officer or the Chief Academic Affairs Officer.

Purpose

To support the development and well-being of all members of the college community and to ensure due process and the orderly disposition of violations of the Student Conduct Code.

Student Involvement in Decision Making

The College values student participation in planning and decision making. The College shall give students the opportunity to participate in activities, committees, events and forums that are related to policy development and/or decision making. Student committee members shall be selected by the Student Senate. Exceptions to student participation on committees may include: Committees established for the evaluation of personnel; Committees established under collective bargaining agreements; Management teams and presidential cabinets.

Tobacco-Free Environment

Minnesota State Community and Technical College is committed to providing a smoke-free environment for students, employees, and visitors. Use of tobacco products on the premises of college facilities is therefore prohibited except in designated outdoor areas. Use of tobacco products in college- or state-owned vehicles is also prohibited.

Workplace Violence

The College is committed to providing a safe working environment for its employees, students, and visitors, free from threats and acts of violence. In support of this commitment, the College shall implement the following policies in an attempt to reduce the potential for threats and workplace violence, including banning dangerous weapons from workplace sites:

- Creating a low-risk work environment: College administrators are expected to promote positive behavior, and to lead by example, by treating employees with the respect and dignity each person deserves. Emphasis will be placed on creating a workplace where established standards of conduct are clear, are communicated, are consistently enforced, and where discipline is used fairly and appropriately to deal with instances of unacceptable behavior.
- Training: All college administrators will be provided training in workplace-related threats and acts of violence. This training will focus on prevention and de-escalation of violence, will include suggestions for appropriate responses to threats and acts of violence, and will identify those resources which are available to use once a potential problem has been identified, or an incident has occurred.

- **Employee Counseling and Assistance:** The administration will encourage use of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP is primarily an assessment, short-term counseling and referral agency. While administrators, family members, or union representatives may encourage employees to seek help from the EAP, the decision to use those services must be voluntary. Employees may also choose to seek assistance from private health services to deal with pressures, stress, emotional problems, or other personal issues which could, if ignored, lead to threats or acts of violence.
- **Valuing and Respecting Diversity:** The College values and respects individual differences among people. Harassment of any person in the workplace is strictly prohibited. Incidents of this nature, if not corrected, may result in workplace violence. The administration will continue to treat incidents of harassment and discrimination as outlined in MnSCU Board Policy 1B.1.
- **A Safe Workplace:** College and campus administrators have the primary responsibility for ensuring a safe work environment. They are empowered to take immediate action to resolve or stabilize violent situations in the workplace, and to protect people from harm. Administrators will also ensure that appropriate disciplinary responses are made to internal workplace acts of violence or aggression.
- **Dangerous Weapon Prohibition:** The administration will work to eliminate dangerous weapons from the workplace. The possession of any dangerous weapon, to include any firearm, in any college workplace by any person other than a law enforcement officer, is strictly prohibited. For the purposes of this plan and policy, the following items are considered to be "Dangerous Weapons":
 - o Any weapon which, according to law, is illegal to possess.
 - o Any firearm, loaded or unloaded, assembled or disassembled, including pellet, "BB", and stun guns (electronic incapacitation devices).
 - o Replicate firearms, as defined in Minnesota Statute 609.713.
 - o Knives (and other similar instruments) with a blade length of more than three inches, other than those present in the workplace for the specific use of instruction or for food preparation and service.
 - o Any "switchblade" knife.
 - o "Brass knuckles," "metal knuckles," and similar weapons.
 - o Bows, crossbows and arrows.
 - o Explosives and explosive devices, including fireworks and incendiary devices.
 - o "Throwing stars," "numchucks," clubs, saps, and any other item commonly used as, or primarily intended for use as, a weapon.
 - o Any object that has been modified to serve as, or has been employed as, a dangerous weapon.

Prohibition of Concealed Weapons

The College adopts in full Policy 5.21 of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. In addition to concealed firearms, employees, students, and visitors are prohibited from carrying any concealed dangerous weapons (defined in policy 1090-1-01) on college property, exclusive of parking lots. Employees are prohibited from carrying concealed weapons while acting in the course and scope of employment. Violators will be subject to sanctions: employment-related civil sanctions for employees and academic sanctions for students.

Nondiscrimination in Employment and Education Opportunity

Minnesota State Community and Technical College hereby adopts MnSCU 1B.1 Board Policy and Procedure 1B.1.1 in full:

1B.1 Nondiscrimination in Employment and Education Opportunity

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities are committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and education opportunity. No person shall be discriminated against in the terms and conditions of employment, personnel practices, or access to and participation in, programs, services, and activities with regard to race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation. In addition, discrimination in employment based on membership or activity in a local commission as defined by law is prohibited.

Harassment on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation is prohibited. Harassment may oc-

cur in a variety of relationships, including faculty and student, supervisor and employee, student and student, staff and student, employee and employee, and other relationships with persons having business at, or visiting the educational or working environment.

This policy is directed at verbal and physical conduct that constitutes discrimination /harassment under state and federal law and is not directed at the content of speech. In cases in which verbal statements and other forms of expression are involved, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will give due consideration to an individual's constitutionally protected right to free speech and academic freedom. However, discrimination and harassment are not within the protections of academic freedom or free speech.

The system office, colleges and universities shall maintain and encourage full freedom, within the law, of expression, inquiry, teaching and research. Academic freedom comes with a responsibility that all members of our education community benefit from it without intimidation, exploitation or coercion.

This policy shall apply to all individuals affiliated with Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, including but not limited to, its students, employees, applicants, volunteers, agents and Board of Trustees, and is intended to protect the rights and privacy of both the complainant and respondent and other involved individuals, as well as to prevent retaliation or reprisal. Individuals who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary or other corrective action.

This policy supersedes all existing system, college and university non-discrimination policies.

Part 2. Definitions.

Subpart A. Consensual Relationship. A sexual or romantic relationship between two persons who voluntarily enter into such a relationship. Employees who are members of the same household should also refer to the Board of Trustees Nepotism policy 4.10.

Subpart B. Discrimination. Discrimination is defined as conduct that is directed at an individual because of his or her protected class and that subjects the individual to different treatment by agents or employees so as to interfere with or limit the ability of the individual to participate in, or benefit from, the services, activities, or privileges provided by the system or colleges and universities or otherwise adversely affects the individual's employment or education.

Subpart C. Discriminatory harassment. Discriminatory harassment is defined as verbal or physical conduct that is directed at an individual because of his or her protected class, and that is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to have the purpose or effect of creating a hostile work or educational environment.

As required by law, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities have further defined sexual harassment as a form of sexual discrimination which is prohibited by state and federal law. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or education, evaluation of a student's academic performance, or term or condition of participation in student activities or in other events or activities sanctioned by the college or university; or
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions or other decisions about participation in student activities or other events or activities sanctioned by the college or university; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of threatening an individual's work or academic performance; or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment.

Subpart D. Employee. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities personnel include all faculty, staff, administrators, teaching assistants, graduate assistants, residence directors and student employees.

Subpart E. Protected Class. Protected class for the purpose of this policy means that discrimination and harassment in employment and education are prohibited on the basis of: race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance or sexual orientation. In addition, membership or activity in a local human rights commission is a protected class in employment.

Subpart F. Retaliation. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, intentionally engaging in any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment against an individual because he or she made a complaint under this policy or assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, or process under this policy, regardless of whether a claim of discrimination or harassment is substantiated; or associated with a person or group of persons who are disabled or are of a different race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation or national origin. Retaliation may occur whether or not there is a power or authority differential between the individuals involved.

Subpart G. Sexual harassment and violence as sexual abuse. Under certain circumstances, sexual harassment or violence may constitute sexual abuse according to Minnesota law. In such situations, the system office and colleges and universities shall comply with the reporting requirements in M.S. Section 626.556 (reporting of maltreatment of minors) and M.S. Section 626.557 (Vulnerable Adult Protection Act). Nothing in this policy will prohibit the system office or any college or university from taking immediate action to protect victims of alleged sexual abuse. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities 1B.3 Sexual Violence Policy addresses sexual violence.

Subpart H. Student. “Student” means an individual who is:

1. Admitted, enrolled, registered to take or is taking one or more courses, classes, or seminars, credit or noncredit, at any System college or university; or
2. Between terms of a continuing course of study at the college or university, such as summer break between spring and fall academic terms; or
3. Expelled or suspended from enrollment as a student at the college or university, during the pendency of any adjudication of the student disciplinary action.

Part 3. Consensual Relationships. An employee of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall not enter into a consensual relationship with a student or an employee over whom he or she exercises direct or otherwise significant academic, administrative, supervisory, evaluative, counseling, or extracurricular authority or influence. In the event a relationship already exists, each college and university and system office shall develop a procedure to reassign evaluative authority as may be possible to avoid violations of this policy. This prohibition does not limit the right of an employee to make recommendation on personnel matters concerning a family or household member where the right to make recommendations on such personnel matters is explicitly provided for in the applicable collective bargaining agreement or compensation plan.

Part 4. Retaliation. Retaliation as defined in this policy is prohibited in the system office, colleges and universities. Any individual subject to this policy who intentionally engages in retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary or other corrective action as appropriate.

Procedure 1B.1.1

Report/Complaint of Discrimination/Harassment Investigation and Resolution

Part 1. Purpose and Applicability.

Subpart A. Purpose. This procedure is designed to further implement Minnesota State Colleges and Universities policies relating to nondiscrimination by providing a process through which individuals alleging violation of Board Policy 1B.1 Nondiscrimination in Employment and Education Opportunity may pursue a complaint. This includes allegations of retaliation, or discrimination or harassment based on sex, race, age, disability, color, creed, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, or status with regard to public assistance. In addition, discrimination in employment based on membership or activity in a local commission as defined by law is prohibited.

Subpart B. Applicability. This procedure shall apply to all individuals affiliated with Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, including its students, employees, and applicants for employment, and is intended to protect the rights and privacy of both the complainant and respondent and other involved individuals, as well as to prevent retaliation/reprisal. Individuals who violate this procedure shall be subject to disciplinary or other corrective action. A single act of discrimination or harassment may be based on more than one protected class status. For example, discrimination based on anti-Semitism may relate to religion, national origin, or both; discrimination against a pregnant woman might be based on sex, marital status, or both; discrimination against a transgender or transsexual individual might be based on sex or sexual orientation. Not every act that may be offensive to an individual or group constitutes discrimination or harassment. Harassment includes action beyond the mere expression of views, words, symbols or thoughts that another individual finds offensive. To constitute a violation of Board Policy 1B.1, conduct must be considered sufficiently serious to deny or limit a student’s or employee’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Subpart C. Scope. This procedure is not applicable to allegations of sexual violence; allegations of sexual violence are handled pursuant to Board Policy 1B.3 Sexual Violence and System Procedure 1B.3.1. In addition, harassment and discrimination complaints notarizing from alleged violations of Board Policy 1B.1, are to be addressed under other appropriate policies and established practices.

Part 2. Definitions.

The definitions in Board Policy 1B.1 also apply to this procedure.

Subpart A. Designated officer. Designated officer means an individual designated by the president or chancellor to be primarily responsible for conducting an initial inquiry, determining whether to proceed with an investigation under this procedure, and investigating or coordinating the investigation of reports and complaints of discrimination/harassment in accordance with this procedure. Prior to serving as the designated officer, the individual must complete investigator training provided by the Office of the Chancellor.

Subpart B. Decision maker. Decision maker means a high level administrator designated by the president or chancellor to review investigative reports, to make findings whether Board policy 1B.1 has been violated based upon the investigation, and to determine the appropriate action for the institution to take based upon the findings. Prior to serving as a decision maker for complaints under this procedure, administrators must complete decision maker training provided by the Office of the Chancellor.

Subpart C. Retaliation. Retaliation means any action against a complainant or other individual because the individual:

- a. Participated in the investigation or resolution of a complaint under this procedure;
- b. Opposed conduct the individual believes was in violation of Board policy 1B.1; or
- c. Associates with another individual who is protected from discrimination under Policy 1B.1.

Part 3. Consensual Relationships.

Board Policy 1B.1 Nondiscrimination in Employment and Education Opportunity prohibits consensual relationships between an employee and a student or another employee over whom he or she exercises direct or otherwise significant academic, administrative, supervisory, evaluative, counseling, or extracurricular authority or influence, whether or not both parties appear to have consented to the relationship, except as noted. Examples of prohibited consensual relationships include, but are not limited to:

- An employee and a student if the employee is in a position to evaluate or otherwise significantly influence the student’s education, employment, housing, participation in athletics, or any other college or university activity (employee includes, for example, graduate assistants, administrators, coaches, advisors, program directors, counselors and residence life staff);
- -A faculty member and a student who is enrolled in the faculty member’s course, who is an advisee of the faculty member, or whose academic work is supervised or evaluated by the faculty member; and
- -A supervisor and an employee under the person’s supervision.
- A faculty member or other employee is prohibited from undertaking a romantic or sexual relationship or permitting one to develop with a student or supervisee who is enrolled in the person’s class or is subject to that person’s supervision or evaluation.

If a consensual, romantic or sexual relationship exists between an employee and another individual and subsequent events create a supervisor/supervisee, faculty/student or similar relationship between them, the person with evaluative or supervisory authority is required to report the relationship to his or her supervisor so that evaluative functions can be reassigned if possible. This procedure does not cover consensual relationships between individuals that do not require one to exercise direct or otherwise significant academic, administrative, supervisory, evaluative, counseling, or extracurricular authority or influence over the other. This prohibition does not limit the right of an employee to make a recommendation on personnel matters concerning a person with whom they have a consensual relationship where the right to make recommendations on such personnel matters is explicitly provided for in the applicable collective bargaining agreement or compensation plan.

Part 4. Reporting Incidents of Discrimination/Harassment.

Subpart A. Reporting an incident. Any individual who believes she or he has been or is being subjected to conduct prohibited by Board Policy 1B.1 is encouraged to report the incident to the designated officer. The report/complaint should be brought as soon as possible after an incident occurs. Any student, faculty member or employee who knows of, receives information about or receives a complaint of discrimination/harassment is strongly encouraged to report the information or complaint to the designated officer of the Office of the Chancellor, college, or university.

Subpart B. Duty to report. Administrators and supervisors shall refer allegations of conduct that they reasonably believe may constitute discrimination or harassment under Board Policy 1B.1 to the designated officer, or in consultation with the designated officer may inquire into and resolve such matters.

Subpart C. Reports against a president. A report/complaint against a president of a college or university shall be filed with the Office of the Chancellor. However, complaints against a president shall be processed by the college or university if the president's role in the alleged incident was limited to a decision on a recommendation made by another administrator, such as tenure, promotion or non-renewal, and the president had no other substantial involvement in the matter.

Subpart D. Reports against Office of the Chancellor Employees or Board of Trustees. For reports/complaints that involve allegations against Office of the Chancellor employees, the responsibilities identified in this procedure as those of the president are the responsibilities of the chancellor. Reports/complaints that involve allegations against the chancellor or a member of the Board of Trustees shall be referred to the chair or vice chair of the Board for processing. Such reports/complaints may be assigned to appropriate system personnel or outside investigatory assistance may be designated.

Subpart E. False statements prohibited. Any individual who is determined to have provided false information in filing a discrimination report/complaint or during the investigation of such a report/complaint may be subject to disciplinary or corrective action.

Subpart F. Withdrawn complaints. If a complainant no longer desires to pursue a complaint, the Office of the Chancellor, colleges, and universities reserve the right to investigate and take appropriate action.

Part 5. Right to Representation.

In accordance with federal law and applicable collective bargaining agreement and personnel plan language, represented employees may have the right to request and receive union representation during an investigatory meeting. Nothing in this procedure is intended to expand, diminish or alter in any manner whatsoever any right or remedy available under a collective bargaining agreement, personnel plan or law. Any disciplinary action imposed as a result of an investigation conducted under this procedure will be processed in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining agreement or personnel plan.

Part 6. Investigation and Resolution.

The Office of the Chancellor, college or university has an affirmative duty to take timely and appropriate action to stop behavior prohibited by Board Policy 1B.1, conduct investigations and take appropriate action to prevent recurring misconduct.

Subpart A. Personal resolution. This procedure neither prevents nor requires the use of informal resolution by an individual who believes he or she has been subject to conduct in violation of Board Policy 1B.1. In such a situation, the individual should clearly explain to the alleged offender as soon as possible after the incident that the behavior is objectionable and must stop. If the behavior does not stop or if the individual believes retaliation may result from the discussion, the individual should report to the designated officer. Under no circumstance shall an individual be required to use personal resolution to address prohibited behaviors.

Subpart B. Information privacy. Confidentiality of information obtained during an investigation cannot be guaranteed; such information, however, will be handled in accordance with applicable federal and state data privacy laws.

Subpart C. Processing the complaint. The designated officer must be contacted in order to initiate a report/complaint under this procedure. The scope of the process used in each complaint/report shall be determined by the designated officer based on the complexity of the allegations, the number and relationship of individuals involved, and other pertinent factors.

1. **Jurisdiction.** The designated officer shall determine whether the report/complaint is one which should be processed through another Office of the Chancellor, college or university procedure available to the complainant; if appropriate; the designated officer shall direct the complainant to that procedure as soon as possible.
2. **Conflicts.** The designated officer should identify to the president or chancellor/designee any real or perceived conflict of interest in proceeding as the designated officer for a specific complaint. If the president or chancellor/designee determines that a conflict exists, another designated officer shall be assigned.
3. **Information provided to complainant.** At the time the report/complaint is made, the designated officer shall:
 - a.) inform the complainant of the provisions of the Board Policy 1B.1 and this procedure;
 - b.) provide a copy of or Web address for Board Policy 1B.1 and this procedure to the complainant;
 - c.) determine whether other individuals are permitted to accompany the complainant during investigatory interviews and the extent of their involvement; and
 - d.) inform the complainant of the provisions of Board policy 1B.1 prohibiting retaliation.

4. **Complaint documentation.** The designated officer shall insure that the complaint is documented in writing. The designated officer may request, but not require the complainant to document the complaint in writing using the complaint form of the Office of the Chancellor, college or university.
5. **Information provided to the respondent.** At the time initial contact is made with the respondent, the designated officer shall inform the respondent in writing of the existence and general nature of the complaint and the provisions of the nondiscrimination policy. At the initial meeting with the respondent, the designated officer shall:
 - a.) Provide a copy of or Web address for Board Policy 1B.1 and this procedure to the respondent;
 - b.) provide sufficient information to the respondent consistent with federal and state data privacy laws to allow the respondent to respond to the substance of the complaint;
 - c.) explain to the respondent that in addition to being interviewed by the designated officer, the respondent may provide a written response to the allegations;
 - d.) determine whether other individuals are permitted to accompany the respondent during investigative interviews and the extent of their involvement; and
 - e.) inform the respondent of the provisions of Board policy 1B.1 prohibiting retaliation.
6. **Investigatory process.** The designated officer shall:
 - a.) conduct a fact-finding inquiry or investigation into the complaint, including appropriate interviews and meetings;
 - b.) inform the witnesses and other involved individuals of the prohibition against retaliation;
 - c.) create, gather and maintain investigative documentation as appropriate;
 - d.) disclose appropriate information to others only on a need to know basis consistent with state and federal law, and provide a data privacy notice in accordance with state law; and
 - e.) handle all data in accordance with applicable federal and state privacy laws.
7. **Interim Actions.**
 - a.) Employee reassignment or administrative leave. Under appropriate circumstances, the president or chancellor may, in consultation with system legal counsel and labor relations, reassign or place an employee on administrative leave at any point in time during the report/complaint process. In determining whether to place an employee on administrative leave or reassignment, consideration shall be given to the nature of the alleged behavior, the relationships between the parties, the context in which the alleged incidents occurred and other relevant factors. Any action taken must be consistent with the applicable collective bargaining agreement or personnel plan.
 - b.) Student summary suspension or other action. Under appropriate circumstances, the president or designee may, in consultation with system legal counsel, summarily suspend a student at any point in time during the report/complaint process. A summary suspension may be imposed only in accordance with Board Policy 3.6 and associated system procedures. After the student has been summarily suspended, the report/complaint process should be completed within the shortest reasonable time period, not to exceed nine (9) class days. During the summary suspension, the student may not enter the campus or participate in any college or university activities without obtaining prior permission from the president or designee. Other temporary measures may be taken in lieu of summary suspension where the president or designee determines such measures are appropriate.
8. **No basis to proceed.** At any point during the processing of the complaint, the designated officer may determine that there is no basis to proceed under Board Policy 1B.1. The designated officer shall refer the complaint as appropriate. The designated officer shall notify the complainant and respondent of the outcome as appropriate, in accordance with applicable data privacy laws.

Subpart D. Resolution. After processing the complaint the designated officer may consider one or more of the following methods to resolve the complaint as appropriate:

1. Conduct or coordinate education/training;
2. Facilitate voluntary meetings between the parties;
3. Recommend separation of the parties, after consultation with appropriate Office of the Chancellor, college or university personnel;
4. Other possible outcomes may include recommending changes in workplace assignments, enrollment in a different course or program, or other appropriate action;
5. The Office of the Chancellor, college or university may use alternative dispute reso-

lution or mediation services as a method of resolving discrimination or harassment complaints. Alternative dispute resolution and mediation options require the voluntary participation of all parties to the complaint;

6. Upon completion of the inquiry, the designated officer may dismiss or refer the complaint to others as appropriate.

Subpart E. Decision process. If the above methods have not resolved the complaint within a reasonable period of time to the satisfaction of the designated officer, or the designated officer feels additional steps should be taken, the procedures in this subpart shall be followed.

1. **Designated officer.** The designated officer shall:
 - a.) prepare an investigation report and forward it to the decision-maker for review and decision;
 - b.) take additional investigative measures as requested by the decision-maker; and
 - c.) be responsible for coordinating responses to requests for information contained in an investigation report in accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and other applicable law including, but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). In determining the appropriate response, the designated officer shall consult with the campus data practice compliance official and/or the Office of General Counsel.
2. **Decision-maker.** After receiving the investigation report prepared by the designated officer, the decision-maker shall:
 - a.) determine whether additional steps should be taken prior to making the decision.

Additional steps may include:

1. A request that the designated officer conduct further investigative measures;
2. A meeting with the complainant, respondent or other involved individuals. If a meeting involving a represented employee is convened, the complainant or respondent may choose to be accompanied by the bargaining unit representative, in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining agreement and federal and state law; and
3. A request for additional information which may include a written response from the complainant or respondent relating to the allegations of the complaint.
 - b.) take other measures deemed necessary to determine whether a violation of Policy 1B.1 has been established;
 - c.) when making the decision, take into account the totality of the circumstances, including the nature and extent of the behaviors, the relationship(s) between the parties, the context in which the alleged incident(s) occurred, and other relevant factors;
 - d.) determine the nature, scope and timing of disciplinary or corrective action and the process for implementation if a violation of the nondiscrimination policy occurs. This may include consultation with human resources or supervisory personnel to determine appropriate discipline;
 - e.) As appropriate, consistent with applicable state and federal data privacy laws, report in writing to the complainant, respondent and the designated officer her or his findings, and the basis for those findings, as to whether Board policy 1B.1 has been violated. The written response to the complainant shall be provided within 60 days after a complaint is made unless reasonable cause for delay exists.
 - f.) Conduct that is determined not to have violated Board policy 1B.1 shall be referred to another procedure for further action, if appropriate.

Part 7. Office of the Chancellor, College, or University Action.

The Office of the Chancellor, college, or university shall take the appropriate corrective action based on results of the investigation, and the designated officer shall make appropriate inquiries to ascertain the effectiveness of any corrective or disciplinary action. Complainants are encouraged to report any subsequent conduct that violates Board policy 1B1.1, as well as allegations of retaliation. Written notice to parties relating to discipline, resolutions, and/or final dispositions resulting from the report/complaint process is deemed to be official correspondence from the Office of the Chancellor, college or university. In accordance with state law, the Office of the Chancellor, college or university is responsible for filing the complaint disposition concerning complaints against employees with the Commissioner of Employee Relations within 30 days of final disposition.

Part 8. Appeal.

Subpart A. Filing an appeal. The complainant or the respondent may appeal the decision of the decision-maker. An appeal must be filed in writing with the president or designee within ten (10)

business days after notification of the decision. The appeal must state specific reasons why the complainant or respondent believes the decision was improper. In a complaint against a president or other official who reports directly to the chancellor, an appeal may be considered by the chancellor whether or not the chancellor served as the decision-maker.

Subpart B. Effect of review. For employees represented by a collective bargaining agreement, an appeal under this procedure is separate and distinct from, and is not in any way related to, any contractual protections or procedures. During the pendency of the appeal disciplinary or corrective action taken as a result of the decision shall be enforced. In addition, in cases involving sanctions of suspension for ten (10) days or longer, students shall be informed of their right to a contested case hearing under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 14.

Subpart C. Appeal process. The president or designee shall review the record and determine whether to affirm or modify the decision. The president or designee may receive additional information if the president or designee believes such information would aid in the consideration of the appeal. The decision on appeal shall be made within a reasonable time and the complainant, respondent and designated officer shall be notified in writing of the decision, consistent with applicable state and federal data privacy laws. The decision on appeal exhausts the complainant's and respondent's administrative remedies under this procedure except as provided herein.

Part 9. Education and Training. The Office of the Chancellor, colleges and universities shall provide education and training programs to promote awareness and prevent discrimination/harassment, such as educational seminars, peer-to-peer counseling, operation of hotlines, self-defense courses, and informational resources. Education and training programs should include education about Board policy 1B.1 and this procedure. All colleges and universities and the Office of the Chancellor shall promote awareness of Board policy 1B.1 and this procedure, and shall publicly identify the designated officer.

Part 10. Distribution of Board Policy 1B.1 and this Procedure. Information regarding Board Policy 1B.1 and this procedure shall, at a minimum, be distributed to students at the time of registration and to employees at the beginning of employment. Distribution may be accomplished by posting on an internet Website, provided all students and employees are directly notified of how to access the policy and procedure by an exact address, and that they may request a paper copy. Copies of the policy and procedure shall be conspicuously posted at appropriate locations at the Office of the Chancellor and on college and university campuses at all times and shall include the designated officers' names, locations and telephone numbers. Designated officers also must be identified by name, location and phone number in informational publications such as student catalogs, student and employee handbooks, bulletin boards, campus Websites and other appropriate public announcements.

Part 11. Maintenance of Report/Complaint Procedure Documentation. During and upon the completion of the complaint process, the complaint file shall be maintained in a secure location in the office of the designated officer for the Office of the Chancellor, college or university in accordance with the applicable records retention schedule. Access to the data shall be in accordance with the respective collective bargaining agreement or personnel plan, the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or other applicable law.

M State Designated Officers

To support MnSCU Board Policy 1B.1 and Procedure 1B.1.1., the following individuals are the designated officers for M STATE. These individuals have the primary responsibility for investigating or coordinating the investigation of reports and complaints of discrimination/harassment.

Jill Abbott, Senior Dean/eCampus: 218-846-3796

jill.abbott@minnesota.edu

Doug Andring, Assistant Human Resources Director: 218-299-6870

doug.andring@minnesota.edu

Shawn Anderson, Senior Dean/Moorhead and Dean of Student Success: 218-299-6535

shawn.anderson@minnesota.edu

Gary Henrickson, Dean of Academic Affairs: 218-736-1506

gary.henrickson@minnesota.edu

Dacia Johnson, Human Resources Director: 218-736-1512

dacia.johnson@minnesota.edu

Monty Johnson, Senior Dean/Wadena: 218-631-7812

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STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION: NOTIFICATION UNDER TITLE IX AND SECTION 504

(Non-discrimination based on sex or disability)

Minnesota State Community and Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its educational programs, activities and employment. The following persons have been designated by the College to receive inquiries regarding the College's Title IX (non-discrimination based on sex) and Section 504 (non-discrimination based on disability) policies:

Students and Prospective Students

Detroit Lakes:

Section 504: Sarah Carter, Academic Advisor and Learning Services Coordinator, 218-846-3734

Title IX: Shawn Anderson, Dean of Student Services, 218-299-6535

Fergus Falls:

Section 504: Jon Kragness, Disabilities Services Coordinator, 218-736-1595

Title IX: Shawn Anderson, Dean of Student Services, 218-299-6535

Moorhead:

Section 504: Claudia Simon, Learning Services Coordinator, Student Services, 218-299-6882

Title IX: Shawn Anderson, Dean of Student Services, 218-299-6535

Wadena:

Section 504: Mike Heino, Learning Services Coordinator, 218-631-7870

Title IX: Shawn Anderson, Dean of Student Services, 218-299-6535

Employees or Prospective Employees

Section 504 and Title IX:

Doug Andring, Assistant Director Human Resources, Moorhead Campus, Office B152, 218-299-6870

Minnesota State Community and Technical College is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and education opportunity. No person shall be discriminated against in the terms and conditions of employment, personnel practices, or access to and participation in programs, services, and activities with regard to race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or membership or activity in a local commission as defined by law. Inquiries regarding compliance, rights and other information may be addressed to the Affirmative Action Officer, Doug Andring, Assistant Human Resources Director, Moorhead Campus, Office B152, 218-299-6870. Inquiries regarding the education opportunities or equal employment policies of the Affirmative Action program should be directed to the:

Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Compliance Officer, 1414 College Way
Fergus Falls, MN 56537-1000; Telephone: 218-736-1512; Fax: 218-736-1511

Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 111 N. Canal Street, Suite 1053, Chicago, IL 60606-7204
Telephone: 312-886-8434; FAX: 312-353-4888; TDD: 312-353-2540; Email: ww.OCR_Chicago@ed.gov

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Customer Service Team, Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20202; Telephone: 1-800-421-3481; FAX: 202-205-9862; TDD: 877-521-2172; Email: www.OCR@ed.gov

Printed copies of the campus drug free policy, security policy, athletic gender equity policy, and student right to know are available by contacting: Student Services Office; Minnesota State Community and Technical College; 1414 College Way; Fergus Falls, MN 56537-1000; (218) 736-1500.

Minnesota State Community and Technical College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission; Member of the North Central Association (NCA), with additional program-specific accreditation information found in the M STATE catalog. Information about NCA can be found on their website at: <http://www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org/> or you can write to them at 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400; Chicago, IL 50502-2504; telephone (312)263-0456.

The purpose of the online handbook is to provide students, advisors, counselors, faculty, and college administration a convenient, paperless vehicle for viewing up to date information about M State's programs, courses, and other student services and academic functions. While M State is committed to communicating in a timely and accurate manner, it is important for all online handbook users to

understand that this publication is not intended to create any guarantees about current practices or program/course offerings. M State reserves the right to change or vary the content of this online publication, without notice to current or potential users, when in its sole discretion such changes, updates or variations are warranted. It is the user's responsibility to seek clarification and/or assistance from a college advisor or administrator regarding any content questions. The most current publication of M State's online handbook supersedes all prior print or online publications.

If you use a TTY, you can call us using the Minnesota Relay Service at (651) 297-5353 or 1-800-627-3529 and ask them to place a call to Minnesota State Community and Technical College. Upon request this information will be made available in alternate formats.

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