

SECTION III

CODE OF STUDENT RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND CONDUCT

A. Philosophy of University Policies for Student Life

Christopher Newport University is maintained and governed by the following five values:

- 1) We will always put students first;
- 2) We will always offer outstanding teaching;
- 3) We will remain committed to liberal learning;
- 4) We will provide access and opportunity;
- 5) We will be actively engaged in shaping the economic, civic, and cultural life of this community. Additionally, we hold the ideal of Honor as an important element of the Christopher Newport University experience. Accordingly, the University has implemented policies that reinforce these values and ideals. As an educational institution, the University is concerned with the formal, in-class education of its students as well as their growth into mature people who conduct themselves as responsible, honorable citizens.

The uniqueness of the academic community requires particular sensitivity to the individual rights of students and the rights of the University community. Rules and regulations are imperative as a basis for the orderly conduct of University activities and for maintaining an environment conducive to study, recreation and personal growth. Regulations are intended to create sound living and learning conditions for all members of the campus community and to promote an atmosphere that encourages personal integrity.

Student Life policies are based upon the assumption that students and groups have the capacity to assume responsibility for their own behavior and that the University has the authority to establish an internal structure for enforcement of its policies and procedures which students have agreed to accept by enrolling at the University. Conversely, students have the right to expect the University to fulfill its educational responsibilities as effectively as its capacity and resources permit.

Since rights carry with them certain responsibilities, the following rights and responsibilities - institutional as well as student - are set forth.

B. Basic Rights

The following list of basic rights is not intended to deny or limit the rights of students in any way. Rather, it is intended to focus special attention on these rights because of their importance in the educational process. Christopher Newport University students may freely and openly exercise the following freedoms as long as their actions do not interfere with the regular operation of the University:

1. Campus Expression – Free inquiry, expression, and assembly are guaranteed to all students. This expression is subject to the limitations of this document and other University regulations and policies, which are consistent with the provisions of the

Constitutions and laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America. Public statements and demonstrations by individual members of the University community or organizations shall be clearly identified as representative only of those individuals or organizations and not of the University as a whole. Sponsorship of guest speakers does not necessarily imply approval or endorsement of the views expressed either by the sponsoring group or the institution.

2. *Pursuit of Goals* – Students are free to pursue their educational goals; appropriate opportunities for learning shall be provided by the University.
3. *Equal Opportunity* – Christopher Newport University is committed to providing an environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community and that is free from harassment and discrimination in admissions, employment, and education programs or activities based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, political affiliation, or any other status protected by law. Such an environment is necessary to a healthy learning, working, and living atmosphere because discrimination and harassment undermine human dignity and the positive connection among everyone on campus. In pursuit of this goal, any question of impermissible discrimination and/or harassment on these bases will be addressed with efficiency and energy in accordance with the [*Discrimination, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy 1005*](#).

Any student who believes that they have been unlawfully discriminated against or harassed may file a complaint with the Director of Title IX and Equal Opportunity.

C. Student Records

Christopher Newport University complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Questions concerning this policy may be referred to the Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students, the Vice President of Enrollment Services & Student Success or the University Registrar.