Students are held individually responsible for the information contained in the Cuesta College Catalog and in the Student Code of Conduct. Failure to read and comply with college Policies, Rules, and Regulations will not exempt students from whatever penalties they may incur.

The college reserves the right to make changes, additions and/or deletions to the Policies, Rules, and Regulations during the school year when deemed necessary by action of the administration and/or Board of Trustees.

**Academic Probation and Dismissal**

Students who earn unsatisfactory grades may jeopardize their enrollment and registration priority at Cuesta College. Academic achievement is monitored during the fall and spring semesters excluding summer session. A student is placed on academic probation at the end of a semester if the student's semester grade point average is less than 2.0, or “C average,” on a four-point scale.

A student who earns less than a 2.0 GPA for two consecutive semesters is subject to dismissal from the college. For the purpose of this section, semesters are considered consecutive on the basis of the student's pattern of enrollment. For example, a student earning less than a 2.0 in fall 2010 and fall 2011 would be subject to dismissal if the student did not attend Cuesta during spring 2011. Dismissed students are not allowed to attend the subsequent semester.

Students are notified of their academic progress/dismissal status through their myCuesta e-mail account at the end of grade processing each semester, excluding summer session. Students on academic dismissal may attend a Reinstatement Workshop and agree to their Reinstatement Contract to enroll or remain enrolled in their courses for the subsequent term.

Students, who do not attend a reinstatement workshop will be blocked from enrolling and must “sit out” the following term. Dismissed students who are enrolled in the subsequent term, will be administratively dropped from their courses.

Reinstatement, or “sitting out” a semester, does not change the student's academic standing. A student on progress dismissal shall be removed from probation/dismissal when the percentage of entries of “W”, “I”, and “NP” recorded drops below 50 percent.

Contact the Office of the Director of Admissions and Records or Director of Counseling for additional information.

**Academic Renewal without Course Repetition**

Previously recorded substandard academic work may be disregarded in the calculation of a student's grade point average if the work is not reflective of the student's present scholastic level of performance.

1. Academic renewal may be applied to two distinct terms/sessions of work and is a one-time irreversible option.

2. Academic renewal cannot be used to disregard prior academic credit or course work which has been applied toward an associate degree or certificate earned at Cuesta College.

3. For any term/session in which course work is to be disregarded, substandard academic work in that term/session will be disregarded, excluding satisfactory academic work.

4. If grade alleviation has already been applied two times for a course included in the requested term/session to be disregarded, the course will not be eligible for academic renewal without repetition and will remain on the academic record. No more than two substandard grades may be alleviated from the calculation of the student's grade point average for a course.

5. A period of at least two years must have elapsed since the completion of the work to be alleviated.

6. To alleviate course work, the student must have:
   a. Completed a minimum of 15 semester credits since the term(s) to be alleviated with at least a 3.0 grade point average; or
   b. Completed 30 semester credits since the term(s) to be alleviated with at least a 2.5 grade point average; or
   c. Completed 45 semester credits since the term(s) to be alleviated with at least a 2.0 grade point average.

7. Recalculation of the grade point average will be used toward qualification for graduation with honors.
8. Academic standing for the term/session(s) will be adjusted.

9. Permanent academic records will be annotated in such a manner that the record of all work remains legible, ensuring a true and complete academic history.

The student initiates the request by filing a Petition for Academic Renewal without Course Repetition in Counseling Services. The petition must be signed by the student and counselor.

- The student must submit official (sealed) transcripts from all accredited colleges or universities where course work was completed.
- The Director of Counseling will make the final determination for academic renewal without course repetition.
- The petition is forwarded to the Admissions & Records Office for a college evaluator to review all evidence pertaining to the student's petition for academic renewal without course repetition.
- If academic renewal requirements are met, eligible courses will be alleviated from the student's permanent record.
- Calculation of the student's grade point average begins at the first term being alleviated under academic renewal.

Alleviated course work will be annotated on the student's transcript with an "E" for exclusion with a notation of "Academic Renewal" and the substandard grade will be excluded from the student's grade point average calculation.

Attendance
Normal progress and successful completion of scholastic work depends upon regular attendance. Students are expected to attend all classes and laboratories for which they are registered. Instructors set an attendance policy for each class, and it is the student's responsibility to know and comply with each one. Instructors may drop a student from a class for infractions of the attendance policy. (To assure a seat in the class, students are advised to attend the first class session.)

It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw from a course which the student is no longer attending. Failure to officially withdraw from a class may result in an "F" or failing grade.

Authority of Instructor
The Board of Trustees shall establish rules and regulations for student conduct while on campus and/or engaged in any college-sponsored activity.

The Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee shall be responsible for enforcing rules and regulations and administering the disciplinary functions for all activities of students at times and places when students are under the District's jurisdiction; however, an individual instructor is given the power to remove a student from his or her class for good cause for the day of the removal and the next class meeting. The instructor shall immediately report the removal to the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers for appropriate action.

During the period of removal, a student shall not be returned to the class from which he or she was removed without the concurrence of the instructor of the class.

Course Load
A full-time student is a student who is enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits per semester (four credits per summer session). Students enrolled in fewer than 12 credits are considered to be less than full-time. Students are limited to a maximum of 19 credits during the fall and spring semesters (nine credits during the summer session), including both day and evening classes. To take more than the maximum number of credits, a student must have an outstanding academic record and must obtain approval from a counselor before registering.

Course Repetition Policy

Repeatable Course
A repeatable course is identified in the college catalog and online Class Finder as repeatable more than one time.

- The student may petition to enroll in two sections of the same repeatable course if the length of the course is such that a student may enroll in two or more sections of the same course during the same period without being enrolled in more than one section at any given time.
- A student may repeat a course designated as a repeatable course including variable credit open-entry/open-exit courses up to the maximum number of allowed repetitions for that course.
- No more than two substandard grades may be alleviated within the allowable repeat limits for a repeatable course. If a course is repeated two or more times, the first two substandard grades will be excluded in calculating the student's GPA.
- Course repetition will not be allowed in a repeatable activity course beyond the maximum number of allowed repetitions for the course, which may be no more than three (3) terms/sessions.

Non-Repeatable Course
A non-repeatable course is a course in the college catalog that is not identified as repeatable.

- Substandard Grade - a grade of "D+", "D," "D-," "F," "FW," "NP," or "NC."
- A student will be permitted to retake a non-repeatable course in which a substandard grade or "W" was earned one time without a petition.
- If a student has earned a second substandard grade or "W" in a course, the student must agree and sign a Third Enrollment Agreement to be released to register for the third repetition of a course.
- Each non-repeatable course in which a substandard grade has been earned may be repeated two times only
for grade alleviation unless such repetition is provided by District policy. The repeated course must contain the equivalent credit value or higher. The previous grade and credit will be disregarded in calculation of the student's grade point average even if the previous grade was higher.

- A course in which a satisfactory grade was received may not be repeated unless such repetition is provided for in the official course description or by District policy.

Limitations on Withdrawal ("W" symbol)
Each non-repeatable course in which a "W" has been earned may be repeated for a maximum of two times. The student may earn no more than three (3) withdrawals in the same course.

- Military withdrawals ("MW") do not count against the "W" withdrawal limit.
- A student who has previously earned a maximum of three (3) withdrawals for a course that has a petition approved to repeat may only earn a satisfactory or substandard grade for the course. The student may not earn an additional "W" symbol unless the student demonstrates extenuating circumstances to justify an additional withdrawal for the course.

Petition to Repeat
Students may submit a "Petition to Repeat a Course" under certain circumstances as provided by Title V, California Code of Regulations and Cuesta College Board Policy. Petition approvals are reviewed by the Director of Admissions & Records, the North County Campus Dean, or designee.

Significant Lapse in Time: A student may petition to repeat a course, one time, and if no less than 36 months have elapsed, where a satisfactory grade of "C" or better was earned if:

- The District has established a recency prerequisite for a course or program;
- Another institution of higher education to which the student seeks to transfer has established a recency requirement which the student will not be able to satisfy without repeating the course. Repetition may be allowed where less than 36 months have elapsed if the student documents that repetition is necessary for the student's transfer to the institute of higher education.
- When a course is repeated pursuant to this section, the previous grade and credit will be disregarded in computing the student's grade point average.

Disabled Student Accommodation
A student may repeat a special class for students with disabilities any number of times as required as a disability-related accommodation under the following circumstances:

- When the student's continuing success in other general and/or special classes is dependent on additional repetitions of a specific special class; or

- When additional repetitions of a specific special class are essential to completing a student's preparation for enrollment into other regular or special classes; or
- When the student has a student educational plan which involves a goal other than completion of the special class in question and repetition of the course will further achieve that goal.
- The previous grade and credit will not be disregarded in computing the student's grade point average each time the course is taken.

Legally Mandated Training
A student may repeat a course any number of times as required to meet a legally mandated training requirement as a condition of continued paid or volunteer employment. The previous grade and credit will not be disregarded in computing the student's grade point average each time the course is taken.

Significant Changes of Industry or Licensure Standards
A student may repeat a course any number of times as a result of a significant change in industry or licensure standards such that repetition of the course is necessary for employment or licensure. The previous grade and credit will not be disregarded in computing the student's grade point average each time the course is taken.

Extemporaneous Circumstance – Prior Substandard Grades
A student may petition to repeat a course, one time, based on extemporaneous circumstances in a prior enrollment in which three (3) substandard grades have been earned. Extemporaneous circumstances are extreme cases of documented, verifiable circumstances beyond the student's control.

- The previous grade and credit will be disregarded in computing the student's grade point average if either a substandard or satisfactory grade is earned.

Extemporaneous Circumstance – Prior Satisfactory Grade
A student may petition to repeat a course, one time, based on extemporaneous circumstances in a prior enrollment in which a satisfactory grade has been earned. Extemporaneous circumstances are extreme cases of documented, verifiable circumstances beyond the student's control.

- The previous grade and credit will not be included in computing the student's grade point average each time the course is taken.

Enrollment Priorities
All courses of the District shall be open to enrollment to all eligible students, subject to an established enrollment priority. Enrollment also may be limited to students meeting properly validated prerequisites and co-requisites, or due to other, practical considerations.

To comply with legislative mandates, regulate the availability of limited class space, provide for fairness, and facilitate the registration process, procedures to provide enrollment priority for students on the basis of need are established.

Annually, each program or group granting enrollment
priority will establish and publish a process to review and evaluate their program participant’s “level of need” that grants program eligibility for enrollment priority.

**Effective Fall 2014.**
The California Community Colleges Board of Governors approved changes that will establish system-wide enrollment priorities designed to ensure classes are available for students seeking job training, degree attainment or transfer and to reward students who make progress toward their educational goals.

New students who have completed college orientation, assessment and developed education plans as well as continuing students in good academic standing who have not exceeded 100 credits (not including credits in non-degree applicable courses, basic skills and English as a Second Language) will now have priority over students who do not meet these criteria. Active military and veterans, current and former foster youth, CalWORKS, followed by students in Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) and Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) will continue to have first priority for registration if they meet the same criteria listed above.

The regulations, unanimously approved by the board of governors, will be implemented in the fall of 2014. We encourage students on probation to seek help to improve their academic standing. Students nearing 100 credits should carefully plan their remaining courses.

Enrollment Priority Groups are defined below. Students will continue to have access to register after their priority date.

- **A New Matriculated Student** is one who has completed orientation, assessment and developed a student education plan.

- **A Student in Good Academic Standing** is one who is not on academic or progress probation for two current consecutive primary terms.

- **A Student in High Credit Program** is a program that has more than 38 credits in the major coursework and following a current education plan.

- **A Continuing Student** is one who was enrolled during the immediately preceding semester and received at least one letter grade or “W.” A student registered during the semester, who did not complete a course with a letter grade or “W” forfeits continuing student status.

- **A New First-time Student** is one who never attended Cuesta College prior to the application term.

- **A Returning Student** is one who attended Cuesta in the past, but was not enrolled in the term prior to the application term.

- **A Re-Entry Student** is one who is at least 25 years of age and has not attended a college or university within the past 5 years.

- **A New Transfer Student** is one who is enrolling at Cuesta for the first time after attending another post-secondary institution.

- **A Special Part-time Student (Enrichment Student)** is one who is under the age of 18, currently enrolled in grades 9-12, and eligible to attend Cuesta College. (BP 5055, BP 5010, AP 5011).

- **PRIORITY 1:** Continuing students in this group must be in good academic standing as defined with less than 100 Cuesta College degree applicable credits. New students in this group must meet the requirements of a new matriculated student as defined. Special Part-time Students are not eligible, except noted.

  - Any member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, and who is a resident of California, who has received an honorable discharge, a general discharge, or as an other than honorable discharge, and to any member or former member of the State Military Reserve, for any academic term attended at one of the California State University, California Community Colleges or University of California for four academic years after he/she has left state or federal active duty, which he/she shall use within 15 years of leaving state or federal active duty, as established by Education Code 66025.8.

  - Foster youth and emancipated foster youth up to, and including, the age of 24 are eligible. This includes foster youth who are enrolled as special part-time students (Enrichment), as established by Education Code 66025.9.

  - California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS), as established by Education Code 66025.92.

  - Disabled Student Program & Services (DSPS)

  - Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)

- **PRIORITY 2:** Degree/Transfer applicants must be currently enrolled with 12 credits completed in residency; who will be completing their remaining AA, AS, Transfer (AA-T and AS-T) degree or transfer certification requirements within one semester at Cuesta. Students will need to apply for their priority according to deadlines established by Admissions and Records. Students will receive priority in this classification one time.

- **PRIORITY 3:** Graduating seniors from local (San Luis Obispo County Community College District) high schools who complete the admission application by the deadline established by the high school and Cuesta College and meet the definition of a New Matriculated Student. Special Part-time Students are not eligible. Fall Semester ONLY.

- **PRIORITY 4:** Continuing students in this group must be in good academic standing as defined, with less than 100 Cuesta College degree applicable credits. New students in this group must meet the requirements of a new matriculated student as defined. Special Part-time Students are not eligible.

Students must meet specific program eligibility criteria
as determined by each program.
- Intercollegiate Athletes (participating term),
- Disabled Student Program & Services (DSPS) Notetakers,
- Re-entry Program participants,
- Pre-nursing Program participants,
- Facilitated Assisted Learning (FAL) facilitators,
- Associated Students of Cuesta College Leaders,
- Student employees, staff, faculty, emeritus faculty and staff, and dependent children (with exception of special part-time students), spouses, and domestic partners of faculty or staff.

• PRIORITY 5: Continuing Cuesta College students in good academic standing with priority based on the total number of course credits completed at Cuesta College. Special Part-time Students are not eligible.

Credit increments:
- 5.1. Equal to or greater than 48.0 credits
- 5.2. Equal to or greater than 24.0 credits and less than 48 credits
- 5.3. Equal to or greater than 12.0 credits and less than 24.0 credits
- 5.4. Less than 12.0 credits

• PRIORITY 6: First-time, returning, and transfer students who apply and meet the requirements of a new matriculated student as defined. Special Part-time students are not eligible.

• PRIORITY 7: First-time, returning, and transfer students who apply for admission and are not eligible for priorities 1-6. Special Part-time Students are not eligible.

• PRIORITY 8: Special Part-Time Students (Enrichment) concurrently enrolled in grades 9-12, who have completed the admission application, permit to enroll, and have met all course prerequisites, are eligible to enroll during this time.

Enrollment Limitations
A student’s ability to enroll in a course may be limited or restricted. Refer to Administrative Procedures 5075 - http://academic.cuesta.edu/president/2008BP/BP5000/AP%205075_Add-Drop.pdf

- CONTINUING STUDENTS: A continuing student will lose enrollment priority if he/she earns 100 or more credits at Cuesta College (not including non-degree applicable courses, basic skills and ESL) or if he/she are on academic or progress probation for two current consecutive primary terms. Students who lose their priority due to enrollment limitations will be able to register with Priority 8.

Appeal Policy Procedures
• Students may petition to have their enrollment priority changed based on the following reasons:
  - Extenuating Circumstances (verified cases of accidents, illnesses, or other circumstances beyond the control of the student)
  - Students with disabilities who applied for but did not receive reasonable accommodations in a timely manner.
  - Students who demonstrate significant satisfactory academic improvement by earning at least 2.50 GPA in at least 6 academic credits in a subsequent term, but whose term GPA is not high enough to move the student into good standing.
  - Students who are in high credit programs and are following a current education plan.

Enrollment Priority Appeal forms are available online, and at all Cuesta College sites. Appeals are to be submitted to the Director of Admissions & Records. Extenuating circumstances must be documented. Enrollment Priority students whose appeal is approved will be reinstated to their previous priority status for one semester.

Any student who is a member of an active or reserve military service and who receives orders compelling a withdrawal from courses will be reinstated to their previous priority status upon their return.

FERPA
Board Policy 5040, Student Records, Directory Information, and Privacy is under review and pending approval.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records. An “eligible student” under FERPA is a student who enters a postsecondary institution at any age.

Right to Inspect and Review Records
Section 99.10 of FERPA grants students the right to inspect and review their education records within 45 days after the day a request for access is submitted. A student should submit a written request to the Director of Admissions and Records that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The Director of Admissions and Records will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the education records are not maintained by the Admissions and Records Office, the Director shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

Directory Information
FERPA provides students the right to provide written consent before the San Luis Obispo Community College District discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

In completing the admission application, students are provided the opportunity to request their directory information be maintained as confidential. Students may also submit a written request to the Admissions and Records Office at any time to become effective within 5 to 10 working days.
The District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student’s name
- Major Field of Study
- Dates of Attendance
- Grade Level
- Participation in official recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received

Disclosure of Education Records

FERPA permits the disclosure of Personally Identifiable Information from students’ education records, without consent of the student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Exempt for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the student, FERPA regulations requires the institution to record the disclosure. Eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. A postsecondary institution may disclose PII from the education records without obtaining prior written consent of the student for the following conditions:

- To school officials with legitimate educational interests; A school official is a person employed by the San Luis Obispo Community College District in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position, including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the District who performs an institutional service or function for which the District would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the District with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent or a student volunteering to assist another District official in performing his or her tasks. A District official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the District. (§99.31(a)(1))

- To a person serving on the board of trustees;
- To a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. (§99.31(a)(1))
- To officials of another school where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer. (§99.31(a)(2))
- To authorized representatives of the U.S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as a State postsecondary authority that is responsible for supervising the District's State-supported education programs. Disclosures under this provision may be made in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf. (§99.31(a)(3) and 99.35)

- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§99.31(a)(4))

- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the District, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction. (§99.31(a)(6))

- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§99.31(a)(7))

- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§99.31(a)(9))

- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency. (§99.31(a)(10))

- Information to the District has designated as “directory information.” (§99.31(a)(11))

- To a victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense. The disclosure may only include the final results of the disciplinary proceeding with respect to that alleged crime or offense, regardless of the finding. (§99.31(a)(13))

- To the general public, the final results of a disciplinary proceeding, if the District determines the student is an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or non-forcible sex offense and the student has committed a violation of the District’s rules or policies with respect to the allegation made against him or her. (§99.31(a)(14))

- To parents of a student regarding the student’s violation of any Federal, State, or local law, or of any rule or policy of the District, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance if the District determines the student committed a disciplinary violation and the student is under the age of 21. (§99.31(a)(15))

Right to Request Amendment of Student Records

Student have the right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.

A student who wishes to ask the District to amend a record should write the District official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested, the District will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student’s rights to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a
hearing as provided by Education Code Section 73232.

Right to File a Complaint with the Department of Education

Cuesta College students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202
Phone (800) 872-5327

Final Examinations

Final examinations will be given in all courses at the end of each semester, short course, or summer session. Dates and times are listed in the schedule of classes and on the Cuesta College website.

Grading Policies

No notation (“W” or other) shall be made on the academic record of a student who withdraws during the first two weeks of a full semester course or within 20 percent of a short course, including a summer course.

Courses shall be graded using the grading symbols established by Title 5. Effective fall 2008, faculty may use the following evaluative letter-grading symbols:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Grade Point (4-Point Scale)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0 (Excellent)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0 (Good)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0 (Satisfactory)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3 (Less than Satisfactory)</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0 (Failing)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Passing (At least satisfactory C/2.0) – units awarded are not counted in GPA. “P” has the same meaning as “CR,” as that symbol was defined prior to fall 2008.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP</td>
<td>No Pass (Less than satisfactory C/2.0) – units awarded are not counted in GPA. “NP” has the same meaning as “NC,” as that symbol was defined prior to fall 2008.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete – Incomplete academic work for unforeseeable, emergency, and justifiable reasons. Condition for removal of the “I” shall be stated by the instructor in a written record with a copy to the student. The “I” must be made up before the end of the following regular semester or it will be considered as an “F” grade or “NP” if grading option selected. The “I” symbol shall not be used in calculating credits attempted nor for grade points.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IP In Progress – The “IP” symbol shall be used to denote that the class extends beyond the normal end of an academic term. “IP” shall not be used in calculating grade point average.

RD Report Delayed – This symbol is assigned by the Director of Admissions and Records only. It is used when there is a delay in reporting grades by the instructor. This is a temporary notation and is not used in calculating GPA.

W Withdrawal – The “W” symbol is assigned when a student officially withdraws from a full semester course between the beginning of the third week and up through the end of the twelfth week of instruction. For short courses that are less than 18 weeks in length, including summer courses, a “W” symbol is assigned when a student officially withdraws between 20 percent and within 60 percent of the course. The “W” symbol shall not be used in calculating grade point averages but shall be used in determining progress probation and dismissal academic standing.

MW Military Withdrawal – The “MW” symbol is assigned when a student who is a member of an active or reserve United States military service receives orders compelling a withdrawal from courses. Upon verification of such orders, an “MW” may be assigned at any time after the twelfth week deadline for dropping classes. Military withdrawals shall not be counted in progress probation and dismissal calculations.

Grade Changes

After a grade has been issued, only the instructor has the authority to change the grade per California Education Code Section 76224. A student wishing to have a posted grade changed must submit appropriate documentation to the instructor who issued the grade and must request that the grade be changed. Based on an evaluation of the student’s progress in the course and the documentation, the instructor may or may not change the grade. Grade changes must be delivered to the Office of the Director of Admissions and Records by the instructor.

There is a deadline of six months from the date that the grade is posted to initiate a grade change.

Course Grades

Grades are available for viewing within Cuesta College’s student portal, myCuesta, four weeks after the last day of the term. Grades are not sent to students.

Pass/No Pass

A student may select “pass/no pass” (formerly credit/no credit) through the fourth week of instruction for 18-week courses or, if the course is less than 18 weeks in duration, within the first 20 percent of the course. Students may change back to a letter grade prior to the fourth week or
20 percent deadline. After the fourth week or 20 percent deadline, students may not reverse their pass/no pass grading decision.

- Some general education, degree and certificate course work must be taken for a grade. Consult a counselor or program description. No more than 12 credits of “pass/no pass” may be applied toward the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree.

- Courses listed in the schedule as “pass/no pass” grading option may be taken only once for “pass/no pass.” The student may, however, repeat the course for a letter grade.

- Students shall receive a “P” (pass) if, at the end of the semester, a grade of “C” (2.0) or better is earned. The “P” shall, when recorded, add credits completed but shall have no effect on the grade point average.

- Students performing unsatisfactorily (at less than C/2.0) shall receive a “NP” (no pass) which, when recorded, will not increase credits completed and will not be used to calculate the grade point average. However, credits attempted for which an “NP” is recorded shall be considered in academic progress calculations to determine probation and dismissal status.

- Students may only select one course per semester on the “pass/no pass” option. Some courses are graded only on a “pass/no pass” basis. Enrollment in these courses will not affect the student’s right to select one additional class within the guidelines listed above.

- Students repeating a course in which a substandard grade was earned may not request a repeat discount if the pass/no pass grading option was selected for the second attempt.

Library Fines
Cuesta College may withhold grades, transcripts, diplomas, and registration privileges from any student who fails to return books or materials to the library when due, has lost or damaged any books or materials or has not paid charges for late, lost or damaged materials.

Students shall have their records released when they:

- Return books or materials
- Pay charges for books or library materials.

Maintenance Allowance for Students
Students attending Cuesta College from Modoc and specific areas of Mono counties are eligible for a maintenance allowance if they maintain a permanent address in either county and all requirements are met. For information about eligibility requirements, contact the Cuesta College Registration Office at (805) 546-3100, Ext. 2325.

Nondiscrimination In-District
Unlawful Discrimination Procedures
The policy of the San Luis Obispo County Community College District is to provide an educational and employment environment in which no person shall be unlawfully denied full and equal access to the benefits of or be unlawfully subjected to discrimination on the basis of ethnic group identification, national origin, religion, age, sex, race, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability in any program or activity that is administered by, funded directly by, or that receives any financial assistance from the State Chancellor or Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

The policy of the San Luis Obispo County Community College District is to provide an educational and employment environment free from unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct or communications constituting sexual harassment.

Employees, students, or other persons acting on behalf of the District who engage in unlawful discrimination as defined in this policy or by state or federal law may be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge, expulsion, or termination of employment or student suspension or dismissal.


Retaliation
It is unlawful for anyone to retaliate against someone who files an unlawful discrimination complaint, who refers a matter for investigation or complaint, who participates in an investigation of a complaint, who represents or serves as an advocate for an alleged victim or alleged offender, or who otherwise furthers the principles of this unlawful discrimination policy.

Academic Freedom
The San Luis Obispo County Community College District Board of Trustees reaffirms its commitment to academic freedom, but recognizes that academic freedom does not allow any form of unlawful discrimination. It is recognized that an essential function of education is a probing of opinions and an exploration of ideas that may cause discomfort to some students. It is further recognized that academic freedom insures the faculty’s right to teach and the student’s right to learn. Finally, nothing in these policies and procedures shall be interpreted to prohibit bona fide academic requirements for a specific community college program, course or activity.

When investigating unlawful discrimination complaints containing issues of academic freedom, the San Luis Obispo County Community College District will consult with a faculty member appointed by the Academic Senate with respect to contemporary practices and standards for course content and delivery.
How to File a Formal Discrimination Complaint

1. A FORMAL COMPLAINT MUST BE INITIATED BY FILLING OUT THE ATTACHED FORM APPROVED BY THE STATE CHANCELLOR’S OFFICE. That form is attached as the last page of Board Policy/Regulation 1565, and has the title heading of “Unlawful Discrimination Complaint Form.” YOU MUST SEND THAT COMPLETED FORM TO EITHER:

   • San Luis Obispo County Community College District, Attn: Executive Director Of Human Resources And Labor Relations, Administration Building, Room 8003, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8106; Or
   • Chancellor’s Office, California Community Colleges, 1102 Q Street, Sacramento, California 95814-6511, Attention: Legal Affairs Division

2. The complaint must allege unlawful discrimination prohibited under Title 5, section 59300.

3. The complaint must be filed by one who alleges that he or she has personally suffered unlawful discrimination or by one who has learned of such unlawful discrimination in his or her official capacity as a faculty member or administrator.

4. In any complaint not involving employment, the complaint must be filed within one year of the date of the alleged unlawful discrimination or within one year of the date on which the complainant knew or should have known of the facts underlying the specific incident or incidents of alleged unlawful discrimination.

5. In any complaint alleging discrimination in employment, the complaint shall be filed within 180 days of the date the alleged unlawful discrimination occurred, except that this period will be extended by no more than 90 days following the expiration of that 180 days if the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged violation after the expiration of 180 days.

What Happens When a Formal Discrimination Complaint is Filed?
The District will then complete an “Administrative Determination.” Within 90 days of receiving an unlawful discrimination complaint filed under Title 5, sections 59300 et seq., the District will complete the investigation and forward a copy of the investigative report (containing the administrative determination) to the State Chancellor, a copy or summary of the report to the complainant, and written notice setting forth all the following to both the complainant and the State Chancellor:

1. The determination as to whether there is probable cause to believe discrimination occurred with respect to each allegation in the complaint;
2. A description of actions taken, if any, to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future;
3. The proposed resolution of the complaint; and
4. The complainant’s right to appeal to the District Board of Trustees and the State Chancellor.

Remedial Course Work Limitation
A student who has completed 30 credits of remedial course work, but who has not attained full eligibility for college-level work, shall be referred for further remedial work to appropriate adult noncredit education services provided by a college, adult school, community-based organization, or other appropriate local provider.

Remedial course work refers to non-degree applicable basic skills courses, the purpose of which is to prepare students for successful completion of associate degrees, transfer, or certificate courses. These courses are specifically designed to meet the needs of underprepared students so that the quality and rigor of the associate degree curriculum is protected.

A waiver of the limitation on remedial course work may be provided to any student who shows significant measurable progress toward the development of skills appropriate to the student’s enrollment in college-level courses. Measurable progress is defined by transcripts, pre- and post-test measures, demonstrated progress toward an educational goal sustaining progress of education or social goals and objectives as documented in a Student Educational Plan (SEP). If a waiver is granted, its duration should not exceed one academic year and would normally be of one semester’s duration.

Students enrolled in one or more courses of English as a Second Language (ESL) or students identified by the district as having a learning disability are exempt from the 30-semester-credit limitation (Title 5 California Code of Regulations, Section 55035).

Scholastic Honors

Academic Honor List
Students who enroll and complete 12 or more credits and earn a 3.25 grade point average with no grade lower than a “C” will be placed on the Academic Honor List. The student’s academic record at Cuesta College will be annotated to reflect this achievement. The achievement is posted under the qualifying semester on the student’s academic transcript.

Students in the Registered Nursing Program may make the Academic Honor List using the criteria listed above; however, due to the number of contact hours in this program, an R.N. student will be considered when enrolled in 11 or more credits.

Graduating With Honors
Students who meet the requirements for graduation with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 to 3.74 qualify for honors recognition.

The graduation grade point average is based on all degree applicable coursework completed at all postsecondary institutions through the term degree requirements are completed. This acknowledgement is posted on the student’s diploma and on the academic transcript.

The GPA calculation for honors designation for commencement purposes only is based on all coursework
taken at Cuesta College through fall. The Cuesta College Residency requirement must be satisfied in order to be considered for honors recognition (12.0 credits completed in residence at Cuesta College). Students receiving honors are recognized at commencement with a green cord.

**Graduating With High Honors**
Students who meet the requirements for graduation with a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 to 4.0 qualify for high honors recognition. The graduation grade point average is based on all degree applicable coursework completed at all postsecondary institutions through the term degree requirements are completed. This acknowledgement is posted on the student’s diploma and on the academic transcript.

The GPA calculation for honors designation for commencement purpose only is based on all coursework taken at Cuesta College through fall. The Cuesta College Residency requirement must be satisfied in order to be considered for honors recognition (12.0 credits completed in residence at Cuesta College). Students receiving honors are recognized at commencement with a white cord.

**Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) Honor Society**
Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) is a state-wide community college student honor society with the purpose of fostering, promoting, maintaining, and recognizing scholarship. In addition, AGS members develop character and civic responsibility through service to AGS, the college, and the community. The Gamma chapter at Cuesta College provides its membership scholarship opportunities, social activities, and leadership-building skills. Membership is based on grade point average. More information may be obtained from the Student Life and Leadership Office. Recognition of AGS membership is posted on Cuesta transcripts. Students with AGS membership are recognized at commencement with a gold cord.

**Service Animals**
San Luis Obispo County Community College District Board Policy 3440 states the District’s policy, and Administrative Procedure 3440 states the District’s regulations regarding the use of service animals on District property. The purpose of this policy and administrative procedure is to prevent discrimination on the basis of disability, and to allow an individual with a disability to use a service animal or miniature horse on District facilities and on District campuses in compliance with state and federal law. For the complete Board Policy, see [http://academic.cuesta.org/president/2008BP/BP3000/BP_3440_Service%20Animals.pdf](http://academic.cuesta.org/president/2008BP/BP3000/BP_3440_Service%20Animals.pdf). For the complete Administrative Procedure, see [http://academic.cuesta.org/president/2008BP/BP3000/AP_3440_ServiceAnimals.pdf](http://academic.cuesta.org/president/2008BP/BP3000/AP_3440_ServiceAnimals.pdf).

**Sexual Assault**
Cuesta College is committed to maintaining a safe campus, a campus free of violence and the threat of violence. All persons who come onto the campus or onto any facility maintained by the college are expected to treat others with respect and consideration.

Cuesta College will not tolerate any physical or sexual assault or threat of assault, including acquaintance rape, on its campus or at facilities maintained by the college. Where there is probable cause to believe that the college’s regulations prohibiting sexual assault have been violated, the college will pursue vigorous investigative action through its own channels. Disciplinary actions include the possibility of suspension or dismissal from the college.

A student or employee charged with sexual assault can be prosecuted under California penal code statutes and disciplined under the college’s Code of Student Conduct and board policy. Even if the criminal justice authorities choose not to prosecute, the college can pursue student disciplinary action.

Cuesta College is committed to doing everything within its power to prevent sexual assaults from occurring and disciplining assailants when rape or other assault occurs on campus property or at college-sponsored events, and to provide prompt and compassionate services to students, faculty and staff who are raped or otherwise sexually assaulted. The college is further committed to ensuring that students, faculty, and staff are not adversely affected for bringing forward a charge of rape or sexual assault.

In order to provide a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, and guests, the college has established a multifaceted program composed of response procedures, prevention and education guidelines, services for victims, and sanctions.

**Sexual Harassment**
The policy of the San Luis Obispo County Community College District is to provide an educational and employment environment free from unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, verbal or physical conduct or communications constituting sexual harassment. Employees, students, or other persons acting on behalf of the District who engage in sexual harassment as defined in this policy or by state or federal law shall be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge, expulsion, or termination of contract.

**Definition**
“Sexual harassment” means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, made by someone from or in the workplace or in the educational setting, and includes but is not limited to:

1. Making unsolicited written, verbal, physical, and/or visual contacts with sexual overtones. (Examples of sexual harassment which appear in a written form include, but are not limited to: suggestive or obscene letters, notes, and invitations. Examples of verbal sexual harassment include, but are not limited to: leering, gestures, display of sexually aggressive objects or pictures, cartoons, or posters.)

2. Continuing to express sexual interest after being informed that the interest is unwelcomed.

3. Making reprisals, threats of reprisal, or implied threats
of reprisal following a rebuff of harassing behavior. The following are examples of this type of sexual harassment within the workplace: implying or actually withholding grades earned or deserved; suggesting that a poor performance evaluation will be written; or suggesting that a scholarship recommendation or college application will be denied.

4. Engaging in explicit or implicit coercive sexual behavior within the work environment which is used to control, influence, or affect the employee’s career, salary, and/or work environment.

5. Engaging in explicit or implicit coercive sexual behavior within the educational environment that is used to control, influence, or affect the educational opportunities, grades, and/or learning environment of a student.

6. Offering favors or educational or employment benefits, such as grades or promotions, favorable performance evaluations, favorable assignments, favorable duties or shifts, recommendations, reclassifications in exchange for sexual favors.

**Retaliation**

It is unlawful for anyone to retaliate against someone who files a sexual harassment or other unlawful discrimination complaint, who refers a matter for investigation or complaint, who participates in an investigation of a complaint, who represents or serves as an advocate for an alleged victim or alleged offender, or who otherwise furthers the principles of this unlawful discrimination policy.

**Procedures**

Procedures for investigating complaints shall be the same as those outlined in Board Policy 1565 Unlawful Discrimination Grievance.

**Summary of Your Rights to Seek an Information Resolution**

(This is only a summary; please see Board Policy 1565, 1570 and 1575)

1. You have the right to request that the charges be resolved informally, at which time the District will undertake efforts to informally resolve the charges. To start the informal resolution process, please contact the Executive Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations in the administration building, room 8003, or by phone at (805) 546-3129.

2. You do not need to participate in informal resolution;

3. You have the right to file a formal complaint (see below for the procedure in doing so);

4. You will not be required to confront or work out problems with the person accused of unlawful discrimination;

5. Students may file a non-employment-based complaint with the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education (OCR) where such a complaint is within that agency’s jurisdiction.

If your complaint is employment-related, you may file a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and/or the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) where such a complaint is within that agency’s jurisdiction.

**Purpose of the Information Resolution Process**

The purpose of the informal resolution process is to allow an individual who believes she/he has been unlawfully discriminated against to resolve the issue through a mediation process rather than the formal complaint process. Typically, the informal resolution process will be invoked when there is a simple misunderstanding or the complainant does not wish to file a formal complaint.

An informal resolution may require nothing more than a clarification of the misunderstanding or an apology from the respondent and an assurance that the offending behavior will cease. You will be notified of the proposed informal resolution proposed by the District.

If you pursue the informal resolution process, you should note the following important points:

1. You will need to sign a document which indicates that you have selected the informal resolution process.

2. The District will complete its investigation within the time required by the District’s Regulation 1565 unless you voluntarily rescind your complaint prior to completion.

3. Selecting the informal resolution process does not prevent you from later deciding to file a formal complaint (subject to all of the rules for filing a formal complaint). For example, if you are not satisfied with the outcome of the informal resolution process (including the District’s proposed resolution), you may elect to file a formal complaint.

**SMOKING / NON-SMOKING**

The Board of Trustees of the San Luis Obispo County Community College District is committed to promoting a tobacco-free environment. Effective January 1, 2004, the following regulations are applicable to employees, students, and the public; and shall be implemented on District sites.

1. Smoking any form of tobacco or non-tobacco products is permitted only in designated areas of District property.

2. Designated areas shall be identified by prominent signage.

3. Smoking is prohibited in District vehicles.

4. The District shall make available to employees and students through the District Health Services a referral list of treatment centers for smokers, and other information on smoking that may assist individuals who wish to stop using tobacco products.

5. Communication of this policy/regulation shall be by means of prominently displayed “No Smoking” signs, notices in the College schedule of classes, catalog, web site, and distribution of the policy/regulation to students and employees.

6. Enforcement of this policy/regulation shall be in
accordance with established procedures for enforcement of other regulations.

**SPEECH, TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER**

Board Policy 6200, *Speech, Time, Place, and Manner*, is under review and pending approval.

**Speech and Advocacy**

- **General Principle:** Students and the general public have the right of free expression, advocacy, and action except to the extent that it interferes with, obstructs, interrupts, or detracts from the operation of the college or the promotion of its educational or community objectives.

- **Time, Place, and Manner Regulations:** The time, place, and manner of exercising speech and advocacy within the limits described in the General Statement shall be subject to prior approval by the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee. To be approved, an activity will require orderly conduct, non-interference with college functions or activities, and identification of sponsoring groups or individuals, and shall provide for one or more open discussion areas. The Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee shall provide reasonable protection to persons on campus against practices that would make them involuntary audiences.

- **Non-college Speakers:** Registered student organizations may invite non-college speakers to address meetings on campus only upon prior notification and approval of the Superintendent/President or designee, who may deny the use of available college facilities if the meeting is deemed to be incompatible with the educational objectives and established policies of the college. Individual students or student groups which have not qualified as registered student organizations may not invite non-college speakers to address meetings on campus.

- **Whenever the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee considers it appropriate:**
  a. That the meeting be chaired by a person approved by the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee; and/or
  b. That the speaker be subject to questions from the audience.

It shall be the intent of the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee to assure opportunity for the expression of a variety of viewpoints, except those specified prohibited in Board Policy 7850, *Use of College Facilities.*

**STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Board Policy 5500
All students attending San Luis Obispo County Community College District at any campus site and when representing Cuesta College in any off-campus activity, assume an obligation to conduct themselves in an acceptable manner compatible with the Student Code of Conduct and Academic Honesty Regulations, and the Student Computer Technology Access Agreement. Specific rules and regulations, and applicable penalties for violation of the Student Code of Conduct (California Education Code Title V, sections 66300, 66301, 76030-76038), are provided in this section. Each student has the responsibility to be aware of college regulations.

**Scope of Application**

The rules apply to all actions of students of the District on District property and at all activities sponsored by the District or registered student organizations, whether occurring on or off the campuses or other instructional sites. Pursuant to Education Code Section 76034, no student shall be removed, suspended, or expelled unless the conduct for which the student is disciplined is related to college activity or college attendance. Student conduct occurring off campus and not part of a District activity will subject the student to the District’s jurisdiction, standards of student conduct, and student discipline process if the student’s off-campus conduct is sufficiently related to college attendance, i.e., disruption of the work and discipline of the college has actually occurred from the student’s off-campus conduct, or facts exist that reasonably lead to a conclusion by District officials that disruption on campus will soon follow the student’s off-campus conduct. In addition, a student’s conduct off campus may in certain circumstances by outside the jurisdiction of the District for purposes of the District’s discipline process, yet results in adverse action within the student’s pre-professional academic program if such program has requirements imposed by law as condition to admission to the profession for which the academic program is preparing the student, e.g. nursing.

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

1. Violation of District policies, procedures, or regulations.
2. Failure to comply with directions of District officials acting in the performance of their duties; disrupting, obstructing, or interfering with the instructional, administrative, disciplinary, or other functions or activities of the District.
3. Cheating, plagiarism (including plagiarism in a student publication), or engaging in other academic dishonesty.
4. Dishonesty, forgery, alteration, or misuse of college documents, records or identification; or knowingly furnishing false information to the District.
5. Causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical injury to another person.
6. 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 District employee, which is concurred in by the college president.
7. Unlawful possession, use, sale, offer to sell or purchase,
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.

8. Committing or attempting to commit robbery or extortion.

9. Causing or attempting to cause damage to District property or to private property on campus.

10. Unauthorized possession or use of any personal property or equipment of the District.

11. Stealing or attempting to steal District property or private property on campus, or knowingly receiving stolen District property or private property on campus.

12. Willful or persistent smoking in any area where smoking has been prohibited by law or by regulation of the college or the District.

13. Committing sexual harassment as defined by law or by District policies and procedures.

14. Engaging in harassing or discriminatory behavior based on disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other status protected by law.

15. Engaging in intimidation conduct or bullying against another student through words or actions, including direct physical contact; verbal assaults, such as teasing or name-calling; social isolation or manipulation; and or cyberbullying. “Bullying” means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
   a. Placing a reasonable student or students in fear of harm to that student’s or students’ person or property;
   b. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health;
   c. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance;
   d. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the District.

16. Willful misconduct which 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 District or on campus.

17. Disruptive behavior, willful disobedience, habitual profanity or vulgarity, or the open and persistent defiance of the authority of, or persistent abuse of, District personnel.

18. Unauthorized entry upon or use of District facilities.

19. Lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct on District-owned or controlled property or at District-sponsored or supervised functions.

20. Engaging in expression 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 District administrative procedures, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the District.

21. Persistent, serious misconduct where other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct.

22. 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 District policy or administrative procedure.

23. Any act which is defined as a felony, misdemeanor or infraction under the laws of the State of California.

Non-students or persons not affiliated with the college who interfere, obstruct, interrupt, or detract from the operation of the college or the promotion of its educational or community objectives are subject to criminal action under the State of California Penal Code, Section 602.10.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Academic Honesty is essential to the academic community. Students expect that Cuesta College faculty be fair, truthful, and trustworthy. Faculty expect that Cuesta College students share these same values. Students who violate these principles by cheating, plagiarizing, or acting in other academically dishonest ways are subject to disciplinary procedures. Below are some examples of academically dishonest behavior. If you are unclear about a specific situation, ask your instructor.

Examples of Academic Dishonesty:
• Copying from another student’s exam
• Giving answers during a test to another student
• Using notes or electronic devices during an exam when prohibited
• Taking a test for someone else
• Submitting another student’s work as your own, e.g. copying a computer file that contains another student’s own work
• Knowingly allowing another student to copy/use your computer file(s) as his or her own work
CUESTA COLLEGE | 2014-2015 CATALOG | www.cuesta.edu

• Completing an assignment for another student
• Plagiarizing or “kidnapping” other people’s thoughts, words, speeches or artistic works by not acknowledging them through proper documentation

At the discretion of the instructor, students caught being academically dishonest may receive a failing grade on the assignments in question, be dropped from the class, or be failed in the course. Beyond this, the student may be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee. An appeals process is available to the student through the office of the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers. It is recommended that the faculty member report any acts of academic dishonesty to the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee.

STUDENT COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AGREEMENT
This is to communicate what other users, instructors, and the District expects of students when using college computer technology and facilities. Failure to conform to these stipulations can result in disciplinary action. Violations of regulations in the use of computer technology will be addressed in accordance with the college Academic Honesty and Student Code of Conduct Policies, available for reference in the college catalog or by requesting copies from Student Services.

Computer technology and facilities are provided for the purpose of completing academic requirements.

A. Students may use the technology and facilities to:
   1. Complete course assignments;
   2. Conduct academic research;
   3. Communicate with faculty and students.

B. User Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
   1. Using only their own designated ID, passwords/PIN, and accounts, and keeping IDs, passwords/PIN, and account information confidential. It is recommended that users change their passwords/PIN periodically;
   2. Using software and electronic materials, including shareware, in accordance with copyright, trademark, and licensing agreements and restrictions;
   3. Accurately identifying and representing themselves in electronic messages, files, and transactions;
   4. Saving all work on removable storage media and not on the hard drive unless instructed to do so by the instructor;
   5. Asking appropriate Cuesta College personnel for assistance if unfamiliar with the operating system.

C. Prohibitions include, but are not limited to:
   1. Damaging equipment, data, software, software protection, encryption or restriction on applications and files; including, introducing invasive or destructive programs (such as viruses, worms, and Trojan horses);
   2. Disrupting or unauthorized use of accounts, access codes, passwords, or identification numbers;
   3. Impeding or disrupting the use of computer technology and communications resources by game playing, sending an excessive or unreasonable number of messages, sending messages of unreasonable size (with large attachments); making or printing excessive copies of documents, files, data, or programs;
   4. Violating copyrights, trademarks, and/or license agreements;
   5. Accessing, using or copying another user’s account, ID number, password, electronic files, data, or e-mail without prior authorization; or allowing such use by others;
   6. Using District computer technology and communications resources in any unlawful manner including fraudulent, threatening, libelous, obscene, or harassing communications; procuring, or distributing obscene or pornographic material;
   7. Circumventing or attempting to circumvent local, network, or remote security measures;
   8. Altering or attempting to alter system software;
   9. Altering or attempting to alter system hardware;
   10. Modifying or attempting to crash or hack into computer technology or communications resources;
   11. Accessing or attempting to access restricted portions of any operating system or security software unless authorized to do so;
   12. Installing or removing software;
   13. Using computer technology and/or communications resources for private commercial or other personal purposes;
   14. Copying software that has not been placed in the public domain and distributed as freeware; inspecting, changing, altering, copying, or distributing proprietary data programs, files, disks, or software without authorization;
   15. Falsely identifying and/or representing one’s self in the use of computer technology and communications resources.

The District may access, review, copy and disclose information entered or retained in computer technology and communications resources.

Students in the Associate Degree Nursing Program Code of Conduct
The Board of Trustees determines that the following policies govern the participation of alcohol- or drug-impaired students in the Associate Degree Nursing Program.

1. The nursing program, in addition to offering an academic program, includes clinical course work. The safety of patients under the care of student nurses must be assured. The instructor and the Director of Nursing
Programs may take immediate corrective action to remove a student impaired by alcoholism or drug abuse from the clinical program if the student demonstrates by his/her conduct and performance in the clinical setting that he/she is a danger to the health and safety of patients under his/her care.

2. After evaluation and due process, students considered by the Director of Nursing Programs to be impaired by drugs or alcohol will be allowed to continue their studies, including clinical course work, as long as they are adhering to the provisions of a contract between the college and the student for the student’s retention.

3. Information on the student’s condition is confidential and will not be disclosed except when necessary to protect the safety of patients under the care of student nurses.

4. An individual contract of retention will be developed by the student, rehabilitation therapist, and the Director of Nursing and shall specify:
   a. That the student must participate in an approved drug or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program for the duration of his/her nursing program studies.
   b. That evidence of satisfactory attendance and progress will be provided to the college on a regularly scheduled basis.
   c. That the student will consent to periodic random drug screening as part of the treatment and rehabilitation program.
   d. That the impaired student will give all medications under direct supervision and that the student will not have access to keys to medications.
   e. That if the student fails to adhere to the conditions of the contract for retention, the same procedure will be followed as with any other student on probation; the circumstances of the violation will be reviewed by the nursing faculty as a whole; and recommendations for the retention or dismissal will be made to the Director of Nursing Programs, who will then make the decision after advising the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers.

5. Information on the student’s dismissal from the nursing program will be reported to the Board of Registered Nurses.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE
A. Types of Discipline
1. Warning: Notice to the student(s) that continuation or repetition of specified conduct may be cause for further disciplinary action.
2. Censure: Written reprimand for violation of specified regulation.
3. Disciplinary Probation: Exclusion from participation in privileges or extracurricular college activities as set forth in the notice of disciplinary probation for a specified period of time.
4. Restitution: Reimbursement for damage to or misappropriation of property. Reimbursement may take the form of appropriate service to repair, replace, or otherwise compensate for damages.
5. Interim Suspension: Exclusion from classes and other privileges or activities as set forth in the notice of interim suspension, pending final determination of an alleged violation.
6. Suspension: Exclusion from classes and other privileges or activities as set forth in the notice of suspension for a definite period of time.
7. Dismissal: Termination of student status for an indefinite period. The student(s) may be readmitted to Cuesta College with the specific approval of the Superintendent/President’s or designee.
8. Expulsion: Permanent termination of student status without possibility of readmission.

B. Administration of Discipline:
1. A student(s) may be disciplined for improper conduct when such conduct is a part of any college activity.
2. The Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee may appoint faculty, student, individual, or committee advisors, to consider potential disciplinary action, but the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers has the final authority for administration of student discipline except that expulsion requires approval by the Superintendent/President of the college.
3. The Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee may impose any discipline provided herein when there is reason to believe that substantial grounds exist for such discipline.
4. During the term of any discipline which does not terminate student status, students continue to be subject to District policies, regulations, and procedures.
5. Pre-discipline conference/notice: Students charged with misconduct shall be provided with written notice to meet with the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee regarding the basis for possible disciplinary action. The notice must be given at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled appointment.

6. The meeting with the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee should include:
   • A written statement of charges to the student(s);
   • A reasonable opportunity at the meeting for the student(s) to personally answer the charges;

Following the meeting, the student(s) shall either accept the disciplinary action, if any, or within forty-eight (48) hours (two school days) following receipt of the written notice of proposed disciplinary action, file at the office of the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee a written notice of intent to appeal to the Student Conduct Appeals Committee.
C. Appeal

Level I

- The student(s) shall file with the Appeals Committee, within twenty-four (24) hours (one school day) following filing of a notice of intention to appeal, a specific written response to each of the charges. Any charge to which the student(s) does not respond shall be deemed to be true.

- The Appeals Committee shall include a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent/President, administrator (Vice President of Student Services and College Centers may not serve), faculty member appointed by the Academic Senate, and a student representative appointed by the Associated Students of Cuesta College.

- A meeting of the Appeals Committee shall be convened not earlier than twenty-four (24) hours after submission of the student’s response to the charges, to hear the appeal and to make a decision in the case.

- The hearing before the Appeals Committee is not a judicial proceeding. The Appeals Committee recognizes the student’s right to a fair opportunity to hear the charges and evidence in support thereof, the right to present oral and documentary evidence on his/her behalf, the right to present a written argument on conclusion of the hearing, and the right to have an accurate copy of the minutes of the hearing furnished to the student.

- The Appeals Committee shall submit its decision to the student within ten (10) working days of the hearing.

Level II

- Within twenty-four (24) hours (one school day) after receiving the decision of the Appeals Committee, the student(s) may appeal the decision in writing to the Superintendent/President. Such appeal may be based only on the grounds that:
  
  - Required procedures have not been followed and the student(s) has/have been demonstrably damaged;
  
  - There is insufficient evidence to support the decision of the Appeals Committee;
  
  - One or more members of the Appeals Committee have, prior to the hearing, formed an opinion as to whether the student(s) has/have or has/have not committed the acts with which charged; and must include all supportive evidence.
  
  - The Superintendent/President will evaluate the evidence and submit findings in writing to the student within fifteen (15) working days after receiving the appeal.

Level III

- Every student has the final right of appeal to the Board of Trustees when dismissal or expulsion has been imposed.

- A final written appeal may be made to the Board of Trustees within thirty (30) working days of the written response of the Superintendent/President. The Board will evaluate the evidence and render its decision within thirty (30) days of the initial meeting of the Board at which the matter is discussed.

Students have the right to pursue their complaint after completing the above complaint process with the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO). CCCCQ provides students and others with a method and process outside of the institution that takes, investigates and responds to complaints regarding the institution. The link to the CCCCQ process and form is http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/ComplaintsForm.aspx. CCCCQ has provided this disclosure in compliance with the requirements of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, as regulated in CFR 34, Sections 600.9 (b) (3) and 668.43(b).

STUDENT COMPLAINT PROCESS

STUDENT COMPLAINTS

A student should initiate a complaint directly with the appropriate individual indicated on the Student Complaint Referral Grid. Please refer to myCuesta website for current referral grid: (http://academic.cuesta.edu/vpss/Student_Complaint_Grid.pdf). The student complaint grid indicates the sequence of opportunities for informally resolving student complaints. If a student is not satisfied with the solution posed through the Student Complaint Referral Grid, the student should make an appointment with the Resolution Specialist in the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers office or designee to evaluate the next steps which may be the filing of a formal grievance.

The Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee serve as a clearing-house for students dissatisfied with an experience on campus, who may not be knowledgeable about the appropriate steps to take, or the protocol to follow regarding a complaint. An initial meeting between the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee and the student may result in a referral to the appropriate individual. The Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee will contact the individual to whom the student is being referred to facilitate resolution.

While it is recognized that the grid represents the ideal sequence of opportunities for resolving student complaints, it is understood that when actual situations arise, the parties involved will use their best judgment regarding complaint resolution depending upon the availability of personnel and the immediacy of the problem.

STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

1. The next step beyond the complaint process may be the filing of a formal grievance depending upon the nature of the complaint.

2. A complaint is grievable if it is non-disciplinary and involves the process, application, or interaction of school policy—in other words, how something was done or processed. In general, a complaint is not grievable if it involves the content of existing policy.

3. For specific information regarding the Student Grievance Procedure, refer to Cuesta College Board Policy 6205.

A grievance shall mean a complaint that is non-disciplinary and is other than one dealing with civil rights discrimination,* which has been filed by a student or by a
student’s designee on his/her behalf. The primary purpose of the following procedure is to secure at the earliest level possible an equitable solution to a complaint.

**LEVEL 1.**
The student should contact in person the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers, or designee, and present his/her grievances. If the grievance is not resolved, the student can submit to the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers, or designee, a written appeal for further consideration. (Time limit: ten calendar days from the date of appointment with the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers, or designee.)

**LEVEL 2.**
A Student Appeals Committee, made up of three faculty and three student members jointly appointed by the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers, or designee, and the ASCC President, then will be convened within ten calendar days after receiving the appeal and will submit its finding to the student in writing within an additional ten days. If the complaint is not resolved, a written appeal can be filed by the student to the President/Superintendent within ten calendar days. When a grievance involves the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers, or designee, (Level 1) and/or the Associated Students Cuesta College (ASCC) President and the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers, or designee, (Level 2), those responsibilities listed above for these two positions at Levels 1 and 2 shall be assumed by the Superintendent/President (or designee appointed by the Superintendent/President) of the District.

**LEVEL 3.**
The student will appeal in writing with all supportive evidence to the President/Superintendent (or designee) who will evaluate the evidence and submit his/her finding in writing to the student within ten calendar days after receiving the appeal.

**LEVEL 4.**
A final written appeal may be made to the Board of Trustees within thirty calendar days of the written response of the Superintendent/President (or designee). The decision of the Board will be given within thirty calendar days of the initial meeting at which the complaint is discussed.

*When a student has a complaint which involves (1) sexual harassment, (2) civil rights discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, national origin, religious beliefs, age, gender, color, physical or mental disabilities, veteran status, sexual orientation or sexual identity, or marital status, or (3) retaliation for filing a sexual harassment or other unlawful discrimination complaint, referring a matter for investigation, participating in an investigation of a complaint, serving as an advocate for an alleged victim or alleged offender, or who otherwise furthers the principles of the District’s unlawful discrimination policy (Policy 1565) and the nondiscrimination in district college programs policy (Policy 1570), then the matter is to be referred to the Executive Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations as such matters are to be handled pursuant to Policy 1565 (unlawful discrimination) and Policy 1570 (nondiscrimination in district college programs) and not as a student grievance.

**Student Organizations**

1. **Registration of Student Organizations:** An organization in which active membership is limited to students and academic and administrative staff of the college may become a registered student organization by complying with the registration procedures established by the Associated Students of Cuesta College and the Vice President of Student Services and College Centers, which shall include the name of the organization, can include the name of Cuesta College, its purposes, its officers, and such other information as may be specified in campus regulations.

2. **Standard of Conduct and Discipline:** Student organizations are required to comply with college policies and campus regulations and are subject to revocation of registration or other discipline for violation of such policies or regulations.

3. **Use of College Name:** A student organization may use the name of Cuesta College, or abbreviations thereof, as a part of its own name approved in accordance with 1 above. A registered student organization may state that its membership is composed of students or students and staff of Cuesta College but shall not indicate or imply that it is acting on behalf of the college.

4. **Use of College Facilities by Student Organizations:** Registered student organizations may use college facilities for meetings and activities in accordance with Board Policy 7850 Use of College Facilities. The Vice President of Student Services and College Centers or designee may grant approval for fund raising, recruiting participants, posting and distributing literature. Registered student religious organizations shall be extended the same privileges as other registered organizations, except as limited by federal and state law.

5. **Taking Positions on Issues:** Registered student organizations may take and publish positions on issues, and shall make it clear in so doing that they are not representing the views of the college or of the student government or of the student association as a whole.

**Transcripts from Cuesta College**

A written or electronic request by the student is required to release transcripts.

Transcripts ordered electronically will be mailed within 2-4 working days from the date of request in most cases. An electronic notification will inform the student of the status of their transcript order and notify them of any holds. The fee for the electronic transcript request is $6.00 per copy. Transcripts ordered in-person will be mailed within 2-3 weeks and cost $3 per copy after the first two free copies. Unofficial transcripts are available for viewing and printing.
through myCuesta on the Cuesta College website. Access to myCuesta requires the student username and password.

Transcripts will not be produced for students who have a hold on their records.