

**LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM DISTRICT
BOARD POLICY MANUAL
Fifth Edition**

Committee cannot change a grade—it can only recommend adopting or rejecting the expulsion or suspension recommendation made by the Chief Academic Officer for the student involved. The recommendation is forwarded directly to the Chancellor. The Chancellor makes the final decision—that decision is not appealable.

V.F.1.6. Effect of Sanctions

Any suspension or expulsion under Section V has College-wide effect. A student suspended or expelled from one college may not enroll at another college without the Chancellor’s written permission unless the sanction has expired by its own terms. The College may agree at any time to impose certain sanctions if a student admits to academic misconduct, and the student and Chief Academic Officer shall sign any such agreement. In addition to sanctions, the College may pursue any and all remedies at law or equity.

V.F.1.7. Due Process Requirements

Students have a protected interest in receiving an education. Except during periods of disruption, students must receive due process before they may be suspended or expelled. Due process requires notifying students of charges against them, explaining evidence against them, and giving students a fair opportunity to present their side of the story. Due process is not required for sanctions that do not affect students’ interest in receiving an education, such as warnings or exclusion from extracurricular activities. Except during a period of disruption, no suspension or expulsion will take effect for academic misconduct before the investigation, hearing, and appeal process ends.

V.F.1.8. Autonomy

Academic misconduct may also violate federal, state, or local laws, and students subject to discipline may also face civil or criminal legal penalties. Civil or criminal proceedings—or the lack thereof—related to alleged academic misconduct will not determine discipline.

V.F.1.9. Periods of Disruption

During periods of disruption, the powers and procedures in Texas Education Code Chapter 51, Subchapter E-1 shall apply and shall prevail over this section if they conflict. Students must receive due process as soon as practicable during periods of disruption.

V.F.1.10. Discipline in Health Occupations Programs

Health Occupations Program Deans shall/may act as Chief Academic Officers for their programs with written authorization from their respective Chief Academic Officer.

V.G. ACADEMIC APPEALS

V.G.1. General Provisions

V.G.1.1. Academic Appeals

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The College recognizes a student's right to consistent and relevant forms of assessment. An academic appeal is a formal request brought by a student to change a grade for the reasons below. Students have 12 calendar months from the date the grade was posted by the registrar to submit an academic appeal. A grade may only be changed by the instructor of record, the instructor's department chair, the academic dean, or the Academic Appeals Committee. Should an instructor of record's employment end or otherwise become incapacitated or unavailable, the department chair, or the academic dean may enter grades on the incapacitated or unavailable faculty member.

V.G.1.2. Definitions

(a) Incapacity means the physical or mental inability to enter grades for the purposes of this subsection only (V.G.1.1.).

V.G.1.3. Bases for Academic Appeal

A student must meet one of three requirements in order to qualify to file an academic appeal. The student must have some evidence that there exists at the time of the appeal: (1) a mathematical error in the grade's calculation, (2) a deviation—by the instructor—from the course syllabus or the College's policy manual (this document), or (3) disparate treatment of the student not covered by EEO (e.g., race, color, sex, and etc.) policies. Any basis for appeal outside of those three categories will not be considered and the College will simply inform the student of this policy and refuse to process the appeal. An appeal will not be considered merely because the student is dissatisfied with a grade or disagrees with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work or performance.

V.G.1.4. Procedures

The Board has delegated to the Chancellor the authority to implement Chancellor's Procedures to carry out the Academic Appeals Policy.

V.H. ACADEMIC STUDENT TRAVEL

V.H.1. Policy

The College provides equal academic student travel opportunities to all students regardless of race, color, sex, age, sexual orientation, religion, ethnic or national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other protected status. Section V.H.1. applies only to Academic Student Travel as defined below.

V.H.1.2. Definitions

(a) Academic Student Travel covered by this Policy means travel that meets three conditions. First, the travel must be at least farther than 25 miles from the closest Lone Star College campus or satellite center to the final destination. Second, the travel is directed by an instructional employee to achieve an academic objective. Third, either (1) the College funds the travel *and* uses a college-owned or -leased vehicle, or (2) a college-registered student organization requires the travel. Travel that does not meet all three of