

Section 12

College Policies and Notices

College Policies

Alcohol and Other Drugs

The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs prior to, or during any College-sponsored activity, on or off-campus, by any person attending, regardless of age, is forbidden by State law.

The Federal government has mandated that as of October 1, 1990, there will be no drug usage by students, staff, or faculty on college campuses anywhere in the United States. Please see the latest *Schedule of Classes* for the College's Alcohol and Other Drug Policy.

Animals on Campus

Board Policy does not allow for any animals on campus except as provided for by the California Penal Code, Section 365.5 (specially trained guide, signal, or service dogs). Leaving a pet in a parked vehicle, no matter what provisions are made for its safety, may constitute unnecessary suffering or cruelty which is a violation of California Penal Code 597.

Campus Disturbances

In accordance with California Penal Code (P.C. 626.6), the willful disturbance of classes, College activities, or procedures is a misdemeanor.

Campus Hours

The College offers instruction between the hours of 6:30 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday. Office hours vary depending on the services provided. Refer to the latest *Schedule of Classes* or call for specific office hours.

Children on Campus

While on the campus of Mt. San Antonio College, children under 12 years of age who are not approved for enrollment must be directly supervised at all times by a responsible adult. Such children shall not be left unattended in College buildings, outdoor areas, or in private automobiles.

Classroom Visitors

No person may be allowed to attend a regularly scheduled class unless officially registered for that class. Permission to visit a class must be secured from the professor. A visitor shall not attend class on a regular basis. Examples of visitors include: guest speakers, student friends, potential students, or minor children of officially registered students. Unauthorized visitors may be removed from the classroom by request of the Division Dean or designee, or other manager of the Instruction or Student Services Team.

Dress Regulation

Students are expected to dress in accordance with commonly accepted standards of appropriateness. It is mandatory that shoes be worn as general campus attire.

Driving and Parking

Users of Mt. San Antonio College campus roads and parking areas must observe and obey all traffic laws of the State of California and the College traffic and parking regulations adopted pursuant to Section 21113 of the California Vehicle Code and the Mt. San Antonio College Board of Trustees.

All four-wheeled vehicles parked in designated student lots MUST bear a valid parking permit for the semester enrolled. The Student Parking Permit is valid in designated student lots except in the spaces controlled by parking meters or reserved signage. Free 30-minute parking is available north of the Bookstore, west of the Administration Building, and south of the Performing Arts Center. Permit parking regulations are strictly ENFORCED during the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Eye Protection

Pursuant to the Education Code, the following regulation regarding eye protective devices shall be observed: Students, teachers, and visitors shall wear approved eye protective devices in all classes, shops, and laboratories when they are engaging in or observing the use of hazardous materials likely to cause injury to the eyes. Such eye protective devices shall meet the requirements of the American Standards Association Safety Code.

Academic Honesty

All members of the academic community have a responsibility to ensure that scholastic honesty is maintained. Faculty has the responsibility of planning and supervising all academic work in order to encourage honest and individual effort, and of taking appropriate action if instances of academic dishonesty are discovered.

Honesty is primarily the responsibility of each student. The College considers cheating to be a voluntary act for which there may be reason, but for which there is no acceptable excuse. It is important to understand that collaborative learning is considered cheating unless specifically allowed for by the professor.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating

Instructors have the responsibility of planning and supervising all academic work to encourage honest and individual effort, and of taking appropriate action if instances of academic dishonesty are discovered. However, honesty is primarily the responsibility of each student. The College considers cheating to be a voluntary act for which there may be reasons, but for which there is no acceptable excuse. It is important to understand that collaborative learning is considered cheating unless specifically allowed by the professor. The term "cheating" includes but is not limited to:

- Plagiarism;
- Receiving or knowingly supplying unauthorized information;
- Using unauthorized material or sources;
- Changing an answer after work has been graded and presenting it as improperly graded;
- Illegally accessing confidential information through a computer;
- Taking an examination for another student or having another student take an examination for you; and
- Forging or altering registration or grade documents.

The instructor who determines that a student has cheated may give the student a failing grade for the assignment or for the course, or may drop the student from the course. Since the student has failed to abide by the standards of academic honesty, the instructor has a right to give an "F" for the assignment or the course even though the student may have successfully and, presumably, honestly passed the remaining portion of the assignment or course. If the instructor issues a failing grade for the course or drops the student, the actions shall be reported to the Dean of Student Services, and Director of Student Life. An instructor may also recommend that appropriate action be taken under provisions of the Administrative Regulations and Procedures on Student Discipline.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism is a direct violation of intellectual and academic honesty. Although it exists in many forms, all plagiarism refers to the same act: representing somebody else's words or ideas as one's own. The most extreme forms of plagiarism are the use of material authored by another person or obtained from a commercial source, or the use of passages copied word for word without acknowledgment. Paraphrasing an author's idea or quoting even limited portions of his or her text without proper citation is also an act of plagiarism. Even putting someone else's ideas into one's own words without acknowledgment may

be plagiarism. In none of its forms can plagiarism be tolerated in an academic community. It may constitute grounds for a failing grade, probation, suspension, or expulsion."

"One distinctive mark of an educated person is the ability to use language correctly and effectively to express ideas. Faculty assign written work for the purpose of helping students achieve that mark. Each instructor will outline specific criteria, but all expect students to present work that represents the student's understanding of the subject in the student's own words. It is seldom expected that student papers will be based entirely or even primarily on original ideas or original research."

"Therefore, to incorporate the concepts of others may be appropriate with proper acknowledgment of sources, and to quote others directly by means of quotation marks and acknowledgments, is proper. However, if a paper consists entirely of quotations and citations, the paper should be rewritten to show the student's own understanding and expressive ability. The purpose of the written assignment (i.e., development of communication and analytic skills) should be kept in mind as each paper is prepared. It should not be evaded through plagiarism."*

*Adopted, with permission of California State University, Los Angeles, from their policy printed in the 1987-88 General Catalog.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Mt. San Antonio College provides opportunities for the pursuit of excellence for all students and staff through its educational programs and services. The purpose of all programs, services, activities, conferences and college-endorsed competitions is to enrich the quality of human life. The College will provide open access to a college education and all support services without regard to sex, race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, age over 40, marital status, physical or mental disability (including HIV & AIDS), sexual orientation, or Vietnam Era Veteran Status. The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission. Policies and grievance procedures for unlawful discrimination and complaint procedures for sexual harassment for students and employees may be obtained by contacting the following individuals:

Trinda Hoxie, Director,
Human Resources/Affirmative Action Officer,
Human Resources Office
Building 4, Room 230, Ext. 4225

Audrey Yamagata-Noji, Vice President,
Student Services
Student Services Center, Ext. 4505

Carolyn Keys, Dean of Student Services,
Building 9C, Room 1A, Ext. 4525

Sexual Harassment Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees of Mt. San Antonio College to provide an educational, employment, and business environment free of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct or communications constituting sexual harassment, as defined and otherwise prohibited by state and federal statutes.

Sexual Harassment is not only unlawful, but it shall be a violation of this policy for any employee, student, agent of the Board, or one who is authorized to transact business or perform other acts or services on behalf of the College to engage in sexual harassment. Any person who knowingly violates this policy will be subject to appropriate and immediate disciplinary action.

Standards of Conduct

Board Policy, Section 5500

Adopted 6/23/04

Copies of the *Standard of Conduct Policy* can be obtained in Building 9C.

The College President/CEO shall establish procedures for the imposition of discipline on students in accordance with the requirements for due process of the federal and State law and regulations.

The procedures shall clearly define the conduct that is subject to discipline, and shall identify potential disciplinary actions, including but not limited to the removal, suspension, or expulsion of a student.

The Board shall consider any recommendation from the College President/CEO for expulsion. The Board shall consider an expulsion recommendation in closed session unless the student requests that the matter be considered in a public meeting. Final action by the Board on the expulsion shall be taken at a public meeting.

The procedures shall be made widely available to students through the College *catalog* and other means.

The following conduct shall constitute good cause for discipline, including but not limited to the removal, suspension or expulsion of a student.

1. Causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical injury to another person.
2. Possession, sale or otherwise furnishing any firearm, knife, explosive or other dangerous object, including but not limited to any facsimile firearm, knife or explosive, unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student has obtained written permission to possess the item from a College employee, which is concurred with by the College President/CEO.
3. Unlawful possession, use, sale, offer to sell, or furnishing, or being under the influence of, any controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the California Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind; or unlawful possession of, or offering, arranging or negotiating the sale of any drug paraphernalia, as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
4. Committing or attempting to commit robbery or extortion.
5. Causing or attempting to cause damage to College property or to private property on campus.
6. Stealing or attempting to steal College property or private property on campus, or knowingly receiving stolen College property or private property on campus.
7. Willful or persistent smoking in any area where smoking has been prohibited by law or by regulation of the College.
8. Committing sexual harassment as defined by law or by College policies and procedures.
9. Engaging in harassing or discriminatory behavior based on national origin, religion, age, sex (gender), race, color, medical condition, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, or because a person is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics.
10. Willful misconduct that results in injury or death to a student or to College personnel or which results in cutting, defacing, or other injury to any real or personal property owned by the College or on campus.
11. Disruptive behavior, willful disobedience, habitual profanity or vulgarity, or the open and persistent defiance of the authority of, or persistent abuse of, College personnel.
12. Cheating, plagiarism (including plagiarism in a student publication), or engaging in other academic dishonesty.
13. Dishonesty, forgery, alteration or misuse of College documents, records or identification; or knowingly furnishing false information to the College.
14. Unauthorized entry upon or use of College facilities.
15. Lewd, indecent or obscene conduct on College-owned or controlled property, or at College-sponsored or supervised functions.

16. Engaging in expression which is obscene, libelous or slanderous; or which so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on College premises, or the violation of lawful College administrative procedures, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the College.
17. Persistent, serious misconduct where other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct.
18. Unauthorized preparation, giving, selling, transfer, distribution, or publication, for any commercial purpose, of any contemporaneous recording of an academic presentation in a classroom or equivalent site of instruction, including but not limited to handwritten or typewritten class notes, except as permitted by any College policy or Administrative Procedure.
19. Harassment of students and/or College employees that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.
20. Violation of College rules and regulations including those concerning affiliate clubs and organizations, the use of College facilities, the posting and distribution of written materials, and College safety procedures.

Student Complaints/Grievance Process

Students are protected against capricious, arbitrary, unreasonable, unlawful, false, malicious or professionally inappropriate evaluations or behavior by a faculty member.

Student complaints may be classified as grievances and fall into two categories: Academic and Non-Academic. Academic grievances involve grades. To grieve a grade, a student must prove that the professor issued a grade by mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetence (Education Code 76224). Non-Academic grievances include: illegal discrimination, sexual harassment, financial aid, violation of College policies, any violation of Title IX or Section 504 related to students with disabilities.

Grievances must be **filed within 60 business days** of the alleged violation, or from the time that the grade leading to the complaint is posted. To begin the formal grievance process, students may pick up Grievance Procedures and forms from the **Student Life Office, Building 9C**. It is recommended that students meet with the Student Life Director regarding the grievance prior to starting the process since timelines are established for every step of the process and must be met precisely.

The process for filing and pursuing a grievance includes two levels: in **Level I** (informal level) the student picks up the grievance forms and official procedures from Student Life and attempts to resolve the problem by meeting first with the faculty member and then to the faculty member's department chair or immediate supervisor. If the complaint is not resolved at that level, the student will meet with the division dean in an effort to resolve the problem. In the event that the problem cannot be resolved within 10 business days, the student may proceed to **Level II** (formal grievance) in which the student after completing the forms takes all signed forms and documents to the Student Life Office within the established deadlines.

A Grievance Review Committee chaired by the Dean of Student Services will review the grievance documents. This Committee may forward the grievance for a hearing that provides for a formal hearing process to seek clarification from the parties involved. An appeal is possible if the student or faculty/staff member chooses to appeal the decision of the Committee. However, the decision made by the president or designee is final.

Smoking on Campus

Student, employee, and visitor health is a primary concern of Mt. San Antonio College. Because of the clear evidence of the harmful nature of smoke inhalation and because of the general concern over air contamination, Mt. San Antonio College in accordance with California State law, bans smoking within all campus buildings and in any outdoor area within twenty feet of any exterior exit or entrance to such a building. This includes all College-leased and College occupied buildings. Further, smoking is banned in the swimming pool area, Hilmer Lodge Stadium, and in all college vehicles.

Policy for Providing Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities

Under Federal and State laws, the College is required to make modifications to academic requirements and practices as necessary in order to ensure that they do not discriminate against a qualified student with a disability. The College is also required to have a policy and procedure for responding to students with verified disabilities who request academic adjustments. Students with disabilities have the right to receive reasonable academic adjustments in order to create an educational environment where they have equal access to instruction without fundamentally altering any course, educational program or degree. Copies of the Policy and Procedures for Providing Academic Adjustments for Students With Disabilities are available in Disabled Student Programs & Services, **ext. 4290**.

Notices

Equal Opportunity Statement

The Board of Trustees of Mt. San Antonio College has a commitment to establishing and maintaining a policy of equal educational and employment opportunities and prohibiting discrimination based on sex, race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, age over 40, marital status, physical or mental disability (including HIV & AIDS), sexual orientation, or Vietnam Era Veteran Status. This commitment applies to educational programs, activities, service, and employment practices.

Notice of Students' Rights

Students at Mt. San Antonio College are notified annually of their rights under the act within this section of the *Catalog*. More detailed information on student rights is available from the Director, Admissions and Records, including: 1) type of information and material contained within the student's educational record; 2) the official responsible for the maintenance of each type of record; 3) the procedure for student review and inspection of the educational record; 4) the procedure for challenging the contents of the educational record; 5) the charges to the student for reproducing copies of the record if requested; 6) the categories of information which the College has designated as Directory Information and to whom this information will be released unless the student objects; and 7) the rights of a student to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education concerning alleged failure of the College to comply with the provisions of the Act.

Federal Review Board

Students may file a complaint with the United States Department of Education, Room 5660, Independence Avenue, S.S., Washington, D.C. 20201, regarding alleged institutional violations of the Act.

Open Enrollment

All classes are open to all students who meet the course prerequisites and enrollment requirements, unless specifically exempted by statute. The College provides open access to all program offerings, opportunities, and support services without regard to sex, race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, age over 40, marital status, physical or mental disability (including HIV and AIDS), sexual orientation, or Vietnam Era Veteran Status.

Public Safety

In compliance with the Clery Act, the College publishes an annual security report which contains information regarding campus crime statistics. This information may also be found on the website at www.mtsac.edu by clicking on Public Safety. Copies

of the annual report can be obtained from the Public Safety Department, Building 4, Room 105. A Public Safety crime log is published bi-monthly in the student newspaper and brochures on Emergency Procedures are posted throughout the campus.

During the 2002-2004 calendar years, the following criminal offenses occurring on campus were reported to campus security authorities and local police agencies:

VIOLATION	2002	2003	2004
Murder	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	1
Robbery	3	1	1
Assault	11	13	15
Weapons Violations	0	5	1
Hate Crimes	0	0	0
Trespass	0	2	0
Burglary	2	15	11
Burglary-Vehicle	27	38	19
Theft	55	84	54
Theft-from Vehicle	5	7	8
Stolen Vehicle (GTA)	28	14	21
Vandalism	30	21	18
Liquor Law Violations	0	2	0
Alcohol Intoxication Not D.U.I.	0	1	0
Illegal Drugs	1	5	1
YEARLY TOTALS	162	208	150

Emergency Procedures

Students and staff should report serious crimes and emergencies, i.e., fire/medical, occurring on campus to the Public Safety Department or call **911**. When using an on-campus extension, call **9-911**. Incidents may be reported to Public Safety by calling **(909) 594-5611, ext. 4555**, 24 hours a day. During normal business hours, Public Safety may be contacted at Building 4, Room 105, or by calling **ext. 4230**. The Public Safety Department is located at the southeast portion of the campus off Bonita Drive in Building 48. Public telephone locations on campus have at least one phone that is equipped with a red emergency button that is a direct line to the Mt. SAC Public Safety Office during and after business hours. In the event of an emergency, students and staff are requested to make a prompt and accurate report to the Public Safety Department.

Enforcement

The Mt. San Antonio College Public Safety Department has the authority to enforce the Student Discipline Code of Conduct under the Education and Penal Codes of the State of California; and is the liaison with local police and sheriffs departments in cases of criminal actions.

Mt. San Antonio College District incident reports are not official police reports. If an official police report is required, the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department in Walnut is the appropriate agency to contact.

Crime Prevention

The Public Safety Department's primary responsibility is the safety and security of all members of the College community. Every effort is made to inform students and staff of criminal activity or any other concern that may be an immediate threat to the safety and security of those on campus. Information and workshops on crime prevention are made available to College students and staff. It is the responsibility of every member of the campus community to act in ways that promote the safety of self, others, and the protection of District property.

Campus Emergency Phone System

Mt. San Antonio College has installed a campus wide emergency phone system. This system is divided into two primary segments. The inner campus system consists of emergency phones that are placed on the outside of selected campus buildings and are identified by the familiar blue light affixed to the top of the phone housing.

The second segment of emergency phones consists of stand-alone emergency phone towers, located in open campus spaces, primarily in campus parking lots. These phone towers are identified by a blue light affixed to the top of the tower.

Use of any of these emergency phones will connect the user to Campus Security during normal business hours, located in Building 4. During hours when the campus is closed, the Emergency phones will connect the user directly to a cell phone carried by Campus Security Officers who are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Student Rights and Privacy Act

Following is a summary of the Mt. San Antonio College policy related to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, O.L. 93-380, and Chapter 1297, Statutes of 1976, State of California:

Access to Educational Records

All former and present students have the right to review and inspect their educational records in the Office of Admissions and Records provided they make a written request fifteen (15) days in advance. Such a review will be under the direct supervision of a classified or certificated employee in the Admissions and Records Office. Expressly exempted from the right of review and inspection are the following materials:

1. Financial records of the parents of the student(s).
2. Confidential letters and statements of recommendation maintained by the College on

or before January 1, 1975, provided that such letters or statements are not used for purposes other than those for which they were specifically intended.

3. Records of instructional, supervisory, counseling, and administrative personnel which are in the sole possession of such personnel and are not accessible or revealed to any other person except a substitute.
4. Records of employees of Mt. San Antonio College, made and maintained in the normal course of business which relate exclusively to such person in that person's capacity as an employee, are not available for use for any other purpose.
5. Records of students made and maintained by the Student Health Services, the College nurse, the College physician, and the College therapist, which are used in the treatment of students and are not available to anyone other than persons providing such treatment. However, such a record may be personally reviewed by a physician or other appropriate professional of the student's choice.

Release of Educational Records Information

1. Any release of a student's educational records, with the exception listed below, must be made with the student's written consent.
2. The College may release copies of or otherwise divulge material in the student's educational records only to the official agencies, groups, officials, or individuals specifically mentioned below:
 - a. College staff members; provided that such employees have a legitimate educational interest to inspect such a record.
 - b. Representatives of the Comptroller General of the United States, the Secretary of Education, and administrative head of an educational agency, state education officials, and the United States Office of Civil Rights, where such information is necessary to audit a program.
 - c. Accrediting organizations in order to carry out their accrediting functions.
 - d. Organizations conducting studies on behalf of the institution.
 - e. Officials of other schools or school systems in which the student seeks or intends to enroll subject to the rights of students.
 - f. Agencies or organizations in connection with a student's application for financial aid.

- g. Organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, educational agencies or institutions for the purpose of developing, validating, and administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, and improving instruction, if such studies are conducted in such a manner as will not permit the personal identification of students or their parents by persons other than representatives of such organizations and such information will be destroyed when no longer needed for the purpose for which it is compiled.
 - h. Appropriate persons in connection with an emergency if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health and safety of the student or other persons.
 - i. Courts or other agencies in compliance with a subpoena or judicial order. A reasonable effort will be made to notify the student in advance of the compliance by the College.
3. Directory Information:
- a. "Directory Information" means a student's name, community of residence, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous public or private school attended by the student.
 - b. Any student desiring to withhold "Directory Information" may file a written request with the Director, Admissions and Records, within fifteen (15) days of the opening day of each semester or session that the student does not want such information released.
 - c. The College reserves the right to limit or deny the release of specific categories of directory information based upon a determination of the best interests of the student(s).

Transfer of Information to Third Parties

Educational records or personal information transferred to other institutions or agencies will not be transferred to a third party without the written consent of the student.

Catalog Rights

This term is used to define the specific set of general education and other graduation requirements, as established in the *catalog* for a specific year, which the student must satisfy to qualify for a degree, certificate, etc.

Students may choose to qualify for graduation (G.E. and major) under the requirements in effect at either:

1. the time they entered the college or,
2. they may use any *catalog* thereafter, as long as the student maintains continuous enrollment.
3. continuous enrollment is defined as attendance during every regular semester (fall and spring) after initial enrollment at Mt. San Antonio College.

Continuous Residence

A student will retain rights to follow *Catalog* requirements for the year they entered Mt. San Antonio College if, during every regular semester after initial enrollment at Mt. SAC, he/she:

1. is enrolled in any credit class at Mt. SAC beyond the first four weeks; or
2. completes any units in a credit class at another accredited post-secondary institution; or
3. receives a waiver in advance or approval Board of Appeals because of extenuating circumstances.

Student Right-to-Know Rates

Completion Rate: 26.1%

Transfer Rate: 25.9%

From 1996 COHORT Data

In compliance with the Student-Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-542), it is the policy of the Mt. San Antonio Community College District and Mt. San Antonio College to make available its completion and transfer rates to all current and prospective students. Beginning in Fall 1996, a cohort of all certificate-, degree-, and transfer-seeking first-time, full-time students were tracked over a three year period. These rates do not represent the success rates of the entire student population at Mt. San Antonio College, nor do they account for student outcomes occurring after this three-year tracking period.

Based upon the cohort defined above, 26.1 percent attained a certificate or degree or became 'transfer-prepared' during a three year period, from Fall 1996 to Spring 1999. Students who are 'transfer-prepared' have completed 56 transferable units with a GPA of 2.0 or better.

Based on the cohort defined above, 25.9 percent transferred to another postsecondary institution, (UC, CSU, or another California Community College) prior to attaining a degree, certificate, or becoming 'transfer-prepared' during a five semester period, from Spring 1997 to Spring 1999.