

PART G.

College Regulations

I. THE PURPOSE AND NATURE OF THE REGULATIONS

Vassar College regulations protect the rights, interests, and safety of the college community. They cover all areas deemed essential to maintaining an environment conducive to carrying out the educational goals of the college. Within the framework established in these regulations, the individual is as free as possible to conduct her or his own academic and nonacademic life. However, the privilege of making independent decisions involves the acceptance of responsibility should such choices violate the regulations. Therefore, the college expects students to uphold its standards of personal and social conduct at all times when they are associated with Vassar, and assumes that individual decisions will be accompanied by careful consideration of the standards maintained by the community.

A. Statement on Academic Responsibility and Respect for Persons

Vassar College values freedom of expression and supports deep engagement in and equitable access to teaching, learning, scholarly research, and artistic endeavor. The College is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, freedom of inquiry, and informed, robust, and inclusive debate. Vassar's faculty and students may engage with an array of disciplines and issues and are free to explore contested ideas and political positions. Our community welcomes forms of dissent and protest that acknowledge and encourage the expression of different perspectives.

The College recognizes the legal limits to academic freedom and free expression. Unlawful conduct, such as defamation and the incitement of violence, will not be tolerated. As a private institution, Vassar is a voluntary association of persons who share a responsibility to respect the rights, dignity, and integrity of all community members and guests. In addition to adhering to federal and state laws, all community members and guests are expected to abide by Vassar's governing principles when engaging with one another. Abusive or bullying behavior has no place in this environment.

Membership in an intentional learning community also calls for a spirit of generosity and the ability to question our own assumptions. The College thus urges individuals to approach one another as partners in a learning process that facilitates the creation of knowledge, while fostering a rich intellectual and cultural environment in which all are empowered to thrive. Only a community that honors freedom of expression, different points of view, and mutual interdependence can serve the objectives of a liberal arts education and the needs of the complex, pluralistic society of which Vassar is a part.

(Approved by the Faculty November 18, 2020)