



Franklin Technology Center's Code of Conduct

Franklin Technology Center is comprised of students, faculty, staff and administrators. This community recognizes the need to establish a code of conduct that contains rules and regulations that promote growth and development, guide student actions, and define sanctions that will be imposed when rules and regulations are violated. For the benefit of the community at large, these regulations limit certain behaviors and activities. They also protect the health, welfare, safety, rights and property of the college. Any student whose conduct violates this Code of Student Conduct will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion. Ultimate authority for student discipline is vested in the Joplin R-8 Board of Education. Disciplinary authority may be delegated to school administrators, faculty members, and committees as set forth in appropriate policies, rules, or regulations adopted by the Board. Students may be asked to assume positions of responsibility in the enforcement of the student code of conduct so that they might contribute their skills and insights to the resolution of disciplinary cases.

RATIONAL

1. The primary purpose for the imposition of discipline in the postsecondary setting is to protect the campus community. Consistent with that purpose, reasonable efforts will be made to foster the personal, educational and social development of those students who are held accountable for violations of college regulation.

PURPOSE OF THE DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

2. People grow and mature in communities. Living in a community requires depending upon the knowledge, integrity and decency of others. In turn, the best communities help individuals mold habits and values that will enable them to achieve the highest personal satisfaction, including the satisfaction associated with helping to make a better world. This Code protects the community at each campus of Franklin Technology Center. It fosters Franklin Technology Center's commitment to excellence and equity, and affirms the shared values that make respect for diversity possible.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3. Unlawful Discrimination

Right: No student shall be subject to unlawful discrimination on the grounds of age, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability in any activity sponsored by the school on or off the school grounds.

Responsibility: Students shall not engage in unlawful discrimination against other students or faculty members. Every student shall treat all members of the Franklin Technology Center community with respect and courtesy.

4. Freedom of Expression and Inquiry

Right: Students have First Amendment rights to freedom of expression and inquiry. Such freedom is protected in order to build a community dedicated to the pursuit of truth, grounded in respect for diversity and civil discourse.

Responsibility: Students must express themselves in a civil and lawful manner that does not materially or substantially disrupt the operation of the school, or interfere with the rights of others.

5. **Freedom of Association Right: Students have the right to freedom of association.**
Responsibility: Students are responsible for respecting the rights of others to freedom of association. When assembling and expressing their views, students must do so in a manner which does not materially or substantially disrupt the educational process or the operations of the school.
6. **Freedom from Arbitrary and Capricious Grading**
Right: Students have the right to be free from arbitrary or capricious grading, and to seek appropriate review of legitimate grievances, as specified in college regulations.

Responsibility: Students are responsible for achieving reasonable standards of performance and behavior established for each course.
7. **Right to Privacy**
Right: Students have rights to privacy, inspection and challenge of their educational records, as provided by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

Responsibility: Students have responsibility to respect the established privacy rights of others, including the privacy of educational records belonging to other students.
8. **Freedom of the Press Right: Students may publish news and commentary in accordance with established First Amendment standards.**
Responsibility: Students may not misuse school property (including computer resources) or the school name for unauthorized purposes. Students are responsible for adhering to pertinent state and federal law, including laws regarding defamation, obscenity, copyright infringement, invasion of privacy, prohibited harassment, ethnic intimidation, and threats of violence. Students shall adhere to established standards of journalistic ethics, including a commitment to honest reporting, and a responsibility to allow diverse views to be heard.
9. **Freedom of Speech**
Right: Students have the right to express their views on matters affecting school life, in accordance with established procedures for campus governance.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to encourage a diversity of views, and to follow democratic procedures designed to create a climate of reasoned discourse and action.
10. **Freedom from Harassment Right: Students have the right to be free from unlawful intimidation or coercion, including sexual harassment.**
Responsibility: Students are responsible for respecting the rights of others to be free from unlawful intimidation or coercion, including sexual harassment.

PROCEDURAL PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENTS

11. Students accused of disciplinary violations are entitled to the following procedural protections:
 - a. To be informed by the Director of Franklin Technology Center of the charges against them, and the identity of the complainant.
 - b. To be allowed to request an informal resolution of the case.
 - c. To be allowed at least three business days to prepare for a disciplinary conference and five business days to prepare for a hearing.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

To be allowed to request that any person conducting a disciplinary conference, or serving as a hearing board member or hearing officer, be disqualified on the ground of personal bias. To be considered innocent of the charges until proven responsible by clear and convincing evidence. To be informed by the appropriate academic dean in matters related to academic dishonesty (Page **XX**). Academic integrity allegations are resolved in a separate Code of Academic Integrity.

- d. To hear and respond to evidence upon which a charge is based.
- e. To call and engage relevant witnesses.
- f. To be assured of confidentiality, in accordance with the terms of the

CODE OF CONDUCT DEFINITIONS

12. When used in this Code:

- a. the term “aggravated violation” means a violation which resulted or possibly could have resulted in significant damage to persons or property or which otherwise posed a substantial threat to the stability and continuance of normal school or school-sponsored activities.
- b. the term “group” means a number of persons who are associated with each other, but who have not complied with college requirements for registration as an organization.
- c. the terms “institution” and “school” mean Franklin Technology Center, and all of its programs.
- d. the term “reckless” means conduct which one should reasonably be expected to know would create a substantial risk of harm to persons or property or which would otherwise be likely to result in interference with normal school or school-sponsored activities.
- e. the term “student” means any person for whom the college maintains educational records, as defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, and related regulations.
- f. the term “school premises” means buildings or grounds owned, leased, operated, controlled or supervised by Franklin Technology Center.
- g. the term “weapon” means firearms, explosives, metal knuckles, knives with blades more than 3 inches long, or any other instrument or substance identified as a weapon by Missouri state law. the term “school-sponsored activity” means any activity on or off school premises that is specifically initiated or supervised by Franklin Technology Center. The terms “will” or “shall” are used in the imperative sense.

INTERPRETATION OF REGULATIONS

13. The purpose of publishing disciplinary regulations is to give students general notice of prohibited behavior. This Code is not written with the specificity of a criminal statute.

INHERENT AUTHORITY

14. Franklin Technology Center reserves the right to take necessary and appropriate action to protect the safety and well being of the campus community. Such action may include taking disciplinary action against those students whose behavior off school premises indicates that they pose a substantial danger to others.

VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL LAW AND COLLEGE REGULATIONS

15. Students may be accountable both to civil authorities and to the college for acts that constitute violations of law and of this Code. Disciplinary action at the college will normally proceed during the pending of criminal proceedings, and will not be subject to challenge on the ground that criminal charges involving the same incident have been dismissed or reduced.

SUSPENSION

16. The Director of Franklin Technology Center or a designee at any Franklin Technology Center campus may suspend a student from the school for an interim period pending disciplinary or criminal proceedings, or medical evaluation. The interim suspension shall become immediately effective without prior notice whenever there is evidence that the continued presence of the student at the college poses a substantial and immediate threat to him/herself or to others or to the stability and continuance of normal school functions.
17. A student suspended on an interim basis shall be given a prompt opportunity to appear personally before the Director of Franklin Technology Center or a designee in order to discuss the following issues only:
 - the reliability of the information concerning the student's conduct, including the matter of his or her identity;
 - Whether the conduct and surrounding circumstances reasonably indicate that the continued presence of the student on school premises poses a substantial and immediate threat to himself or herself or to others or the stability and continuance of normal school functions.

STANDARDS OF CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

18. Primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the class for the remainder of the class period. Longer suspensions from a class, or dismissal on disciplinary grounds, must be preceded by a hearing or disciplinary conference, as set forth in Part 25 of this Code.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

19. Franklin Technology Center expects that its students will adhere to high standards of good citizenship. The following misconduct is subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Director of Franklin Technology Center:
 - a. Intentionally or recklessly causing physical harm to any person on school premises or at school-sponsored activities, or intentionally or recklessly causing reasonable apprehension of such harm.
 - b. Sexual assault or sexual harassment, as defined in published R-8 District regulations.

- c. Unauthorized use, possession or storage of any weapon on college premises or at school-sponsored activities
- d. Intentionally initiating or causing to be initiated any false report, warning or threat of fire, explosion or other emergency on school premises or at school-sponsored activities.
- e. Any act or omission committed on or off campus that constitutes a serious criminal offense. A serious criminal offense is defined as an action that Missouri state law identifies as a felony and which indicates that the student constitutes a substantial and continuing danger to the safety or property of the school or members of the campus community.
- f. Knowingly violating the terms of any disciplinary sanction imposed in accordance with this Code.
- g. Unauthorized distribution or possession for purposes of distribution of any controlled substance or illegal drug on school premises or at school-sponsored activities.
- h. Intentionally furnishing false information to the school.
- i. Making, possessing, or using any forged, altered, or falsified identification on school premises, or at school-sponsored activities; making, possessing, or using any forged, altered, or falsified school document, on or off-campus.
- j. Intentionally interfering with the freedom of expression of others on school premises or at school-sponsored activities.
- k. Academic dishonesty: Academic integrity allegations are resolved in a separate Code of Academic Integrity available in the Franklin Technology Center offices.
- l. Theft of property or of services on school premises or at school-sponsored activities; knowing possession of stolen property on school premises or at school-sponsored activities.
- m. Intentionally or recklessly destroying or damaging the property of others on school premises or at school-sponsored activities.
- n. Engaging in disorderly or disruptive conduct on school premises or at school-sponsored activities which interferes with the activities of others, including studying, teaching, and Franklin Technology Center administration.
- o. Failure to comply with the directions of school officials, faculty, and professional staff acting in performance of their duties.
- p. Use, possession or sale of any controlled substance or illegal drug on school premises or at school-sponsored activities.
- q. Unauthorized use or possession of fireworks on school premises.

SANCTIONS

20. Sanctions that may be imposed for any violations of this Code may include:

- a. Warning: notice, orally or in writing, that continuation or repetition of prohibited conduct may be cause for additional disciplinary action.
 - b. Censure: a written reprimand for violation of specified regulations, including a warning that continuation or repetition of prohibited conduct may be cause for additional disciplinary action. Notice of this action may appear on the student's academic transcript for up to one year.
 - c. Restitution: repayment to Franklin Technology Center or to an affected party for damages resulting from a violation of this Code.
 - d. Disciplinary Probation: exclusion from participation in privileged or extracurricular institutional activities for a specified period of time. Additional restrictions or conditions may also be imposed. Violations of the terms of disciplinary probation, or any other violation of this Code during the period of probation, will normally result in suspension or expulsion from the college. Notice of this action may appear on the student's academic transcript for up to two years.
 - e. Suspension: exclusion from school premises, and other privileges or activities, as set forth in the suspension notice. Notice of this action may appear on the student's academic transcript for up to four years.
 - f. Expulsion: permanent termination of student status, and exclusion from school premises, privileges and activities. This action will be recorded on the student's academic transcript.
21. Repeated or aggravated violations of any section of this Code may also result in expulsion or suspension or in the imposition of such lesser penalties as may be appropriate.
22. Attempts to commit acts prohibited by this Code may be punished to the same extent as completed violations.

STANDARDS OF DUE PROCESS

23. Students subject to expulsion or suspension from Franklin Technology Center will be entitled to a hearing the director of Franklin Technology Center, Joplin R-8 Superintendent, and or the School Board. Students subject to lesser sanctions for non-academic misconduct will be entitled to an informal conference, as set forth in Part 30 of this Code.
24. The purpose of campus disciplinary proceedings is to provide a fair evaluation of an accused student's responsibility for violating college regulations. Formal rules of evidence shall not be applied, nor shall deviations from prescribed procedures necessarily invalidate a decision, unless significant prejudice to a student respondent or the college may result.

CASE REFERRALS

25. Any person may refer a student suspected of violating this Code to the Director of Franklin Technology Center where the alleged misbehavior occurred.
26. Those referring cases are normally expected to serve as the complainant, and to present relevant evidence in hearings or conferences.