



COLLEGE VIOLENCE PREVENTION POLICY

POLICY

Heartland Community College is committed to a safe and secure environment for all students, employees, and visitors. Conduct that threatens the health or safety of any person or creates a reasonable fear for their health and safety are not acceptable conduct at Heartland Community College and will not be tolerated. Examples of such conduct include but are not limited to: acts of violence, threats of violence, possession of weapons(s) on College property or College controlled property without proper authorization, threatening behavior or act, and/or reckless disregard for the health or safety of any person. Violation of this policy and/or the Code of Student Conduct will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment and/or dismissal from the College.

The College does not expect the campus community to be skilled at identifying potentially dangerous persons. The campus community is expected to exercise good judgment and to inform College administration if any employee, student, or visitor exhibits behavior that could be a sign of a potentially dangerous situation. No member of the campus community shall be retaliated against for making a good faith report under this policy.

RESPONSIBILITY

The entire College community, employees, students, and visitors share the responsibility for a safe and secure campus. Anyone who is threatened or believes they are in harm's way should immediately notify any designated Campus Security Authority and/or local law enforcement. Anyone with knowledge of violent acts, threats planned or carried out, or weapons on campus are to report to supervisors or other appropriate College officials immediately; in their absence or in the case of emergency, local law enforcement should be contacted immediately.

APPLICATION

This policy covers all persons:

- a. on College property or facilities operated by the College;
- b. at College sponsored events;
- c. fulfilling duties of a College student off-campus (such as , internship, conference, or international study abroad);
- d. conducting official College business or representing the College off-campus; or
- e. engaging in any negative action having direct impact on individuals within the College community.

DEFINITIONS

Bullying - may include but is not limited to, non-verbal threatening gestures, glances which reasonably convey offensive or threatening messages, acts of slander, ridicule or maligning a person or his/her family; persistent name calling, being the brunt of repeated jokes, abusive and offensive remarks, pushing, shoving, kicking, poking, tripping, assault, or threat of physical assault; damage to property, or maliciously excluding a person in work-related, academic, or extra-curricular activities.

Threat or Threatening Behavior - is any statement or action, expressed or implied, that could cause a reasonable person to fear for the safety of him/herself, that of another person, and/or College property. Examples of threats include, but are not limited to, words or actions which intimidate, harassment, bullying, stalking or following someone with the intent to harass, intimidate, harm, or cause other malicious activity, and the use of communication mediums to threaten such as telephone, fax, electronic or conventional mail, social media sites, etc....

Violence - is the use of physical force or activity that causes harm, damage, or abuse of an individual or property. This includes physical force and/or activity which reasonably cause mental anguish.

Visitors - includes prospective students, vendors, contractors, and any other person who is on the campus for purposes other than full or part-time employment or pursuing coursework for which other established procedures exist.

Weapons - are not permitted on College controlled property except for purposes of law enforcement or in limited cases for carrying out bonafide academic purposes and duties of the College. Exceptions in other limited cases can be made by the President or designee.

Prohibited weapons include, but are not limited to, any:

- (1) firearm, firearm ammunition, BB gun, pellet gun, paintball gun, tear gas gun, stun-gun, taser, or other dangerous or deadly device of similar type;
- (2) knife with a blade of at least 3 inches in length (except an ordinary eating utensil), dagger, dirk, switchblade knife, stiletto, ax, hatchet, or other deadly or dangerous weapon or instrument of similar type;
- (3) bludgeon, blackjack, slingshot, sandbag, sand club, metal knuckles, billy club, throwing star, nunchaku, or other dangerous or deadly weapon of similar type;
- (4) bomb, bombshell, grenade, firework, bottle, or other container containing an explosive, toxic, or noxious substance, unless under academic/classroom supervision, (other than an object containing a nonlethal noxious liquid, gas, or substance, such as mace or pepper spray, designed solely for personal defense possessed by a person 18 years of age or older);
- (5) souvenir weapon or other weapon that has been rendered permanently inoperative, and any weapons outlined in the Illinois Compiled Statutes on Armed Violence (720 ILCS 5/33A-1, et.seq.);
- (6) any item which resembles or is implied to represent any of the previously identified weapons or instruments.

TRAINING

The College will periodically offer training on topics related to violence and violence prevention, this policy, and related topics to aid the College community in understanding this policy as well as dealing with violence related issues on campus..