



Lackawanna COLLEGE

2026-2027 Student Handbook

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Welcome to Lackawanna College!

Dear Student,

Congratulations on choosing Lackawanna College! On behalf of the members of the faculty and staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our community. We provide a life-changing educational experience, and invite you to embrace the challenging and rewarding opportunities ahead.

Lackawanna College boasts a long history of service to our students and community. For more than a century, it has provided opportunities for people at all academic levels to learn, grow, renew, and excel. Our graduates are found throughout the country, serving as shining examples of what can be accomplished with hard work and a dedicated faculty and staff.

Serving as the College's ninth President is both an honor and a privilege. I am humbled by the fact I oversee an institution that has so much to offer. We are committed to our mission and policy of being an open enrollment College. We will continue to expand niche programs in fields such as Health Sciences, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hospitality, Business, Criminal Justice, Human Services, Professional Studies, Career Technology, and now the Trades, equipping our graduates with the skills to excel in these high-demand careers.

We are also committed to the region outside of our main campus in Scranton where we see unlimited opportunities for the people of Bradford, Wyoming, Susquehanna, Wayne, Pike, Luzerne, Northumberland, and Philadelphia counties. With the exciting launch of our trade programs we also serve Lehigh, Northampton, Franklin, and Westmoreland counties. The amazing stories of student achievement that have come from our satellite centers located in Tunkhannock, Towanda, Hazleton, Hawley, Sunbury, Covington Township, Bethlehem, Chambersburg, and Greensburg inspire us to increase efforts to grow Lackawanna College throughout Pennsylvania.

Equally as important, we recognize that post-secondary students are not the only population we serve. Many teens, children, parents, and adults from the region have benefitted from Lackawanna College's presence. Whether it is getting a head start through our pre-college programs, or furthering one's career through our numerous Continuing Education programs, there are opportunities for all area residents to engage in life-long learning.

Finally, Lackawanna College enjoys the reputation of being agile in its response to emerging community and industry need for training and education. While well-earned, we must continue to maintain that reputation through curricular and program innovations. As a learning institution, everything we do must be rooted in meeting the needs of our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jill Murray President



Notice of Non-Discrimination

Lackawanna College is committed to providing a welcoming environment for all members of our community and to ensuring that all educational and employment decisions are based on individuals' abilities and qualifications. Lackawanna College does not discriminate in its educational programs, employment, admissions or any activities on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, pregnancy, sex/gender, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, marital or family status, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other protected category under applicable local, state, or federal law, including protections for those opposing discrimination or participating in any grievance process on campus, with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or other human rights agencies.

Consistent with this principle, Lackawanna College will comply with state and federal laws such as the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act or other applicable state law, Title IX, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Ethnic Intimidation Act of 1982 (P.L. 537-154) and other laws that prohibit discrimination.

As a recipient of federal financial assistance for education activities, Lackawanna College complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to ensure that all its education programs and activities do not discriminate on the basis of the categories stated above, including in admissions and employment. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking are forms of sex discrimination, which are prohibited under Title IX and this Policy.

This policy covers nondiscrimination in both employment and access to educational opportunities. Therefore, any member of the College community whose acts deny, deprive, or limit the educational or employment access, benefits and/or opportunities of any member of the College community, guest, or visitor on the basis of that person's actual or perceived membership in the protected classes listed above is in violation of the College's policy on nondiscrimination.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Kelly Schneider, Esq.

Title IX Coordinator

Healey Hall Room | (570)961-7890 | SchneiderK@lackawanna.edu

Gopu Kiron, Ed.D.

Director of Revenue Operations & Business Enablement

Seeley Hall | (570) 504-7929 | KironG@lackawanna.edu

Additional information regarding Title IX requirements and how to file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights: Office of Civil Rights at <https://www2.ed.gov> (800) 421-3481.

Office for Civil Rights, National Headquarters
U.S. Department of Education
Lyndon Baines Johnson Dept. of Education Building
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20200-1100
Telephone: 800-421-3481
Fax: 202-453-6012; TDD: 800-877-8339
Email: OCR@ed.gov

About the Student Handbook

This handbook contains current information regarding Lackawanna College's policies, procedures, regulations, rights and responsibilities, and services. The statements in this handbook are for informational purposes. The College reserves the right to change any provisions or requirements, including tuition and fees, at any time within the student's term of attendance. No contract is created or implied.

For updates to the Handbook, please refer to the College's website at www.lackawanna.edu

Lackawanna College will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, gender identity or expression, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state law, including the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, and with federal law, including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any complaint of harassment or discrimination pertaining to education should be directed to one of the following Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Officers:

Gopu Kiron, Ed.D.

Director of Revenue Operations & Business Enablement

(570) 504-7929 | KironG@lackawanna.edu

About Lackawanna College

Mission

Lackawanna College's mission is to provide a quality education to all persons who seek to improve their lives and better the communities in which they live.

Vision

The College's vision is to be the nationally recognized, premier open-enrollment college of choice.

Core Values

Lackawanna's core values include a commitment to:

- ❖ Academic quality
- ❖ Value/affordability
- ❖ Social and economic impact
- ❖ Meaningful partnerships with industry, other institutions of higher education, regional K-12 entities, and other non-profits
- ❖ Student support and engagement that meets learners where they are
- ❖ Employee empowerment/culture

Curriculum

Curriculum Mission Statement

Lackawanna's faculty strives to fulfill the College's institutional mission within the various curricula sponsored by individual departments. These curricula offer students opportunities to advance their knowledge in a variety of disciplines and to pursue a number of different career goals. Irrespective of academic interest or career choice, however, all matriculating students at the College are expected to achieve mastery of designated learning goals through curriculum-wide study, practice, and demonstration.

The overall College Curriculum Mission Statement is as follows:

Lackawanna College is an educational institution, which seeks to empower its students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable them to:

- ❖ Solve problems and communicate effectively.
- ❖ Foster personal and professional growth.
- ❖ Contribute to community betterment.
- ❖ Promote a spirit of inquiry and a desire for lifelong learning.

Institutional Learning Goals and Outcomes

Goal 1. Critical Thinking

Students will demonstrate critical thinking by applying recognized principles of logic to make sound judgments.

- ❖ ILO #1: Apply logical reasoning to devise practical solutions for complex problems.
- ❖ ILO #2: Construct ethical and moral solutions to contemporary problems.

Goal 2. Effective Communication

Students will demonstrate effective communication through active listening, nonverbal communication, empathy, adaptability, and a clear and concise way of exchanging information.

- ❖ ILO #1: Convey complex ideas through strong written and verbal skills.
- ❖ ILO #2: Demonstrate effective interpersonal communication through clarity, confidence, and adaptation.

Goal 3. Community Leadership

Through experiential learning, students will demonstrate community leadership skills by applying knowledge learned in the classroom to act as change catalysts in their communities through passion, commitment, collaboration, and teamwork.

- ❖ ILO #1: Establish ethical leadership and social responsibility through serving the community.
- ❖ ILO #2: Identify personal and professional leadership strengths.

Goal 4. Global Citizenship

Students will demonstrate global citizenship through openness, empathy, and goodwill toward all lifestyles and global philosophies.

- ❖ ILO #1: Develop informed perspectives on complex global challenges.
- ❖ ILO #2: Discuss key concepts of global perspectives, including their interconnectedness and relevance in various contexts.

Goal 5. Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning

Students will demonstrate quantitative and scientific reasoning by utilizing data to solve problems and make evidence-based decisions.

- ❖ ILO #1: Employ scientific methods to analyze data and make evidence-based decisions.
- ❖ ILO #2: Interpret quantitative data using various formats, such as mathematical equations, graphs, tables, and charts.

Goal 6. Information and Technology Literacy

Students will demonstrate information and technology literacy skills by gathering, analyzing, and applying information to make informed judgments.

- ❖ ILO #1: Apply digital technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), to ethically address challenges, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.
- ❖ ILO #2: Demonstrate information literacy through gathering, evaluating, and utilizing information for desired outcomes.

Department Directory

Students can access department and faculty contact information, office locations, campus resources, and appointment scheduling through the College Portal and Starfish. Additional directory information is available on the [College website](#).

Lackawanna College Satellite Centers

Lackawanna College's main campus is in Scranton, Pennsylvania, but the College also has satellite centers across Pennsylvania, each offering different and unique programs. Lackawanna College also has a 5,000 square-foot facility, which houses the Environmental Education Center.



Bethlehem Center

3184 Airport Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017
Phone: (610) 936-9522

Chambersburg Center

1669 Opportunity Ave
Chambersburg, PA 17201
Phone: (717) 288-8766

Environmental Education Center

93 MacKenzie Road
Covington Township,
Pennsylvania 18444
Phone: (570) 842-1506
Fax: (570) 459-1958

Greensburg Center

105 Wilson Ave
Greensburg, PA 15601
Phone: (724) 707-2064

Hazleton Center

2 East Broad Street
Hazleton, Pennsylvania 18201
Phone: (570) 459-1573
Fax: (570) 955-1535
Phone: (570) 961-7810
Fax: Admissions (570) 961-7843

Lake Region Center

8 Silk Mill Drive
Hawley, Pennsylvania
18428
Phone: (570) 226-4625
Fax: (570) 226-4671

Peirce School of Online Learning

1608 Walnut Street,
Suite 1900
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
Phone: (215) 545-6400
Fax: (215) 670-9366

Scranton [Main Campus]

501 Vine Street
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18509
Phone: (570) 961-7810
Fax: Admissions (570) 961-7843

Sunbury Center

Sunbury Plaza
45 N. 4th Street
Sunbury, Pennsylvania
17801
Phone: (570) 988-1931

Towanda Center

1024 South Main Street
Towanda, Pennsylvania 18848
Phone: (570) 265-3449
Fax: (570) 265-2730

Tunkhannock Center

420 Tioga West Plaza, Suite 104
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
Phone: (570) 866-1900

Office of Enrollment Information

Lackawanna College prohibits any commission, bonus, or other incentive compensation based directly or indirectly on securing enrollments or on the awarding of federal financial aid, including Tuition Assistance funds. These policies apply to employees and, where applicable, third-party representatives are involved in recruiting, admissions, or financial aid decision-making.

Lackawanna College prohibits the use of high-pressure recruitment tactics directed towards any and all potential Students including veterans and members of the Armed Forces. Specifically, the institution does not engage in multiple unsolicited contacts, including contacts by phone, email, video conference, or in person, for the purpose of securing enrollments, commitments, obligations or fees. The institution also does not use same-day recruitment and registration practices intended to pressure anyone into enrolling.

All employees involved in the areas of recruiting, admissions, enrollment and student support are mandated to comply with State and Federal laws, institutional policy and applicable regulations. Lackawanna College provides appropriate training, supervisory oversight, reporting and compliance monitoring to help ensure that recruitment practices remain ethical and consistent with institutional standards. Concerns from staff, faculty, the student population or any interested or involved party regarding violations by Lackawanna College may be reported through the Human Resources Office or the Lackawanna College supervisory chain.

Lackawanna College is committed to ethical recruiting, transparent admissions practices, and full compliance with applicable federal and institutional requirements governing student recruitment and financial aid administration.

Purpose and Support

The Enrollment Department at Lackawanna College provides supportive, trustworthy enrollment experience that empowers its students and future graduates to be successful. We provide an equal opportunity for every student to set educational goals that are realistic, challenging, yet motivating and achievable. Our Enrollment Counselors encourage students to concentrate on career goals in the pursuit of their college education. The enrollment team assists individuals of various ages and academic backgrounds with admission to courses and programs suitable to their interests and goals, while always maintaining an “open door” policy for students who are seeking advice, guidance, or answers to their questions.

Personal Referral

We have found that some of our best students are those personally recommended to us by students who are currently attending Lackawanna College, or graduates and individuals just like you.

Referring a family member, friend, colleague, or someone you think will benefit from a Lackawanna College education is very important to us. Recommending an individual to the college can be both a positive and rewarding experience for the both of you. While we are able to provide a “life changing” opportunity to achieve a college degree, you are also “changing” that person’s “life.” Once you refer a future Falcon to us, rest assured our Enrollment team will be supportive and help guide them through the enrollment process successfully.

To contact an enrollment department please call (570) 961-7898 or email admissions@lackawanna.edu.



Academic Calendars

Fall 2026

August 31 (Mon)	Fall Semester begins
September 2 (Wed)	Last day to add an online class for subterm 1
September 4 (Fri)	End of drop/add
September 6 (11:59pm Sun)	Deadline for student participation in subterm 1 module 0
September 7 (Mon)	Labor Day/College closed
September 9-23	Academic Advising two-week check in
October 2 (Fri)	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty from Subterm 1
October 12 (Mon)	College Closed - Columbus/Indigenous People Day
October 19-Nov 3	Advising/Online Registration
October 23 (Fri)	Subterm 1 ends
October 26 (Mon)	Subterm 2 begins
October 28 (Wed)	Last day to add an online class for subterm 2
November 1 (11:59pm Sun)	Deadline for student participation in subterm 2 module 0
November 11 (Wed)	Veteran's Day/College Closed
November 13 (Fri)	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty from On-ground classes
November 27 (Fri)	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty from Subterm 2
November 25-Nov 27	Thanksgiving break
December 14-Dec 18	Finals Week
December 18 (Fri)	Fall semester ends

Intersession 2027

January 4 (Mon)	Intersession begins/last day to add an online class
January 10 (11:59pm Sun)	Deadline for student participation in intersession module 0
January 15 (Fri)	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty

January 18 (Mon)	College Closed / MLK Jr Day
January 22 (Fri)	Intersession Ends

Spring 2027

January 25 (Mon)	Spring Semester begins
January 27 (Wed)	Last day to add an online class for subterm 1
January 29 (Fri)	End of drop/add
January 31 (11:59pm Sun)	Deadline for student participation in subterm 1 module 0
February 3-Feb 17	Academic Advising two-week check in
February 15 (Mon)	Presidents' Day Observed/College Closed
February 26 (Fri)	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty from Subterm 1
March 19 (Fri)	Subterm 1 ends
March 22 (Mon)	Subterm 2 begins
March 24 (Wed)	Last day to add an online class for subterm 2
March 22- March 26	Spring break
March 25 – March 26	College Closed
March 28 (11:59pm Sun)	Deadline for student participation in subterm 2 module 0
March 31 – April 15	Advising/Online Registration
April 9 (Fri)	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty from On-ground classes
April 23 (Fri)	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty from Subterm 2
April 27 (Tues)	Honors Convocation
May 10-14	Finals Week
May 16 (Sun)	Graduation

Summer Sessions 2027

Subterm 1

May 24 (Mon)	Summer Subterm 1 begins
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May 26 (Wed)	Last day to add an online class
May 30 (11:59pm Sun)	Deadline for student participation in subterm 1 module 0
May 31 (Mon)	College Closed – Memorial Day
June 11 (Fri)	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
June 18 (Fri)	College Closed – Juneteenth Observed
June 25 (Fri)	Subterm 1 ends

Subterm 2

June 28 (Mon)	Subterm 2 begins
June 30 (Wed)	Last day to add an online class
July 5 (Mon)	College Closed
July 4 (11:59pm Sun)	Deadline for student participation in subterm 2 module 0
July 16 (Fri)	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
July 30 (Fri)	Subterm 2 ends

Subterm 3

Aug 2 (Mon)	Subterm 3 begins*
Aug 8 (11:59 Sun)	Deadline for student participation in subterm 3 module 0
August 20 (Fri)	Subterm 3 ends*

*Class starting and ending times vary. Please see full schedule for more details.

Class Cancellations

Cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced by 6 a.m. for day classes and 3 p.m. for evening classes. In the event that in-person classes are cancelled, students should check Canvas for virtual class information. Cancellations will be announced on WBRE 28, WYOU 22, WNEP 16 and through the RAVE Guardian emergency messaging system for Apple and Google. When the College opens late, you will be advised in the message if it is a delayed schedule or compressed schedule. Scranton campus usually follows a compressed schedule and satellite locations will vary.

Scranton Compressed Schedules

The below schedules will go into effect whenever a compressed schedule is announced. Depending on the timing of inclement weather, the College may open at noon. Morning classes would be cancelled, offices would open at noon, and scheduled classes would be held starting at noon. This notification will be announced as all other delays. Currently, these delays are provided via the RAVE Guardian app and local television stations.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday	
Regular Schedule	Compressed Schedule
1st Period _____ 8 - 8:50 a.m.	1st Period _____ 9:30 - 10:10 a.m.
2nd Period _____ 9 - 9:50 a.m.	2nd Period _____ 10:20 - 11 a.m.
3rd Period _____ 10 - 10:50 a.m.	3rd Period _____ 11:10 - 11:50 a.m.
4th Period _____ 11 - 11:50 a.m.	4th Period _____ Noon - 12:40 p.m.
5th Period _____ Noon - 12:50 p.m.	5th Period _____ 12:50 - 1:30 p.m.
6th Period _____ 1 - 2:15 p.m.	6th Period _____ 1:40 - 2:30 p.m.
7th Period _____ 2:30 - 3:45 p.m.	7th Period _____ 2:40 - 3:30 p.m.
8th Period _____ 4 - 5:15 p.m.	8th Period _____ 4 - 5:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday	
Regular Schedule	Compressed Schedule
1st Period _____ 8 - 9:15 a.m.	1st Period _____ 9:50 - 10:40 a.m.
2nd Period _____ 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.	2nd Period _____ 10:50 - 11:40 a.m.
3rd Period _____ 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	3rd Period _____ Noon - 12:50 p.m.
BREAK _____ 12:15 - 1 p.m.	BREAK _____ CANCELLED
4th Period _____ 1 - 2:15 p.m.	4th Period _____ 1 - 2:15 p.m.
5th Period _____ 2:30 - 3:45 p.m.	5th Period _____ 2:30 - 3:45 p.m.
6th Period _____ 4 - 5:15 p.m.	6th Period _____ 4 - 5:15 p.m.

Scranton Final Exam Schedule

Final exams for Fall and Spring semesters will be held during week 16 of the semester. Please refer to the following table for exam scheduling.

Monday Classes Meet At:	Monday Final Exams Meet At:
8 a.m.	8 - 10 a.m.
10 a.m.	10:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
Noon	12:20 - 2:20 p.m.
2:30 p.m.	2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
6 p.m.	6 - 8 p.m.
Tuesday Classes Meet At:	Tuesday Final Exams Meet At:
8 a.m.	8 - 10 a.m.
11 a.m.	10:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
2:30 p.m.	12:20 - 2:20 p.m.
5:30 p.m.	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Classes Meet At	Wednesday Final Exams Meet At
9 a.m.	8 - 10 a.m.
11 a.m.	10:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
1 p.m.	12:20 - 2:20 p.m.
4 p.m.	2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
6 p.m.	6 - 8 p.m.
Thursday Classes Meet At	Thursday Final Exams Meet At
9:30 a.m.	8 - 10 a.m.
1 p.m.	10:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
4 p.m.	12:20 - 2:20 p.m.

Friday Classes Meet At	Friday Final Exams Meet At
Make-Up Day or Evening	Only for students who miss finals for legitimate reasons (at the faculty member's discretion and appointment made). Students must contact instructor prior to the missed exam.

Scranton Final Exam Compressed Schedule

Because adverse weather conditions may cause the College to either delay opening or to close entirely on any given day during final exam week, the following contingencies may go into effect:

Closing

If the College must be closed, all exams for the affected day or evening will be given on Friday of exam week. The exact same schedule should be followed on Friday as was published for the lost day.

Compressed Schedule

If the College is forced to announce a compressed schedule for any morning during exam week, the following adjustments will be made. Unless otherwise announced, evening final exams will run at the regularly scheduled time.

	If Your Regular Class Time Is:	Compressed Schedule For Final Exam Will Be:
MONDAY	8 a.m.	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
	10 a.m.	11:40 a.m. - 1:40 p.m.
	Noon	1:50 - 3:50 p.m.
	2:30 p.m.	4 - 6 p.m.
TUESDAY	8 a.m.	9:50 - 11:50 a.m.
	11 a.m.	Noon - 2 p.m.
	2:30 p.m.	2:10 - 4:10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY	9 a.m.	1 p.m.
	11 a.m.	11:40 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.
	1 p.m.	1:50 – 3:50 p.m.
	4 p.m.	4 – 6 p.m.
THURSDAY	9:30 a.m.	9:50 – 11:50 a.m.
	1 p.m.	Noon – 2 p.m.
	4 p.m.	2:10 – 4:10 p.m.

Interruption of Service Policy

In the event of an unanticipated impact to instruction, the Lackawanna College administration will support each Division Chair and/or Program Director in developing an appropriate plan for all impacted areas of study. These plans will consider all modalities of instruction, including but not limited to, converting lecture-based content to an online format. These plans will also address necessary space and equipment requirements to assure continuity of the educational experience and follow all state and federal health/safety regulations and guidelines. Final plans will require approval by AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness and/or AVP of Academic Operations.

Students will be made aware of these changes to classroom formatting verbally and/or in writing, with frequent updates provided. In the event of requiring change to a course modality, college staff will reach out to all students impacted to assure continuity of educational services and meet each individual need.



Academic Information

Academic Information

Process to Formally Appeal A Course Grade

Students have the right to appeal their course grades. Please remember that the responsibility to judge student performance and assess student learning rests solely with the instructor. Rarely are instructor grades overturned. For grades to be overturned, one of the two following criteria must be demonstrated:

1. The instructor failed to follow the grading policies and procedures outlined in the course syllabus.

OR

2. The instructor considered irrelevant or capricious factors in determining the course grade.

If a student believes that one of these criteria was present, they may make a formal appeal to change the grade. The appeal process includes the following steps:

1. The student must begin the appeal process by contacting the instructor and completing the Formal Grade Appeal Form located [on the Portal](#). The student has the right to review all their assignment grades as well as any other factors that were considered by the instructor in determining the course grade.
2. If the student is not satisfied after meeting with their instructor, they may appeal to the appropriate division chair or program director, using the Formal Grade Appeal Form located [on the portal](#). The student should be prepared to demonstrate why a grade change is warranted, including documentation that the grade was reached in error or that irrelevant factors were considered.
3. If the student is not satisfied after meeting with the appropriate division chair or program director, they may appeal to the supervisor of the division chair or program director, using the Formal Grade Appeal Form located [on the portal](#). The student should again be prepared to demonstrate why a grade change is warranted, including documentation that the grade was reached in error or that irrelevant factors were considered.
4. If the student remains unsatisfied, the final step of the appeal process is to meet with the College Provost, who will consider the student's case and render a decision. All grading decisions made by the College Provost are final.

Please note that grades must be appealed in a timely fashion. Grades must be appealed before the end of the first week of the subsequent semester.

- ❖ All fall grades must be appealed one (1) week into the following spring semester;
- ❖ All spring grades must be appealed one (1) week into the following fall semester.

If the student needs further assistance in determining how to contact the required faculty/staff member, please contact academics@lackawanna.edu.

NC-SARA Complaints and Resolutions for Online Students

Students enrolled in distance-education courses offered through NC-SARA (National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements) must first attempt to resolve any complaint or concern through Lackawanna College's internal grievance procedures. If the grievance is not resolved via college procedures, a student may submit a complaint to the

NC-SARA consumer protection policy. Student complaints eligible for SARA include concerns such as false or misleading marketing, tuition or financial aid information, accreditation accuracy, credit transferability, among other topics outlined on the [SARA Student Complaints](#) page. Lackawanna College makes both our internal complaint procedures and the NC-SARA process readily available to all online education students through:

- College Catalog
- Student Handbook
- [Lackawanna College Student Consumer Information](#) page

Change of Degree Levels (Non-Graduates)

Students are not permitted to change degree levels (i.e., Associate's to Bachelor's or vice versa, and Certificate Program to Associate's or Bachelor's degree) after the official start of the semester.

Students who wish to change degree levels must submit this request to the Student Success Center and the Registrar's Office at least one week prior to the start of the semester. Students who request to change degree levels must also meet with Student Financial Services, as any change in degree levels could have a potential financial impact within the current year as well as future funding/repayment. Each potential impact is unique and should be discussed prior to requesting the official change in degree.

Students who have earned credits while registered as an associate or bachelor's degree- seeking student may not be retroactively awarded a UG certificate for courses completed in a previous semester or semester(s).

Students wishing to change their degree level after completing an associate degree should fill out the Change of Degree form [on the portal](#). The form will be approved or denied by the Student Success Center after a student consults with Student Financial Services and then forwarded on to the Registrar for final approval and processing.

Change of Major

Any student desiring to change majors should meet with their academic advisor, an advisor in the Student Success Center, or their center advisor to complete a Change of Major form and review the requirements of the new curriculum to ensure that the appropriate courses are scheduled. Please note that a change in major may delay timely completion of graduation requirements. If the student has transfer credits from another college, re-evaluation of these credits by the Registrar's Office is necessary and could result in an adjustment in the number of credits accepted for transfer. The change of major is effective in the subsequent semester.

First Year and Graduation Seminars

COL 101

Falcon Experience is a course for first semester students at Lackawanna College intended to maximize the benefits of the college education by developing supportive relationships with faculty, staff, and classmates. Emphasis will be placed on the college experience, academic skills, life skills, and institutional values.

Note: College 101 is a mandatory course for all undergraduate students. Students may not withdraw from COL 101 (except full college withdrawal). Failure to complete the course will result in a grade of F, and students who earn an F will be required to repeat the course. A transfer student earning at least 12 credits with a minimum cumulative GPA of a 2.00 has an option to take a waiver quiz. Contact Student Success for more information .

COL 201

Capstone is the culmination of the Lackawanna College learning experience for all associate degree graduates. Students will reflect on their overall experience, demonstrating how education has been applied to illustrate the values of a profession. Students will gather important information and tools necessary to prepare for success in post-college employment and / or future education.

Note: COL 201 is mandatory for most associate degree students. Students who fail this course will repeat in subsequent semester or Subterm. Students who ultimately fail will receive a failing grade on their transcripts, which will affect their overall GPA. Students should refer to their major's curriculum requirements to determine what major specific capstone course(s) is/are required for major completion.

** Some specialty programs embed the COL 101/201 course learning outcomes into other courses. See curriculum guides for details.

** Bachelor's and Master's Degree programs have major-specific capstone requirements built into the final semester of curriculum. Students should refer to their major's curriculum requirements to determine what major specific capstone course(s) is/are required for major completion.

GSS 500

Graduate Success Seminar This one-credit course provides graduate students with an overview of topics that are essential to student success. Course topics include graduate-level scholarly writing, library research, APA formatting, artificial intelligence, Institutional Review Board guidelines, and opportunities provided by the Graduate Student Association.

Note: GSS 500 is a mandatory course for all graduate-level students. This is a Pass/Fail course. A grade of Pass is required for this course.

Academic Complaints

Concerns About Teaching Faculty or Academics

If a student has concerns about teaching faculty or academics, the student should meet with the faculty member, if feasible. If not satisfied, the student should then fill out the appropriate form [via the portal](#) to request to meet with the division chairperson or the appropriate program director. If still not satisfied, the student may again use the portal form the request to meet with the AVP of Academic Operations and/or the AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness or their designee. If not satisfied, please contact academics@lackawanna.edu.

Concerns With Policy, Regulation, and/or Procedure

If a student has concerns with policy, regulation, and or procedure, the student should meet with a staff member. If not satisfied, the student should then meet with a staff member's supervisor. If still not satisfied, the student meets with the College Provost. If the student needs further assistance in determining how to contact the required faculty/staff member, please contact academics@lackawanna.edu. Meetings can be in-person or set up via Teams or phone.

Graduation, Honors, and Alumni

Associate and Bachelor's Degree Requirements for Graduation

All students meeting graduation requirements for December, May, or August graduation must complete an application for graduation through their Capstone – COL 201 or COL 401/441 class.

All potential graduates are required to register for the Capstone class and complete all class requirements. The College is not responsible for those students who fail to apply by the deadline, as graduation orders must be placed well in advance. Students who meet requirements but do not apply for graduation will not be listed on the graduation roster, nor will completion of degree be indicated on the student transcript. No diploma will be ordered for students who do not apply for graduation.

For any questions regarding graduation requirements, please contact the Registrar.

Master's Degree Requirements for Graduation

To qualify for graduation and to be eligible for participation in commencement ceremony, graduate students must fulfill the following requirements:

- ❖ Approval of the Graduation Clearance Coordinator and Registrar's Office that all academic requirements have been fulfilled.
- ❖ Successful completion of the total number of credits and all courses required for the program.
- ❖ Successful completion of all course related program requirements with at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.
- ❖ Compliance with all academic requests including submission of a graduation application.

Graduation Honors

The graduation program and the bachelor's degree, associate degree, or certificate diploma will indicate scholastic honors as follows:

- ❖ Summa cum laude (with highest honors): 3.90 – 4.00 Cumulative Quality Point Index.
- ❖ Magna cum laude (with high honors): 3.80 – 3.89 Cumulative Quality Point Index.
- ❖ Cum laude (with honors): 3.70 - 3.79 Cumulative Quality Point Index.

President's List

A matriculating undergraduate student qualifies for the President's List if they achieve a grade point average of 4.0 for the semester and the student has completed at least 12 credits during the semester. Students who earn a 4.0 grade point average with 6-11 credits completed during the semester will be named to the Dean's list.

Dean's List

A matriculating undergraduate student qualifies for the Dean's List if they achieve a grade point average of 3.7 to 3.999 for the semester and the student has completed at least six credits during the semester.

Alumni Association

Upon graduating, students will be inducted into the Lackawanna College Alumni Association. To learn more about the Alumni Association and how to get involved as a student, contact the Office of Advancement by calling (570) 955-1541 or email alumni@lackawanna.edu.

Internships and Conferral Dates

Final grades for internships must be submitted prior to conferral dates so the Registrar's Office can audit the student record, confer it, and submit to NSC for mandated reporting. Students who do not complete internship hours by the end of the term in which the internship is registered can apply for an incomplete. However, the grace period will end five (5) days prior to the next available conferral date. Degrees for students who do not meet these deadlines will be conferred on the following conferral date.

Diploma Name Change Policy

Change of Name/Address Forms for the documentation and processing of name and/or address changes are available at the Registrar's Office and on the Portal. Processing of a name change will not be completed without legal documentation of the name change, such as a driver's license, Social Security card, etc. It is the student's responsibility to keep the College informed of any changes. If an updated diploma is requested after distribution, a fee of \$20 will apply for a new document. A diploma re-order must be accompanied with official name change documentation. While preferred

name, pronoun, and address changes can be made on the portal, these changes cannot be put on the diploma without legal documentation.

Schedule Changes

Schedule Adjustments (Drop/Add)

Students may consider dropping or adding a class during the first week of each semester or the period designated for each Subterm/Summer/Winter Session. Dates are listed in the Student Handbook, College Catalog, website, and on the portal. Please refer to health sciences program handbooks for additional limitations of drop/add for these selective admission programs. A drop/add form is used to adjust a schedule with the equivalent number of credits or to add credits to the current semester load.

An advisor from the Student Success Center in Scranton or center personnel must approve drop/add requests. If a student's credit load is changed by a schedule adjustment, a Student Financial Services advisor may also need to approve the drop/add form. If schedule changes result in a decreased credit load, a withdrawal form must be completed (see withdrawal information in next section).

Leave of Absence Policy

A leave of absence is an official period during which a matriculating student is not currently enrolled. Lackawanna College students may request a leave of absence from the College for up to two consecutive semesters or one year by completing a form available online (portal). Approval from an academic advisor is required. If a student requests a leave of absence during a semester in which they are currently enrolled, a college withdrawal form must also be completed and processed.

Students following this procedure are governed by the degree requirements that exist at the time of application for leave. However, the student must understand that this policy does not bind the College to offer their curricula or major programs which may have been discontinued or substantially altered during their leave of absence.

Students on leave who do not return within the one-year time frame must reapply for admission in the event they wish to return. Upon their readmission, current curriculum requirements will apply.

A student on a leave of absence will be considered by any loan lender to be not enrolled in school and will receive notices regarding repayment of any loans. Students who begin a leave of absence during a semester need to consult the refund policy and discuss their financial obligations with the office of Student Financial Services.

Deferment of student loan repayment due to a leave of absence is only available in limited circumstances. Students should consult with Student Financial Services to determine if they qualify.

*The current LOA timeline is extended for students actively auditing coursework to return from a program-approved LOA within a health sciences program.

Withdrawal from Course or College and Exit from Lackawanna

Student withdrawals without academic penalty will be accepted up to and including the final date to withdraw as indicated on the Academic calendar. To officially withdraw from a course or from the College, a student must obtain the Withdrawal from Course/College/Exit/Leave of Absence form from the Student Success Center or Center Advisor/Director. This form must be completed, signed by the persons specified and filed with the Registrar's Office before the last day to withdraw without academic penalty as indicated on the calendar. The Athletic Department MUST sign for any athlete who wishes to withdraw from a course or courses and the Chair of Academic Development or Center Advisor MUST sign for those students withdrawing from developmental courses. All students must speak to someone from Student Financial Services to understand the impact of the withdrawal on their financial status at the College.

Refund of tuition for properly filed withdrawal forms will be based on the refund policy (the refund policy is maintained on the portal under the Student Financial Services information page).

Official withdrawals will result in a "W" grade on the student transcript, which is not calculated in the QPA. If a student stops attending a course for which they are registered after the published census date without having officially withdrawn from the course, the student will be assigned an "AW" (failure) for the class. A student must formally withdraw to change the AW to a W in the required withdrawal timeline. The importance of an official withdrawal cannot be over-emphasized.

Students should consider the following before withdrawing from a class:

- ❖ If a full-time student, will the student remain at full-time status (12 credits)? Dropping below full-time status may affect financial aid.
- ❖ When will the course again be offered, and is the course needed before taking an advanced course?
- ❖ Has tutorial assistance been sought, or has the professor been asked for help?

Students need to be aware that withdrawing from classes will slow down progression toward completion of a chosen program of study. Should a student enrolled in a specialty program complete the withdrawal process from a program-specific course, this may result in the student's inability to

continue progressing within the program. Please refer to specialty program handbooks for additional information. It is required that students consult with an advisor in the Student Success Center, Center/Program Director, or Designee prior to completely withdrawing from the college.

Withdrawal/Exit documents must be completed by all departments prior to submitting to the Registrar in order for the paperwork to be processed and the official withdrawal to occur. Not completing the paperwork may result in an Administrative Withdrawal and/or a failing grade.

Refund of tuition for properly filed withdrawal forms will be based on the Refund Policy, which can also be accessed on the Student Financial Services [portal page](#).

If a currently registered student decides not to return to Lackawanna College for the next semester, they should complete the “Exit from LC” section of the form. This should be completed ONLY if the student is not registered for classes for the next semester (a withdrawal form is then required). Current students are advised that they may break enrollment for one academic year (two full semesters) before needing to return to the College as an admissions reentrant.

Failure to Withdraw

If a student stops attending a course for which they are registered after the published census date (end of drop/add), without having officially withdrawn from the course, the student will be assigned an AW (penalty-grade failure) for the class. The student will be directed to officially withdraw from the class by the published date (last day to withdraw). If the student does not officially withdraw from the course by the designated date, the AW will remain on official transcripts. After Week 10 of the fall/spring semester, students will no longer be dropped from courses for lack of attendance unless failing, and will instead receive the course grade earned, assuming zeros on all missed assignments, projects, tests, quizzes, participation, etc. Students should contact the Student Success Center or their Center Advisor to process the official withdraw.

New students who do not attend in-person or Subterm one courses in the first two weeks will be dropped from Subterm two courses at the start of week three with the exit reason as “never attended.” These students may contact their enrollment counselor to enroll as a new student for sub-term two after week four of the semester.

All withdrawals are subject to a Return to Title IV calculation (R2T4). This may result in the reduction of a student’s financial aid award. This change may also result in a student owing a balance to the College and/or not receiving an expected student loan refund. Students should be aware that ceasing class attendance/participation prior to the end of a payment period may negatively impact their financial aid package.

Students are fully responsible for all tuition and related costs associated with the course from which the student is withdrawing. Students should be aware that withdrawals can lead to violations of the financial aid Student Academic Progress (SAP) Policy.

Second Degree

Requirements For A Second Associate Degree

Students completing requirements for one associate degree who decide to apply for a second associate degree must complete a minimum of 15 additional credit hours that are not required for the first degree at the College. These additional credits exclude COL101, all DEV courses and COL201. If the student applies for graduation under both majors during the same academic year, the student will receive one diploma with both degrees listed.

Requirements For A Second Baccalaureate Degree

Candidates for a second baccalaureate degree are expected to complete a minimum of 30 credits at Lackawanna College beyond the completion of courses for the first degree.

Students must complete all requirements for the second degree not covered by the first- degree program for the major and cognate courses.

Requirements For A Second Master Degree

Students who have completed a Master's degree at Lackawanna College may be eligible to complete a second Master's degree at Lackawanna College, subject to the following conditions:

- ❖ Interested students will need to complete the applicable admissions process
- ❖ Admitted students will be able to apply up to six (6) credits of prior Lackawanna College graduate coursework applicable to the new degree program so long as:
 - The original course was completed with a grade of “B” or higher
 - The original course was completed within 5 years of the date of application to the new degree program
 - Courses to be counted under this policy may not include Practicum or Capstone courses
- ❖ Students will not be permitted to earn a second Master's degree in the same discipline, i.e. a second graduate degree in Organizational Leadership and Management or a second graduate degree in Higher Education Leadership.
- ❖ Students will not be permitted to pursue a third Master's degree at Lackawanna College after having completed two Master's degrees at Lackawanna College.

Students who have completed a Graduate Certificate in a given discipline at Lackawanna College who wish to enroll in a Master's degree program in the same discipline or with a concentration in the same discipline at Lackawanna College will have full credit for their Graduate Certificate granted towards the Master's degree program for all Graduate Certificate courses completed with a grade of "B" or higher within 6 years of the date of enrollment in the new degree program.

Students who have completed a Graduate Certificate at Lackawanna College or who have completed a Master's degree at Lackawanna College are permitted to complete additional Graduate Certificate programs at Lackawanna College subject to the guidelines outlined in this policy.

Students pursuing multiple Graduate degrees or Certificates at Lackawanna College are encouraged to consult with Student Financial Services regarding Financial Aid eligibility.

Student Dismissal from Class or Program

An instructor has the right to dismiss a student from a class or program according to the following process.

Additionally, students registered in one of Lackawanna College's specialty programs and/or athletics should refer to the program/athletic policy for more specific information regarding this process. Please note that programs may have specific policies that require following a different dismissal process than listed below. Violation of the Student Code of Conduct could warrant an escalation of these warnings based on circumstances:

Step 1: Verbal Warning

The instructor provides a verbal warning to the student. The warning shall identify the undesirable behavior and describe the acceptable behavior. Verbal warnings will be documented electronically in the College's Disciplinary Warning System through Starfish. The appropriate office (Dean of Students, AVP of Academic Operations, AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness, Center Director, and/or Designee) will receive an email copy of the warning. The student receives an email stating that they must contact their instructor immediately regarding the verbal warning and that failure to do so could escalate the consequences of the warning.

Step 2: Written Warning

The instructor provides a written warning to the student via the College's Disciplinary Warning System found within Starfish, with reference to the previous verbal warning. A copy of the correspondence will be sent to the appropriate administrator, and the student will be notified that they must contact that office to schedule an appointment. For behavior violations, the student will be required to meet with the Dean of Students, AVP of Academic Operations, AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness, Center Director, or

Designee before being allowed to return to class. The student will receive a letter signed by the Dean of Students, AVP of Academic Operations, AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness, Center Director, or Designee to return to the instructor after this meeting to verify that they did meet with the required office and have an action plan.

Step 3: Request For Dismissal

The instructor provides a written request for the student's dismissal from class via the College's Disciplinary Warning System in Starfish. A copy will be sent to the student and the appropriate administrator, and the student will be notified to contact that office to schedule a mandatory appointment. The appropriate office (Dean of Students, AVP of Academic Operations, AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness, Center Director or Designee) will respond within three (3) business days.

Step 4: Dismissal

The appropriate office administrator will have a letter delivered to the student notifying the student of the dismissal from class within three (3) business days of notification. The dismissal will be effective on the date the correspondence or announcement is issued. A student may have the right to appeal the dismissal from class or program. In the case when a student is dismissed without appeal, no further recourse is available. Students may waive this right when responsibility is taken or when they choose to accept dismissal. The dismissal letter will include instructions regarding the process to appeal the decision if an appeal is applicable, and if an appeal is made, the student will be scheduled to appear before the College Appeal Board. The letter will advise the student of the potential effect that a dismissal may have on their financial aid. A copy of the letter will be sent to the instructor and the College Provost.

Step 5: Student Appeal

Students executing their right to appeal the dismissal may appeal to the College Appeal Board, which is comprised of one officer from the Student Government Association or another student leader, Residence Life Director or designee, faculty member or designee, Student Wellness Program staff or designee, and Associate Dean of HIPs and Faculty Success or designee. Please refer to the Student Dismissal from Class or Program Appeal Policy in the Academic Policy section of the Handbook.

Transcripts

Following the completion of a term, transcripts will include all official course grades. In case of a discrepancy between the grade displayed in the Canvas LMS and the transcript, the transcript grade

shall be considered the official record. Official Lackawanna College transcripts are requested online through the [National Student Clearinghouse](#).

You can order a transcript by going to the Student Clearinghouse website or you can go to our website under Registrar's Office and simply follow the step-by-step instructions listed. Please have the correct recipient/receiver's email address available for the electronic order delivery.

A transcript is not issued to or for a student who is in debt to Lackawanna College. If you attended our Continuing Education Program and are requesting a transcript, please contact the Registrar's Office at 570-961-7816 or registrar@lackawanna.edu.

If you attend our Massage Therapy Program and are requesting a transcript, please contact the Lake Region Center at (570)226-4625 or lakeregion@lackawanna.edu.

If you attended our Paramedic Program and are requesting a transcript, please contact the Registrar's Office at registrar@lackawanna.edu.

NOTE: In compliance with the US Department of Education, official transcripts will only be released for terms in which a student received Title IV, HEA funds, and for which all institutional charges are paid in full. Course grades and quality points for the semesters/terms that do not meet such criteria will be indicated as such with *BH.

Transfer of Credit to Lackawanna College

Before a student can be considered for transfer evaluation, they must apply to the College as a matriculating student. The student must then request that official transcripts be forwarded to the Registrar's Office. Lackawanna College's transfer policy requires that all transfer credits completed before initial enrollment be submitted no later than the official start date of the student's first semester. Previous coursework will be evaluated by the Registrar in direct relation to the student's declared major.

Only credit for courses with grades of C- or better may be accepted in transfer regardless of the method of delivery. Transfer of coursework from other institutions is granted as credit only unless prior written approval has been obtained to repeat and replace a course in transfer (see Repeated Coursework). Credits eligible for transfer evaluation include, but are not limited to, those earned at institutions that have been accredited by the following organizations:

- ❖ Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
- ❖ New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- ❖ North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

- ❖ Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges
- ❖ Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Inc.
- ❖ Western Association of Schools and Colleges
- ❖ Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
- ❖ Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities

Credits earned at non-accredited institutions, foreign institutions, or institutions accredited by organizations other than those listed above are evaluated for transfer at the discretion and consensus of the Registrar, College Provost, and corresponding division chair/program director.

Credit earned at foreign institutions must be evaluated by a professional transcript evaluation service before transfer credit will be reviewed. AP and CLEP exams will be reviewed for possible transfer credit once the Registrar's Office receives an official score report directly from the College Board.

Transfer of undergraduate credit earned prior to 20 years before the student's application will be at the discretion of the Registrar.

*Transfer evaluation of Vascular Technology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Cardiac Sonography, Physical Therapist Assistant, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Surgical Technology and Nursing curriculum candidates are based upon criteria specified in program guidelines and according to program-specific accreditation standards.

Transfer credit at the graduate level is subject to the above guidelines and also must meet the following additional standards: The course must be equivalent to at least three Lackawanna College credits. The grade earned for the courses to be transferred must be a B or above. The courses transferred must have been taken within the last five years of the date of matriculation into the Lackawanna College graduate program.

Transfer of Credit Subsequent to Matriculation

To assure transferability, any degree seeking Lackawanna College student who elects to take coursework at an outside institution with the intention of transferring it back to Lackawanna College must obtain written approval from the Registrar. Forms requesting permission to transfer credit from outside institutions to Lackawanna College are available on the portal under Registrar's Office. Course descriptions must be submitted with requests, and a minimum of five (5) business days will be required for review and approval. Requests should be sent to the Registrar.

Academic Affairs Policies

Academic Development Policy

Academic Development coursework is designed to provide students who may require additional instruction with the basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills they will need to find success at the college level. The College uses SAT, ACT, and/or ACCUPLACER scores to determine the proper placement of students.

This coursework is considered a prerequisite before any additional courses may be taken in the corresponding area. Academic Development courses receive institutional credit only. They may not be used in any of the College's curricula, but the grades earned in developmental courses will be calculated into the student's GPA.

The developmental courses are DEV 010 Basic Writing Skills, DEV 020 Reading for College, and DEV 030 Basic Math Skills. The bridge courses are ENG 102 Fundamentals of Writing, ENG 103 Critical Reading, and MAT 110 Introduction to Algebra. Bridge courses may be used as a free elective in some programs.

Progression from DEV courses is as follows:

DEV 010 – Basic Writing Skills – Students must earn at least a “B-” grade in DEV 010 before they may enroll in ENG 105. Students receiving less than a “B-” are required to enroll in and successfully complete ENG 102, Fundamentals of Writing, before moving on to ENG 105. Students who earn a D+, D, or F must repeat the course.

DEV 020 – Reading for College – Students receiving less than a “B-” in DEV 020 are required to enroll in and successfully complete ENG 103, Critical Reading. Students may not enroll in PSY 105 while enrolled in Reading for College; however, they may enroll in both PSY 105 and ENG 103 in the same semester. Students who earn a D+, D, or F must repeat the course.

DEV 030 – Basic Math Skills – Students enrolled in DEV 030 must successfully complete the course with a C- (70%) or better to enroll in MAT 110 (Introduction to Algebra). Students who earn a D+, D, or F must repeat the course. Students will not be allowed to enroll directly into MAT 120 (College Algebra) without successfully completing MAT 110.

Policies Applicable to DEV and Bridge-Level Courses:

1. A student may only take a developmental or bridge level course if they place or progress into it. If a student wishes to take a developmental or bridge course without placing or progressing into it for a specific educational reason, they may appeal this policy to the Academic Development Division Chair.

2. Students who place into all three developmental courses may not enroll in the college after the first day of the term (semester or Subterm).
3. Full-time students who place into one or more developmental or bridge-level courses must enroll in these courses in their first semester. Full-time students who progress from a developmental course to a bridge course in the same content area must take the bridge course in the semester immediately following the developmental course.
4. Part-time students who place into one or more developmental or bridge-level courses must enroll in one or more developmental or bridge courses each semester until all developmental and/or bridge requirements are completed. Students may appeal this policy to the Chair of the Academic Development Division.
5. Students will not be allowed to register for any science course until required developmental coursework has been successfully completed. Students may appeal this policy to the Chair of the Academic Development Division. Exceptions will be made ONLY after the Academic Development Division Chair and academic advisor review all academic information with the student.
6. A student who tests into all three developmental courses (DEV 010 Basic Writing, DEV 020 Reading for College, and DEV 030 Basic Math) may not take more than 16 credits in their first semester.
7. English Language Development (ELL 030) is a four-credit course designed to provide students who may require additional instruction with the basic reading and writing skills they will need to find success at the college level. Students are placed in the English Language Development course by identifying as non-native speakers as well as the score earned from SAT, ACT, and/or ACCUPLACER. This course is considered a prerequisite before any additional courses may be taken in the corresponding area. The English Language Development course is institutional credit only. It may not be used in any of the College's curricula. ELL 030 does calculate in the student's GPA. Students who place into ELL 030 are enrolled into the Professional Studies major. Students can change their major after successful completion through the progression of ELL 030 and Academic Development coursework. Students who earn at least a 70% in ELL 030 move to ENG 102 and ENG 103. Students who earn less than a 70% will move to DEV 010 and DEV 020. ELL 030 is offered in person at our Scranton campus. Students who test into ELL 030 but choose to take online classes can appeal this course through the Academic Development division chair. Students who opt out of ELL 030 will take DEV 010 and DEV 020. A student who would like to take ELL 030 out of progression may appeal to the Academic Development Division Chair for permission to do so.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic dishonesty in any form, such as plagiarism and cheating, will not be tolerated. Sanctions will include an automatic 0% grade for plagiarism on the assignment in question, but the severity or frequency of the violation may further result in a failing grade in the course, dismissal from an academic program, or dismissal from the College. The following are among the forms of dishonesty for which sanctions may be applied:

- ❖ Using books, notes, or other materials during an examination, unless expressly permitted.
- ❖ Using purchased essays, term papers, or preparatory research for such papers.
- ❖ Copying others' work or engaging in unauthorized cooperation during an assignment or examination.
- ❖ Allowing another student to copy from an examination or other assignment intended to be performed independently.
- ❖ Borrowing from published works, whether material is taken verbatim or with minor alterations without proper and/or sufficient acknowledgment.
- ❖ Submitting as one's own work originally done by someone else.
- ❖ Submitting the same written report in more than one course without prior approval from the instructor(s) involved.
- ❖ Stealing or purchasing examinations or assignments.
- ❖ Supplying or selling examinations or assignments.
- ❖ Misrepresenting statements concerning work submitted.
- ❖ Falsifying or fabricating experimental data or results.
- ❖ Falsifying or fabricating the need for extensions on papers or make-up examinations; and
- ❖ Misrepresenting identity in an online course.
- ❖ The submission of text or other material generated by AI (artificial intelligence) not expressly allowed by the instructor.

The purpose of the Academic Integrity Policy is to ensure that faculty oversees the application of sanctions resulting from academic dishonesty and that due process is provided to all parties. The primary responsibility for maintaining personal integrity and honor in academic activities rests with the student. Lackawanna College reserves the right to use plagiarism detection tools, such as Plagiarism Check or similar. Lackawanna College's faculty members have agreed to proceed in a uniform manner whenever they detect violations of academic integrity. Therefore, regardless of the form these violations take (see list above), and regardless of the class, location, or instructor, an offending student (or students) will incur the same penalty: a grade of 0% for the assignment. This action will be taken immediately after the violation has been reported and, unless reversed through the appeal process (see below), will remain in effect.

If a student violates the Academic Integrity Policy for a second time, the offense will result in a failing grade (F) in the course. This action will be taken immediately after the violation has been reported and, unless reversed through the appeal process (see below), will remain in effect no matter the consequences to one's financial aid, athletic eligibility, or overall academic standing. Repeated violations of the Academic Integrity Policy may also result in dismissal of the student from an academic program or from the College. Under unusual circumstances, the provost reserves the right to dismiss the student from a class or an academic program after the first infraction of the Academic Integrity Policy.

All violations of the Academic Integrity Policy are reported through the College's Disciplinary Warning System, Starfish. Instructors may request that the AVP of Academic Operations counsel students after a first violation. Students will be required to meet with the AVP of Academic Operations after their second violation.

Academic Integrity Appeal Process

The student has the right to appeal the action of the instructor and/or AVP of Academic Operations when accused of a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy if one of the following criteria are present:

- ❖ **Unsupported finding:** The instructor and/or AVP of Academic Operations reached a conclusion about the academic integrity offense that was not supported by evidence.
- ❖ **New information:** The student has new information that was not available at the time of the original decision.
- ❖ **Procedural error:** The instructor and/or AVP of Academic Operations did not follow the Academic Integrity Policy when responding to academic integrity offense.

A student who wishes to appeal an academic integrity offense must contact the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness to request the appeal in writing within

three days of the action taken by the instructor and/or AVP of Academic Operations, describing in detail which of the above criteria are met in the situation. The AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness will review the request for appeal, and if they determine that one of the above criteria have been met, they will assemble an appeal board to investigate further.

Academic Integrity Appeal Boards will consist of three members of full-time faculty, program staff, eLearning Department leadership, and/or the Registrar. Appeal Boards will be responsible for considering the original accusation and information from the instructor along with the student's appeal based on the above criteria. The outcome of the appeal will be based on a majority vote of the Appeal Board. The Appeal Board will communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to Academic Affairs leadership.

Possible outcomes include:

1. Upholding the original offense and consequence: In this case the zero grade on the assignment (first offense) or the final grade of F in the course (second offense) will stand.
2. Overturning the original offense and consequence: In this case the zero grade on the assignment (first offense) or F in the course (second offense) will be overturned. The instructor will work with Academic Affairs leadership to provide the student a reasonable opportunity to make up the work in the form of either a new attempt at the original assignment or an alternative assignment related to the same learning outcome(s).

***All decisions of the Appeal Board are final.**

Canvas Storage Policy

Canvas is intended to support course activities and communication; it should not be used as a primary storage location for student work or personal documents. Students are responsible for maintaining copies of all coursework, assignments, and important files on their own devices or in a secure personal storage solution (e.g., cloud storage such as OneDrive, Google Drive, or similar).

The College does not guarantee the long-term storage or availability of materials within Canvas. Course content and submissions may be removed, archived, or become inaccessible after a course concludes or at any time deemed necessary by the institution.

Academic Standing Policies

Good Academic Standing

To qualify for a degree, an undergraduate student must attain a minimum GPA of 2.0 and satisfy all curriculum requirements. Graduate students must attain a minimum GPA of 3.0 and satisfy all curriculum requirements. Students in good academic standing must have the minimum progress requirements to prevent them from being placed on academic notice, academic suspension, or receive an academic dismissal as described below. Students in specialty programs should refer to their program handbook for additional information.

Academic Notice

The following criteria will be used in determining Academic Notice:

- ❖ Freshmen with 1-11 credits attempted having a CGPA with minimum progress of 1.75 will be placed on Academic Notice.
- ❖ Freshmen with 12-31 credits attempted having a CGPA of less than 1.85 will be placed on Academic Notice.
- ❖ Upperclassmen with 32 credits or more attempted having a CGPA of less than 2.0 will be placed on Academic Notice.
- ❖ Graduate students having a CGPA of less than 3.0 will be placed on Academic Notice.

Credits Attempted	Minimum Progress (GPA)
1-11 (freshman)	1.75
12-31 (freshman)	1.85
32+ (upperclassman)	2.0
3 (Graduate)	3.0

Minimum Progress Requirements

To avoid academic dismissal, a student on Academic Notice must attain in the next semester a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) that meets the following minimum progress requirements.

Credits Attempted	Minimum Progress (GPA)
0-31	1.85
32+	2.0
Graduate	3.0

Academic Suspension

A student on Academic Notice whose Cumulative Grade Point Average falls below the College's minimum progress requirements as listed above will be suspended. A suspended student ordinarily cannot register for courses in the subsequent semester. Once a student is on academic notice and then falls below the required academic progress, they are automatically put on academic suspension.

If a suspended student believes that extenuating circumstances contributed to academic difficulties during a particular semester, they may appeal the suspension to the Lackawanna Appeals Committee prior to the date published within the notification letter.

Students are permitted to appeal their academic suspension one time. If a student is academically suspended for a second time, they will be academically dismissed from the College. See the Academic Dismissal Policy for details.

To appeal an academic suspension and obtain the requirements to overcome suspension, the student should email appeals@lackawanna.edu. Students who appeal an academic suspension and are subsequently approved to return to the College because of a successful appeal must show academic progress in their first semester upon return. In this case, academic progress is defined upon successful appeal and documented via the student's success plan. If a student on suspension does not show progress during their first semester following a successful appeal or does not achieve good academic standing after two semesters, the student will be dismissed. If a student returns after appealing an academic dismissal but does not show progress after their first semester upon return or does not achieve good academic standing after two semesters upon return, the student will be dismissed without appeal.

Academic Dismissal

An undergraduate student on Academic Notice whose Cumulative Grade Point Average falls below a 1.50 or who is academically suspended for a second time will be academically dismissed from the College. A graduate student on Academic Notice whose CGPS falls below 3.0 or who is academically suspended for a second time will be academically dismissed from the College.

Academic Dismissal is permanent unless, with good cause, the student may reapply to the College after one calendar year and be accepted under special consideration by the Lackawanna College Appeals Committee. Students in specialty programs should refer to their program handbook for additional information. To request an appeal for an academic dismissal, a student should email appeals@lackawanna.edu. Financial aid eligibility is a separate policy, and the student must complete the financial aid appeal and be approved or have another source of payment determined prior to registration. A student must be in good disciplinary standing to be removed from academic suspension. Students on disciplinary probation or suspension should contact the Student Accountability and Restorative Practices office for their disciplinary status at (570) 955-1522.

Students who appeal an academic dismissal and are subsequently approved to return to the College because of a successful appeal must show academic progress in their first semester upon return. In this case, academic progress is defined upon successful appeal and documented via the student's success plan. If a student previously dismissed does not show progress during their first semester following a successful appeal or does not achieve good academic standing after two semesters, the student will be dismissed with no appeal.

Deadlines for Academic and Financial Aid (SAP) Suspension/Dismissals Appeal

To Return For:	
Fall Semester	3 weeks before Fall semester begins
Spring Semester	2 weeks before Spring semester begins

To adequately prepare for your return, appeals received after these deadlines will be considered for the following term.

Students will be notified of academic notice, suspension, or dismissal through Starfish. Notification will be sent to the student's Lackawanna College email address and a copy will also be mailed to the student's address on file. A student who neglects to check Lackawanna College email is not exempt from applicable notice, suspended, or dismissed status.

Commit to Success Program

If an undergraduate student is on Academic Notice status, successful appeal of academic suspension or dismissal and students who are on satisfactory academic progress (SAP), impacting their financial aid are required to complete the Commit to Success program. The Commit to Success Program is a support program designed to develop/improve academic skills to better the education of students on academic notice. Students will meet with the Academic Success Coach or Center Designee throughout the semester.

The Commit to Success Program requirements include the following:

- ❖ Enroll in a maximum of 13 credits during the semester on Academic Notice.
- ❖ Repeat any available courses that an “F” was received
- ❖ Attend 3 mandatory meetings with a Success Coach or a staff member at your Center throughout the semester
- ❖ Attend a workshop in the Student Success Workshop series
- ❖ Students are also required to complete their FAFSA if they are choosing to use aid and meet with a member of Student Financial Services to ensure payment options are determined prior to registering.
- ❖ Upon completion of the program, students will receive a certificate of completion.

Students on Academic Notice should contact the Success Coach at studentsuccess@lackawanna.edu or their Center Advisor to enter into the Commit to Success program to ensure continuous enrollment in the college. Participation in the Commit to Success program is required for consideration of appeals.

*Graduate students on Academic Notice are expected to meet regularly with their academic advisor.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance and engagement are crucial to student success and are expected in all in-person and online courses. Students are responsible for all content, assignments, and announcements shared during class. Make-up work in any missed class is at the discretion of the instructor, per the instructor’s course policy located in the syllabus.

If a student does not attend class by the end of the drop/add period, they will be removed from the class as “never attended” and will not be allowed back into the class. If a student no longer wants to remain in a course, the student should contact the Student Success Center or Center Academic Advisor to discuss the policy for course withdrawals.

The standard attendance policy is as follows:

Deadlines: Academic Suspension/Dismissals	Maximum Number of Absences Allowed
DEV010, DEV020, DEV030	The equivalent of one week of class
100 and 200 level courses	The equivalent of two weeks of class
300/400/500/600 level courses	To be determined by instructor
On-ground Sub-term Courses (Culinary, Baking & Pastry, Hospitality)	The equivalent of one week of class
Clinical Coursework and fieldwork in the Health Sciences	To be determined by the instructor

For graduate level courses, instructors will hold weekly live/synchronous sessions. While these are optional for students to attend, the opportunity to engage with peers and the instructor will enhance Students' learning and application of the material. Students should participate early and consistently to demonstrate attendance and engagement. Failure to participate online in graduate courses each week may result in attendance penalties, including being dropped from the course.

For hybrid courses, no online work for one week counts as one absence. For hybrid courses, two absences are considered the equivalent of one week of class, with regard to the table above. Additionally, a student may not accumulate more than two on-ground absences in a 100- or 200-level hybrid course. Accumulation of more than two on-ground absences will result in being administratively withdrawn from a 100- or 200-level course.

Students enrolled in credit-bearing courses at Lackawanna College will be administratively withdrawn (AW) from any course(s) in which they accumulate absences beyond the maximum number allowed. This will be recorded as an AW on the student's transcript and will calculate as an F unless a student finalizes the withdrawal prior to the last day to withdraw from courses. Changes in credit hours due to AWs or withdrawals may impact financial aid/billing, so students should contact Student Financial Services prior to any changes in credit hours. Students wishing to withdraw or not be impacted by the AW, should contact their Advisor or the Student Success Center to officially withdraw from class (see Withdrawal from Course or College).

After week 10, students who are passing a course will no longer be administratively withdrawn from the course for lack of attendance and will instead receive the course grade earned, assuming zeros on all missed assignments, projects, tests, quizzes, participation, etc. However, a student with a course grade of F after week 10 may still be administratively withdrawn by the instructor. These norms will apply for traditional fall and spring semester schedules. Separate scales will be devised for intersession and summer sessions. Students enrolled in online classes should refer to the Attendance Policy for Online Courses, which is included here and in each online course syllabus.

The Student Success Center or Center Advisor can provide additional guidance related to these situations.

Program-specific attendance requirements may supersede general attendance requirements.

Attendance for in-person classes will be tracked in Starfish daily.

Attendance Policy Appeal

Appeals for perceived errors related to the attendance policy and its enforcement may be made in writing to the AVP of Academic Operations and/or the AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness. The appeal must include documentation to substantiate the request. Appeals must be made in a timely manner, and all decisions of the AVP of Academic Operations, AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness, or designee are final.

Planned Absences

If a student expects to be absent for any of the following reasons, the student must inform their instructor as soon as possible in writing, prior to the missed course meeting. If a student or College designee reports that a student will be absent for one of the following reasons, the student may be excused for an additional absence. Instructors may require verification of planned absences. Students should be aware of each instructor's policy regarding missed assignments and alternative academic engagement.

- ❖ Travel considered part of the instructional program of the College (e.g., school sponsored field trips)
- ❖ Travel as part of a team or organization that is representing the College (e.g., club field trips, NCAA competition, etc.)
- ❖ Jury duty or other official civil service such as National Guard (see also leave due to military service)
- ❖ Religious Holidays

Unforeseeable Absences

Students who cannot attend class for an extended period due to an unforeseen circumstance, such as house fire, accident, severe weather, funeral, etc. should contact all applicable instructors

immediately to determine next steps. This communication must take place before the student exceeds the number of allowed absences in the course. The student should also inform the Student Success Center of the concern. A student can find the correct alert in Starfish to start the notification process.

If a student must miss class due to medical reasons or extended military leave, the student should refer to the Leave Due to Medical Exigency and Leave Due to Military Service policies.

Attendance Policy – Online Courses

Students enrolled in credit-bearing courses at Lackawanna College will be administratively withdrawn from any course(s) in which they accumulate absences beyond the maximum number allowed. This pertains to online courses as well. Attendance is defined by participating in an academic activity within the online classroom, which includes making posts and replies in a course-related graded discussion forum or submitting a course-related written assignment. Students who fail to participate in an academic activity in an online classroom as described above prior to the last day to drop/add will automatically be dropped from the course.

- ❖ Students are required to engage in discussion by making an initial post to the instructor's prompt by the assigned day of the week (Wednesday) and then submitting the required number of replies by the end of the week (Sunday). Please note that the initial post by Wednesday is separate from the three replies due by Sunday. Students are encouraged to responsibly manage their time, participate in the online course as early in the week as possible (while also being mindful of other obligations and responsibilities).
- ❖ Undergraduate students who do not participate in any course-related discussions AND who do not submit any course-related assignments for any ONE week (prior to the last day to withdraw for the Subterm) will be DROPPED from the course.
- ❖ Students who do not participate in any discussions AND who do not submit any assignments for any ONE week (after the last day to withdraw for the Subterm) will receive zeros on all missed discussions/assignments.
- ❖ Undergraduate students who have a course grade of F and do not submit any assignments for any ONE week after the last day to withdraw for the Subterm may be dropped by the instructor.
- ❖ It is the responsibility of the student to formally withdraw from the course through the Student Success Center or center advisor, or see withdrawal from course policy.

- ❖ For graduate level courses, instructors will hold weekly live/synchronous sessions. While these are optional for students to attend, the opportunity to engage with peers and the instructor will enhance students' learning and application of the material. Students should participate early and consistently to demonstrate attendance and engagement. Failure to participate in graduate courses each week may result in attendance penalties, including being dropped or administratively withdrawn from the course.

If a student anticipates missing class for an extended period of time, 3 days or longer, the student should reach out to the Student Success Center, prior to the absence, to discuss options regarding the Active Military Service Leave Policy or the Medical Exigency Policy.

Leave Due to Medical Exigency

If a physician determines that a student requires medical treatment during a semester and is unable to continue in their coursework, the College has mechanisms in place to protect the student's academic and financial status. Any student who falls under this category should contact the Student Success Center to determine next steps and available options.

- ❖ If a student requires medical treatment for more than 14 calendar days, they will be unable to continue in on-ground courses. If a student requires medical treatment for more than 7 calendar days, they will be unable to continue in online courses.
- ❖ If a student misses up to 14 calendar days of an on-ground class and/or up to 7 days of an online class for medical treatment, a member of the Student Success Center team will assist the student in developing an academic plan to catch up on missed work and assignments upon the student's return. The Director of Student Success or designee will collaborate with faculty members, tutors, and the Student Wellness Office to create an individualized plan for the student's re-entry into coursework.
- ❖ If a student requires medical treatment for more than 14 consecutive calendar days (and/or 7 days for an online class) during the first three weeks of the semester, the student will be "dropped" from classes as if he or she never attended and given a full refund. Summer and Intersession dates will be prorated – 8 days for summer sessions, 3 days for Intersession to receive full refund and be "dropped" from the classes.
- ❖ If a student requires medical treatment for more than 14 consecutive calendar days (and/or 7 days for an online class) after 70% of the semester or term is complete, the Student Success Center will initiate the Incomplete Policy on the student's behalf for all classes in which the student has a passing grade when the student is unable to proceed. Per the

College's Incomplete Policy, the student will have 30 days from the end of the semester to complete coursework. Otherwise, the Incomplete turns to an F. If a student chooses not to pursue an Incomplete at the time of initiation of the medical leave, or if the student does not have a passing grade in a course or courses, he or she may withdraw without academic penalty.

- ❖ If a student requires medical treatment for more than 14 consecutive calendar days (and/or 7 days for an online class) between week 3 and the 70% mark of the semester (Week 11 for ground courses), the student will be withdrawn without academic penalty. This will begin after day 8 for summer sessions and day three for Intersession courses through their 70% mark.
- ❖ In all cases, if a student chooses to return to the College at any point after their medical leave, the Student Success Center will help create an individualized support plan.

If any student, at any location, anticipates missing class for an extended period of time, 3 days or longer, due to medical reasons, they should reach out to the Student Success Center prior to the absence to discuss the medical exigency policy options. Students can raise the medical concern alert in Starfish to begin this process. If a student was unable to notify Student Success prior to their medical absences, they should reach out immediately upon return to class.

If a student notifies an instructor that they will exceed the allotted absences for their class, an attendance concern flag should be raised in Starfish. If the exceeded absences are due to a medical reason, the medical concern flag should be raised.

Leave Due to Military Service

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate and support the transition of students ordered to active military service. The following procedure will be observed:

1. The student notifies Student Success of their "Order to Active Military Service."
2. The student is required to produce a copy of their official military orders directing them to report for active duty, which will be copied and retained in the student's academic file. (A fax copy is not acceptable.)
3. The "Ordered To Active Military Service" form found on the portal must be completed, and it is recommended that he or she see their advisor, their Student Success Coach, Center Director, or Director of Student Success and appropriate professors to discuss and determine the best possible option (specific options follow) given the circumstances. Once the best option is determined, the completed form will be signed by the student and faculty members (where applicable) and returned to the Office of the Registrar.

4. OPTIONS (the following are guidelines; the student elects the option):
- a. If coursework is at 70% or more of completion and you are passing, the student may consider accepting Incomplete (I) grades. Full tuition charges will apply, and the student will be given every reasonable opportunity to complete their coursework. Faculty approval is required for this option. A student will have 8 weeks subsequent to semester's end to complete coursework with their instructor. Should extenuating circumstances be present which delay timely completion, an appeal for extension may be made in writing to the AVP of Academic Operations. The results of said appeal will be conveyed by the AVP of Academic Operations to pertinent administrative departments (Registrar, Financial Services, Student Success).
 - b. If the semester is close to completion, the student may confer with their instructors and the Director of Student Success to determine if an early final might be allowed, and final grades assigned. Faculty approval is required for this option.
 - c. If coursework is not near completion, the student may consider withdrawal with full tuition refund or tuition credit.
 - d. The student may elect a combination of the above. Faculty approval is option. If option D is taken, the course specifics will be noted on the form.
5. The student selecting option C will be asked if they elect a tuition refund or credit. This will be noted on the form.
- a. The student will be advised to obtain departmental signatures. Once completed, the form will undergo data processing and distribution. Departmental procedures are as follows:
 - b. The Student Financial Services Department will administer the student's tuition in accordance with the option chosen. Should the student elect option A, B or D, any applicable tuition will be billed to the student, a deferred payment may be available. Where applicable, Residence and Meal Plan charges will be pro-rated from the date the student takes leave of the college.
 - c. The Student Financial Services Department will adjust or remove all financial assistance if the student elects option C and notify the student's lending institution if they have borrowed a federal student loan. The office will forward a copy of the student's "Order to Active Military Service" papers to the student's lenders.

- d. The Registrar's Office will withdraw students from any subsequent semester courses for which they are pre-registered, process the selected option and retain the supporting paperwork.
6. If the student is a college resident, the Director of Residence Life will be notified by the Associate Vice President of Student Success.

On-Ground Course Policy Regarding Remote Learning

Students are expected to attend on-ground classes in person according to the applicable published attendance policy. Make-up work in any missed class is at the discretion of the instructor, per the instructor's course policy located in the syllabus. Instructors have no obligation to allow a student to attend an on-ground class remotely via Teams, teleconference, video lecture, etc. unless directed to do so explicitly by the AVP of Academic Operations, the AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness or their designee.

Pregnant & Parenting Student Policy

Under the Department of Education's (DOE) Title IX regulations, an institution that receives federal funding "shall not discriminate against any student or exclude any student from its education program or activity, including any class or extracurricular activity, on the basis of such student's pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom." Please refer to the full Pregnant & Parenting Student Policy and Lactation Policy in the Title IX section of the Student Handbook.

Classroom Behavior Policy

All classes at Lackawanna College must be conducted in an atmosphere characterized by courtesy, respect, attentive interest, and the decorum that prevails in well- organized professional or business meetings. Instructors are obliged to interact with their students in a manner appropriate to such settings. Therefore, profanity, crude humor, intentionally intimidating, sexist or racially offensive assertions, personally degrading remarks directed at individual students, or any other violation of the Student Code of Conduct as published in this Handbook are strictly prohibited in or out of class. Likewise, students are expected to extend every courtesy and consideration to their instructor and classmates. They should remain seated and attentive throughout each class, should not speak unless recognized, should refrain from sleeping or using cell phones in the classroom, should bring no food or beverages to their classrooms, and should refrain from raising any issue not directly relevant to the subject matter of the particular course they are studying. If a student violates these norms or any

part of the Student Code of Conduct in such a way as to invite reprimand, an instructor will proceed according to the policy guidelines (Student Dismissal from Class or Program). By gradually escalating their warnings and actions, as suggested in this process, an instructor may bring about a desired behavioral change with minimum difficulty.

Credit by Examination Policy

The College wishes to recognize knowledge attained through professional experience or self-study. Matriculated students who feel that they have mastery of the content of a course (as outlined in the course syllabus) may apply for Credit by Examination. The student must seek initial approval from the appropriate Division Chairperson/Program Director and pay a \$35 processing fee. If this approval is secured, final permission must be granted by the AVP of Academic Operations or AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness before the Credit by Examination form can be obtained on the portal. Students should not presume that all Credit by Examination applications will be approved. Only those courses which lend themselves to completion by examination will be considered for such credit.

Upon the student's completion of the application form, the division chairperson will arrange for a faculty member to administer a comprehensive examination to the applicant. A letter grade is assigned for this examination and included in the computation of the student's Cumulative Quality Point Index. The charge for this service is the cost of one credit, including fees, and is due upon approval. The Student Financial Services Office should be contacted for applicable charges.

*Final determination to apply this policy across degree levels will be made at the discretion of the AVP of Academic Operations and/or the AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness and the Registrar's Office.

Credit for Experiential Learning Policy

Lackawanna College recognizes that students may have comprehensive experiential learning that may lend itself to verifiable academic achievement. Therefore, the College will allow for an equitable review of experiential learning for the possible granting of credit.

Any matriculating Lackawanna College student who has completed a minimum of 15 credits with a 2.0 average or better in residence may apply. To determine whether the student may be considered eligible for Credit for Experiential Learning, the student must contact the appropriate Division Chair/Program Director, AVP of Academic Operations, Center Director, or the Registrar. Once eligibility for evaluation has been established, the steps for application are as follows:

1. The student completes and submits a form to the Registrar requesting evaluation for Credit for Experiential Learning. Forms are available at the Registrar's office, or [on the portal](#). Applications must be submitted before the semester in which the student applies for graduations. Applications that aren't submitted within this time-frame will be denied.

2. The request should indicate the course(s) for which the student is requesting consideration and should be accompanied by a portfolio of supporting documentation with clear emphasis on demonstrated learning and proficiency as well as experience. Documentation may include but is not limited to Certificates of Training, Continuing Education Units, etc. Letters of recommendation, job performance evaluations, etc., may also be submitted but will be considered supplemental to the evaluation process. Additionally, a written narrative must be prepared, numbering from three to five pages, which details the student's knowledge, expertise, and experience regarding the area of the requested credit.
3. The student must submit a \$35 non-refundable, processing fee per course (payable to Lackawanna College) at time of application. Upon receipt of the written application and payment, the relevant division chair/program director will review the file and make a determination. Faculty consultants may be called in to offer their expertise. If accepted, the form will be sent to the AVP of Academic Operations or the AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness or designee for final approval. Students will be notified by email of the College's decision.
4. Once approved, the student is responsible for paying for the cost of one credit per approved course (which is separate from the \$35 processing fee). Once payment is made, the Registrar's office will enter the credits on the student's record.

The evaluation for Credit for Experiential Learning is at times a lengthy process and supporting documentation must be sufficient to verify eligibility for credit; therefore, students should not anticipate approval of every Credit for Experiential Learning request.

Please note that Credit for Experiential Learning is not considered to be credit earned "in residence", and, as such, is not graded. Credit(s) granted will be recorded on the student's transcript. A student's CQPI is not affected by Credit for Experiential Learning. Undergraduate Students may not earn more than 15 credits for experiential learning. Graduate students may not earn more than six credits for experiential learning.

Under the College's residence requirement, Lackawanna College will grant associate and bachelor's degrees to transfer students and students otherwise awarded extra-institutional credit after they have fulfilled degree requirements and earned a minimum of 30 credits in residence.

Per College policy, transfer of up to 50% (30 credits) of the required credits (if applicable) for any associate degree, and 75% (90 credits) for bachelor's degrees, is permitted. For graduate programs, students may transfer in up to 9 credits in a 31-credit program, and they may transfer in up to 12 credits in a 37-credit program. The combination of experiential learning credits and transfer credits cannot exceed these limits, and acceptance and approval are at the sole discretion of the Registrar's Office.

Incomplete Work Policy

The grade of Incomplete (I) is given to a student who, for a reason judged acceptable by the instructor, has not completed all their coursework by the end of the semester. The policy for Incompletes is as follows:

- ❖ Student has completed at least 70% of the coursework.
- ❖ Student is unable to complete the course due to unforeseen circumstances beyond their control.
- ❖ Student is passing the course at the time the petition is filed, and it is possible for them to earn a passing grade if work is completed on time.
- ❖ Student is aware of what is expected of them to complete the assignment(s).

The maximum time allowed to make up an incomplete grade is 30 days after the last day of the semester in which the class(es) occurred. However, the instructor has the right to set a time limit earlier than the allotted time. Once the student completes the work and the instructor submits a change of grade form, the Registrar will send an unofficial transcript to the student. The student is responsible for the change of grade fee. If the work is not completed within the 30 days, your grade will be the grade on record at the time of the Incomplete Petition.

To access the Petition for Incomplete grade form and start the process, visit the Registrar's Office page on the portal and fill out the required form.

Repeated Coursework Policy

Students may repeat courses to improve an initial grade of C-, D+, D, D-, F, or AW. Furthermore, graduate-level students must repeat a course or courses in which a minimum grade of B is required if they have earned less than a B. When a student repeats a course, the initial hours attempted, hours earned, and quality points are excluded from their Cumulative Quality Point Index (CQPI). The highest grade earned for the repeated course is the one used in calculating CQPI. Credit for a course is given only once. Students who wish to repeat a course must do so by registering in a regularly scheduled class. Such courses may not be completed in Reader Course format or through Credit by Examination. Students repeating courses may find that their financial aid and/or veterans' benefits are affected. Therefore, students should consult with Student Financial Services before registering to repeat a course. Students should meet with their advisor, center advisor, or an academic advisor in the Student Success Center to process a repeated course. Students in specialty programs should refer to their program handbook for additional information.

Students who wish to repeat a course in which they have earned above a C- must appeal to the AVP of Academic Operations. This excludes graduate-level students who have earned less than a B in a course that requires a minimum grade of B.

Student Dismissal from Class or Program Appeal Policy

Students may have the right to appeal a dismissal from class or program. In the case when a student is dismissed without appeal, no further recourse is available. Students may waive the right to appeal when responsibility is admitted or when they choose to accept dismissal. Students that are registered in one of Lackawanna College's specialty programs and/or athletics should refer to the program/athletic policy for more specific information regarding this process.

In cases where an appeal is granted, a student may appeal their dismissal before the College Appeal Board, which is comprised of one officer from the Student Government Association or another student leader, Residence Life Director or designee, Faculty member or designee, Student Wellness Program staff or designee, and AVP of Academic Operations or designee. The Dean of Students or Designee will serve as chairperson of the Board but will not participate in the decision. A Program Director may be requested to present all information related to the incident to the appeal board if applicable.

1. Students wishing to appeal the dismissal decision must submit a written letter or email to the appropriate office (Dean of Students, AVP of Academic Operations, AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness, or Center Director), dependent on who issued the dismissal, within three (3) calendar days of the dismissal notice. This letter must be delivered personally to the applicable College Personnel.
2. Upon receipt of the written request for a hearing, the Dean of Students or Designee will notify the members of the College Appeal Board that a formal hearing must convene within three (3) business days. Emergency hearings for special circumstances may happen per the Dean of Students or Designee's discretion in less than three (3) business days.
3. The student will be notified of the date, time, and location of the hearing at least 48 hours in advance unless the Dean of Students or Designee and the student decide that an earlier date is conducive to both.
4. Two-thirds of the Board must be available for a hearing to occur, and a simple majority is necessary for the Board to make a decision. In the absence of Student Government officers, other student leaders may be called upon. A Public Safety representative will likewise be present.

5. The Dean of Students or Designee will present the charges and evidence on behalf of the College or the individual making the charges. The Program Director may be asked to present all information related to the incident to the appeal board if applicable.
6. The accused is entitled to be accompanied by a College faculty member, administrator, or fellow student whose role will be advisory in nature. No one outside of the College community may represent the student in an appeal hearing.
7. A formal hearing includes opening and closing statements from the accused. Neither cell phones nor other electronic devices may be brought to the hearing. A student who attempts to utilize such phones or devices surreptitiously during an appeal hearing immediately forfeits their appeal rights
8. Any party may present witnesses subject to the Board members' determination of the witness's relevance to the case. The members of the Board may ask questions of anyone involved in the proceedings.
9. If, for lack of sufficient reason as determined by the Board, an accused student fails to appear at the hearing, the Chairperson may conduct the hearing without the presence of the accused. If the absence is unexcused, the accused forfeits any right to appeal. No recommendation or imposition of sanctions will be based solely on the failure of the accused to appear.

The Chairperson will notify the student of its judgment after a decision is reached. If the Board upholds the dismissal, the student will be assigned a failing grade and will not be permitted to withdraw. Notification of the results of the hearing will be sent in writing to the instructor, Registrar's Office, Director of Advising, and Athletics if applicable. The Board's decision is final and not subject to appeal, except for circumstances of executive review.

Student Service Animal Policy

This policy addresses the use of service animals by students with disabilities on the grounds of Lackawanna College and presents a standard of behavior for the animal and student.

Policy Statement

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Code of Federal Regulations requires that a public institution modify its policies, practices, and procedures to permit the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability in any area open to the general public. 28 C.F.R. §36.302(c)(1). The

Pennsylvania Human Relations Act mandates that a public institution shall not discriminate against any individual who uses guide or support animals. 43 P.S. § 953.

In compliance with the ADA and Pennsylvania law, Lackawanna College recognizes that service dogs can play an important role in facilitating the independence of some individuals with certain types of disabilities. Therefore, an appropriately trained animal, under the control of its partner/handler, may be allowed in campus facilities where animals would typically not be permitted.

The health and safety of Lackawanna College students, faculty, staff, and the service animal are important concerns; therefore, only service animals that meet the criteria described below will be exempt from the rules that otherwise restrict or prohibit animals.

Definitions

Service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained, or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. 28 C.F.R. §36.104.

Documentation Requirements

Students must provide appropriate documentation of their disability that clearly and explicitly explains the need for a service animal and its specific functions to the Department of Academic Development. Two (2) weeks advance notice is recommended in order to make appropriate plans to meet student/animal needs. Additionally, students requiring a service animal who plan to reside in the residence halls must submit a Request of an Exception to the Residential Pet Policy for a Service Animal and comply with the Residence Hall Service Animal Policy. Additionally, if requested, the owner of a service animal must show proof that the animal has met the following regulations:

1. Licensing: As appropriate, the animal must meet licensing requirements and wear license tags.
2. Health records: As appropriate, the animal must have a health statement, including vaccinations from a licensed veterinarian, dated within the past year. Preventative measures must be taken for flea and odor control.

Notification Requirement/Check-In

The owner must notify Lackawanna College Public Safety of the presence of a service animal on campus and the College Provost at (570) 961-7849 for academic classroom activities. If it is unclear whether the animal is a service animal rather than a pet, the owner may be asked about the services provided by the animal.

Behavior of Service Animals

Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or if the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls. A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove their service animal from the premises unless the animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it, or the animal is not housebroken.

Relief Areas

Relief areas on the campus include the nearest grassy areas outdoors. The owner is responsible for cleaning up after the animal defecates and for disposing of the feces. Persons with disabilities who physically cannot clean up after their own service animal will not be required to do so. However, these individuals are to notify the security or physical plant personnel if the animal relieves itself.

Emergency Situations

In the case of an emergency, the College's Public Safety should inform emergency and local public safety personnel that there is a service animal on the premises. Every effort should be made to keep the animal with its owner. It may be necessary to leave the animal behind in certain disaster situations.

Conflicting Disabilities

Allergies and fear of dogs are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people using service animals. Should individuals with conflicting disabilities take the same class, the Office of Disability Services should be notified so that staff can make the necessary arrangements to resolve the conflict.

Restricted Areas

There are certain areas that may be considered unsafe for the animal and its partner or where the presence of animal might interfere with the safety of others (i.e., labs, machine rooms, kitchen areas where protective clothing is necessary). Exceptions would have to be made on a case-by-case basis. If it is determined that an area is unsafe, reasonable accommodations will be provided to assure equal access to the student.

Appeals Procedure

Appeals should be submitted to the Dean of Students. The Dean will form an ad hoc committee to discuss and resolve the issue. The ad hoc committee will be comprised of the Director of Disability Services, Public Safety, and other necessary personnel. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call the Director of Disability Services at (570) 504-8097.

Emotional Support and Assistance Animal Policy

Lackawanna College is committed to compliance with state and federal laws regarding individuals with disabilities. The following is a guide for students who request an assistance animal, as defined by applicable law, in their campus residence.

Lackawanna College reserves the right to review, revise, and amend this policy from time to time as circumstances require, including any change in the legislation that controls this policy. Lackawanna College bases its policy on the most current state and federal law regarding housing policies, most specifically the Fair Housing Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which states:

“Individuals with a disability may request to keep an assistance animal as a reasonable accommodation in housing facilities that otherwise impose restrictions or prohibitions on animals. The assistance animal must be necessary to afford the individual an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling or to participate in the housing service or program. Further, there must be a relationship, or nexus, between the individual’s disability and the assistance the animal provides.”

The request for an assistance animal may be denied if the assistance animal would impose an undue financial and administrative burden or would fundamentally alter the nature of the College’s services. The request for an assistance animal may also be denied if it is determined that the specific assistance animal in question poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation or if the animal would cause substantial physical damage to the property of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation.

An assistance animal, which is defined under the Fair Housing Act, is an animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or that provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified effects of a person's disability. An assistance animal is not a pet. Assistance animals are animals commonly kept in households rather than for commercial purposes. Assistance animals are not required to have special training for work or tasks. The regulations permitting assistance animals pertain to College-owned and operated residential living facilities.

Assistance animals are not permitted in non-residential facilities, including, but not limited to, academic buildings, offices, and classrooms.

There are two requirements that need to be met in evaluating a request for an assistance animal.

1. An individual seeking to have an assistance animal in his/her residence will be asked whether he/she has a disability.
2. The person making the request will be asked whether he/she has a disability-related need for an assistance animal and if the assistance animal is necessary (in other words, does the animal work, aid, perform tasks or services for the benefit of the person or provide emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or affects the person's disability).

If an individual's disability is not readily apparent, the College has the right to require reliable documentation of his/her disability and of his/her disability-related need for an assistance animal. If an individual's disability is readily apparent but the disability-related need for the assistance animal is not, the College has the right to require documentation of the disability-related need for an assistance animal.

If these requirements are met, the individual will be permitted to have an assistance animal in his/her residence. As noted above, the request for an assistance animal may be denied if assistance animal would impose an undue financial and administrative burden or would fundamentally alter the nature of the College's services, poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation, or if the animal would cause substantial physical damage to the property of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation.

There are some important rules that apply to assistance animals, and failure to follow them may result in the loss of permission to keep an assistance animal in your residence and/or a violation of the **Student Code of Conduct**. The list that follows is not exhaustive and the College reserves the right to review these rules from time to time and revise them for the benefit of the College community.

- ❖ Assistance animals may not pose a danger or threat to the health or safety of other students, staff, faculty, or guests that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable

accommodation. Based on the nature of the College's communal living areas, the College reserves the right to deny specific assistance animals because of safety and health concerns, as they may carry diseases which pose a threat to the general welfare of residents in a communal living environment.

- ❖ Assistance animals may not cause substantial physical damage to the property of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation. The student owner is solely responsible for any damage to persons or property caused by the animal, including damage to the property of other residents.
- ❖ Student Owners are responsible for the animal during a fire alarm, fire drill, natural disaster, or emergency situation requiring building evacuation.
- ❖ Assistance animals cannot fundamentally alter the nature of the College's services.
- ❖ Assistance animals cannot create a nuisance to or distract from other students' use of the residence. Residence halls are places of study; animals that make excessive noise or cause disruption may fundamentally alter the nature of the College's services. No excessive barking, growling, howling, or meowing. ESA's must be caged or crated when the owner is not in the room.
- ❖ Assistance animals need to be kept in clean, sanitary, and safe conditions. This responsibility falls on the student, and the College assumes no liability for the animal. All animals must be properly cared for, which includes food, medical treatment, clean living space, etc. Abuse and neglect of animals may result in a formal complaint and possibly ultimate removal from the student's campus residence.
- ❖ Allergic reactions to animals are common. Persons who have asthma, allergies, or other medical conditions affected by the presence of animals are asked to contact Disability Services. The needs of both individuals will be considered in resolving the issue. If an allergy/animal conflict within a residence hall cannot be resolved agreeably, then the College will make the final determination.
- ❖ Assistance animals must be owned by the students/and or their family.
- ❖ Student Owners are responsible for complying with all applicable laws and regulations concerning their assistance animals, including proof of vaccination, licensure, leash control laws, cleanup rules, and animal health which includes, but is not limited to, regular feeding, bathing, grooming, and daily care. Collars and tags must be always worn, and animals must be leashed or tethered when outside of the resident's room.
- ❖ Student Owners are required to have verification on an annual clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian confirming that the animal is free from communicable diseases. Required immunizations will be determined pursuant to guidelines from the CDC.

- ❖ Assistance animals do not require a deposit, but the student is responsible for costs associated with any damage caused by the assistance animal. Damage includes pests (fleas, ticks) and additional wear and tear on carpets, furniture, and other College property.
- ❖ Assistance animals are not permitted general access to campus areas such as dining, academic buildings, libraries, athletic buildings, etc. other than the residence. Our residence halls are generally not an animal-friendly environment. Approved animals must be restricted to the dorm room. They are not allowed in common areas in the residence hall and must be crated when the owner is not in the room. Assistance animals may use a designated area to relieve themselves provided they are under effective owner control at all times.
- ❖ Assistance animals may use lobbies, stairwells, and other public areas as a pass-through only and the animal must be leashed, caged, or tethered while in these areas.
- ❖ Assistance animals may not be left in the care of another residential student overnight and/or during college breaks – again assistance animals may not be left in the care of another resident, even for one night. Alternative arrangements must be made. In the case if a student owner is incapacitated or unable to care for the animal, (hospitalization etc.) Housing and Residence Life will reach out to a primary (and if needed a secondary) emergency contact and to care for the animal. The emergency contact (both primary and secondary) information must be provided on the Acknowledgement of Emotional Support/ Assistance Animal Policy and Release of Information Consent Form.
- ❖ Assistance animals must be fully housebroken (meaning using outside, no pee pads or inside toilets), or litterbox trained. Litterboxes must be properly maintained and remain within the owner's assigned residence hall room.
- ❖ Student Owners are responsible for properly containing and disposing of all animal waste. Indoor animal waste, such as cat litter, must be disposed of properly and regularly. The litter box contents must be placed in a sturdy plastic bag and tied securely before disposing of in an outside trash receptacle. Outdoor animal waste, such as dog feces, must be immediately retrieved by the owner, placed in a sturdy plastic bag, and securely tied before disposing of it in an outside trash receptacle.
- ❖ Student Owners must ensure that preventative measures should be taken at all times for flea and odor control. Any pest infestation, including, but not limited to flea and ticks, will be remedied at the owner's expense. Housing and Residence Life will make appropriate arrangements for extermination with applicable costs charged to the owner's student account. Consideration of others must be considered when providing maintenance and hygiene to assistance animals.
- ❖ Assistance animals and/or their belongings may not be washed/cleaned on the College's premises.

- ❖ Students who are approved to have an assistance animal on campus must sign an agreement with the Office of Disability Services, which will be on file with Disability Services and Residence Life.
- ❖ Student Owners will notify Housing and Residence Life & Disability Services if they wish to replace one assistance animal with another following the procedures outlined in this policy.
- ❖ Requests for assistance animals must be made each academic year. Prior approval does not guarantee future approval.

If a student fails to comply with the policies, then Residence Life will investigate any complaints and will work with Disability Services to resolve any issues or concerns. Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to inspect the room more frequently if damage is suspected or if there are concerns related to the owner's compliance with the animal agreement.

An assistance animal may be removed from campus if it imposes an undue financial and administrative burden or would fundamentally alter the nature of the College's services, it poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation or, it would cause substantial physical damage to the property of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation. If a determination is made that the animal should be removed, an official letter will be sent to the student's Falcon's e-mail from Residence Life and Disability Services. If the student refuses to remove the animal from his/her campus residence after such a determination has been made, the student may be charged with violating the **Student Code of Conduct**.

Policy For Students with Disabilities

Lackawanna College is an equal employment and educational opportunity institution conforming to all applicable legislation, which prohibits discrimination. Whenever an applicant for admission demonstrates that they are a handicapped individual within the meaning of applicable federal and state law and is otherwise qualified for participation in a course or program, the College will make reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of the qualified applicant.

In determining whether an applicant who is hearing impaired and relies on American Sign Language to communicate, such applicant will be required to demonstrate proficiency in standard written English as a prerequisite to admission. Some examples of accommodations provided by the College are: Policy for Students with Disabilities Lackawanna College is an equal employment and educational opportunity institution conforming to all applicable legislation, which prohibits discrimination.

Whenever an applicant for admission demonstrates that they are a handicapped individual within the meaning of applicable federal and state law and is otherwise qualified for participation in a course or

program, the College will make reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of the qualified applicant. Such accommodation, however, must not impose an undue hardship on the College in the form of an undue financial or administrative burden. Specifically, it would be an undue financial burden on the College if the cost of the accommodation requested or required by such applicant exceeded the amount of tuition that would be paid by or for the qualified applicant to the College to attend such course or program. In determining whether an applicant who is hearing impaired and relies on American Sign Language to communicate, such applicant will be required to demonstrate proficiency in standard written English as a prerequisite to admission. Some examples of accommodations provided by the College are:

- ❖ Extended time on exams
- ❖ Extended time on assignments
- ❖ Exams in a distraction-free environment
- ❖ Copies of an instructor's notes/outlines
- ❖ Alternative methods of demonstrating mastery of course outcomes
- ❖ Note taking services

How to Receive Accommodations

Students requesting accommodations must begin by submitting documentation to the Office of Enrollment. Such documentation consists of a report supplied by a certified or licensed professional on the basis of an examination conducted within the last four years.

The diagnostic report should include a diagnosis of your current disability, as well as supporting information, such as the date of the diagnosis, how the diagnosis was reached, and the credentials and signature of the professional; information on how your disability affects a major life activity; information on how the disability affects your academic performance; and specific requests for accommodations, as well as an explanation as to why each accommodation is requested. Letter submission must include the following elements: typed on letterhead, dated, and signed by qualified individual. If the disability is physical, including hearing or vision impairment, or if it has any other medical implications, including psychiatric, the student should indicate this information to Lackawanna College as well.

A student seeking accommodations must meet with the Director of Disability Services, Academic Development in Suite 110, Angeli Hall or Center Director at the beginning of each semester.

Students are responsible for scheduling an appointment to complete the accommodation process. A school plan, such as an individualized education plan (IEP), is insufficient documentation. Sources of information used to determine a student's disability and/or accommodations may include student's self-report, direct observation and interaction with the student, and/or third-party documentation from qualified evaluators or professionals. The final determination for providing appropriate reasonable accommodations rests with the institution.

All services are arranged individually on an as-needed basis. The services may vary from course to course and semester to semester. Therefore, students may not automatically be granted each accommodation requested. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call the Director of Disability Services at (570) 504-8097.

Please note, disability accommodations made in the classroom or at Lackawanna College may not be met by a student's internship, externship, clinical affiliation, or fieldwork site as those facilities are not controlled by the College.

Recording in the Classroom Policy

The use of technologies for audio and video recording of lectures and other classroom activities is allowed only with the express permission of the instructor. In cases where recordings are allowed, the following stipulations apply:

1. Recordings of the class lectures are only for the student's personal use in study and preparation for the class.
2. The student may not share the recordings with any other person at any time, whether or not that person is in his/her class.
3. The students acknowledge the recordings are sources, the use of which is governed by rules of Lackawanna College's policy for Academic Integrity.
4. The student agrees to destroy any recordings at the time they are no longer needed for academic work
5. The student will record only the voice of the lecturer, not the voice of other students, such as a discussion series.

Students who have been given permission to audiotape/audio record class lectures must agree to abide by each of these provisions and sign the contract provided.

Registrar's Office Policies

Amnesty Policy

If a student stops attending a course for which they are registered after the published census date (end of drop/add) without having officially withdrawn from the course, the student will be assigned a grade of AW for the course.

Lackawanna College's Amnesty Policy allows students with demonstrated academic progress and respect for college policy the opportunity to have the penalty grade hours attempted, hours earned, and quality points excluded from their Cumulative Quality Point Index (CQPI). Prior to application for amnesty the following requirements must be met:

- ❖ At least one full semester must have passed from the time the AW grades were incurred and the application for amnesty is made.
- ❖ The student must register for and successfully complete additional coursework at Lackawanna College, earning a semester grade point average of at least 2.0 and thereby demonstrating academic progress.
- ❖ The student must complete an equivalent number of credit hours to the number of credit hours for which they are requesting amnesty. This can be done all at once, or students may earn amnesty incrementally to match the number of part-time credits they have earned at Lackawanna College in a subsequent semester.
- ❖ Upon successful completion of required work at Lackawanna College, the student may file an Application for Amnesty form available on the portal and request the necessary approvals.
- ❖ Upon completion and submission of the approved form to the Registrar, a grade of W will replace the grade of AW for the applicable amnesty credits.

It is recommended that students consult with both their academic advisor and Student Financial Services before withdrawing from a course or from the College.

If a course is repeated, the AW will remain. Amnesty will only be granted for any courses that are not repeated.

Merger Related GPA Forgiveness Policy (Peirce College Students)

In recognition of the institutional merger between Peirce College and Lackawanna College, and to mitigate unintended academic disadvantage to impacted students, Lackawanna College may grant limited GPA forgiveness for coursework completed at Peirce College in the three years prior to the merger.

GPA forgiveness may be approved on a case by case basis when a student is unable to repeat a previously failed Peirce College course because the course, or a reasonable equivalent, is not offered by Lackawanna College.

When approved, the original course and grade will remain on the student's transcript; however, the grade will be excluded from the calculation of the student's Lackawanna College cumulative GPA. No additional academic credit is awarded through GPA forgiveness.

Approval of merger-related GPA forgiveness is at the discretion of the AVP of Academic Operations and/or the AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness, in consultation with the Registrar and other offices as appropriate. This provision applies only to coursework completed at Peirce College between July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2026 and does not extend to coursework attempted at Lackawanna College.

This policy does not supersede requirements established by external accrediting agencies, licensure boards, or program specific graduation standards.

Directory Information

Lackawanna College hereby designates the following categories of student information as public or "Directory Information." Such information may be disclosed by the institution for any purpose, at its discretion.

Category I: Name, address, email address, telephone number, dates of attendance, class, photographic view or electronic images, when such images are taken and utilized within the framework of college business.

Category II: Previous institution(s) attended, major field of study, awards, honors, degree(s) conferred (including dates).

Currently enrolled students may withhold disclosure of any category of information under the Family Educational Rights Act of 1974. If a student wishes to withhold disclosure of directory information, written notification of this intent must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar. Forms requesting the withholding of "Directory Information" are available in the Registrar's Office and on the [student portal](#).

Lackawanna College assumes that failure on part of any student to specifically request the withholding of categories of “Directory Information” indicates approval for disclosure.

Lackawanna College students may be assured that even with their permission, Directory Information is disclosed only on rare occasions. The policy of Lackawanna College allows the disclosure of such information to non-institutional personnel only for serious reasons and at the discretion of the person responsible for the student record involved.

Excess Credits Policy

No student shall carry a credit hour load of more than eighteen (18) credits during any one semester unless they meet the following criteria:

- ❖ The student has successfully completed fifteen (15) credit hours or more
- ❖ The student has attained a minimum Cumulative Quality Point Index of 3.0
- ❖ The student has written approval of an Academic Advisor, Center Advisor, and the AVP of Academic Operations or AVP of Academic Affairs, Strategy, and Effectiveness.

Student Information Policy (FERPA)

Annually, Lackawanna College informs students of The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). This act, with which the institution complies fully, was designed to protect the privacy of education records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their education records, and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate or misleading data through informal and formal hearings. Students also have the right to file complaints with The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office concerning alleged failures by the institution to comply with the act.

A directory of student educational records is available at the Registrar’s Office located on the first floor of Angeli Hall at the Scranton campus. Students can find more information regarding FERPA and filing a release [on the portal](#).

Questions concerning The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act may be referred to the Registrar.

Notification of Rights Under The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as Amended: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their educational records. These rights are as follows:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the College receives a request for access. A student should submit a written request, identifying the record(s) they wish to inspect, to the Registrar, College Provost, Academic Division Chair, or other appropriate official. The College official will arrange for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the College official to whom the request was submitted does not maintain the records, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's educational records is granted whenever the student believes the records are inaccurate or misleading. The student should write the College official responsible for the record, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the College decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the College will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when they are notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to refuse disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the College in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff), a person or company with whom the College has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent), a person serving on the Board of Trustees, or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting a school official in performing their tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill their professional responsibility.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Lackawanna College to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue,
SW. Washington, D. C. 20202-4605

Student Registration

Returning students must register through the Lackawanna College portal on the dates specified on the current academic calendar. Students should schedule an appointment with their academic advisor during the advising period to review their course requirements and then register for classes during the online registration period. Classes may be available during the day, evening, hybrid, virtual, or in an online format (offered as two sub-terms each semester), and students can schedule their coursework in whatever format works best for them. Students should note that, while on-ground, online, and hybrid course modalities are all offered, not every course is offered in every modality.

Any student registering after the online registration period ends may still register by going to the Student Success Center (or their Center Director). Students may also email advising@lackawanna.edu or the appropriate center email to begin the registration process. Students who register after the specified registration dates may find that courses needed for their majors may already be at maximum capacity or may no longer be available for the upcoming term.

Students receiving financial aid and/or veteran benefits must be aware of specific financial aid and/or veteran regulations before scheduling online courses and should be encouraged to speak with representatives from those offices as needed.

Location Codes

The following chart shows location codes located on student schedules. When selecting courses please use the chart to ensure you are registering for the correct location.

Location Code	Location
BD	Bethlehem
MA	Chambersburg
GA	Greensburg
KA-KZ	Hazleton Center
ZK	Hybrid Hazleton
ZH	Hybrid Lake Region
ZA	Hybrid Scranton
HA-HZ	Lake Region Center
OA-OL	Online Subterm I
OM-OZ	Online Subterm II
AA-AZ	Scranton

SA-SZ	Sunbury Center
TA-TZ	Towanda Center
NA-NZ	Tunkhannock
VA-VZ	Virtual
ZV	Virtual-Hybrid Class (meets via TEAMS on virtual day)

Financial Information

Student Financial Services

Lackawanna College makes every effort to provide financial assistance to all eligible students. The Student Financial Services program operates in harmony with the principles of student financial aid administration. The primary goal is to help meet the financial needs of students by enabling them to secure a college education, while realizing that the students and parents have the primary responsibility to provide a reasonable amount of financial assistance toward a student's college expenses.

Inquiries concerning financial aid should be directed to the Student Financial Services Office at sfs@lackawanna.edu. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday. Other times may be available by appointment.

Financial aid is regarded as a supplement to students' and parents' resources. To apply for all federal, state, and campus-based financial aid programs and/or student loans, a student must first complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Procedures for Applying for Financial Aid

The Federal Government's Department of Education created a document called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA for short. This application is the same no matter what college or university you attend. Every year you think you will attend a college or university, you need to complete the FAFSA to see what funding you might be eligible to receive. Students who would like to determine their eligibility for financial aid resources can submit a FAFSA. The fastest way to complete the FAFSA is online at studentaid.gov.

Step 1: Create an FSA ID (Student and Parents (if applicable)). See below for more information regarding Your FSA ID.

Step 2: Start the FAFSA - studentaid.gov

Step 3: The FAFSA itself is broken into several sections. Complete each of the sections carefully, making sure that the information is complete and accurate.

Step 4: Ensure you have completed your application: Sign and submit and confirm your submission.

Step 5: It will take 3-5 business days for your application to process. After you have enrolled, monitor your email for additional communications from Student Financial Services regarding your application and the next steps you need to take.

You must have the following items handy when you file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

- ❖ Your FSA ID (see below for more information)
- ❖ Demographic information: social security number or your Alien Registration number (For non-U.S. citizens), date of birth, address, email, gender, telephone number, driver's license number (if the student has a driver's license), marital status (including dates), citizenship status, education history and interest in work-study
- ❖ Lackawanna College School Code: 003283
- ❖ Your tax return and W2s if you worked or received any federal benefits during the prior, prior year
- ❖ Your parent(s) social security number (if applicable)
- ❖ Your parents' tax return and W2s if they worked or received any federal benefits during the prior, prior year (if applicable)

Your FSA ID

If you have never filed a FAFSA before in your name, you will need a FSA ID. The FSA ID is your username and password. Your FSA ID confirms your identity when you access your financial aid information and electronically sign Federal Student Aid documents. If you do not already have a FSA ID, you can create one by visiting studentaid.gov.

If you've already created a FSA ID but need to recover your username and password, visit studentaid.gov and select the "Manage my FSA ID" tab and click the "Forgot my username" or "Forgot my password" links

When this information is processed, financial aid offers are developed after first determining the Student Aid Index (SAI). The types of aid offered will vary with the individual student's needs and may consist of a combination of grant, loan, work-study, and scholarship assistance.

Pennsylvania residents have a deadline for submitting the FAFSA applications by May 1st . Forms must be filled out on a yearly basis. Eligibility is contingent on need, academic progress from the prior year, and available funds. Financial Aid is not automatically renewed.

Lackawanna College reserves the right to make changes in the amount and type of a student's financial aid at any time during a year in which the student either receives additional unanticipated assistance from an outside source, or the College receives information about current family income, which varies from the income reported on the FAFSA. Such changes are made to protect the equity of financial aid offers and to meet mandated federal program requirements on aid eligibility.

The College adheres strictly to all regulations governing the distribution and administration of student aid. The College holds in strict confidence all family financial information and considers any financial aid package to be a confidential matter between the College and the applicant.

Students are encouraged to contact Student Financial Services to discuss financial aid, payments, or if you have questions or concerns.

Federal Aid Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible for federal financial aid, you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- ❖ Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) Certificate, pass a test approved by the U.S. Department of Education, or meet other standards established by your state and approved by the U.S Department of Education
- ❖ Be accepted for enrollment as working towards a degree or certificate in an eligible program
- ❖ Be a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen
- ❖ Have a valid Social Security Number
- ❖ Make Satisfactory Academic Progress (if you are a returning student)

The Verification Process

In some instances, students are selected for a process called verification where the Department of Education asks the Office of Student Financial Services to double check the information a student initially provided on their FAFSA. If you receive an email from the Office of Student Financial Services regarding verification here are a few things to remember:

- ❖ Respond to all requests in a timely fashion as verification must occur prior to your financial aid funds being applied to your billing statements
- ❖ Make a copy of all the documents you are being asked to submit.
- ❖ Ask questions if you are unsure what documents are required.

Federal Financial Aid Programs

Federal Pell Grants

Pell grants are available to students who demonstrate financial need as determined by the grant program regulations. The potential award per academic year depends on federal funding, the cost of education, and a student's eligibility.

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)

FSEOG grants are offered to students who demonstrate exceptional financial need and a student's eligibility.

Federal Work-Study

The federal government provides part-time employment for students who demonstrate financial need, and work assignments may be offered as available. Federal work-study is determined by the information supplied in the FAFSA. Students interested in a work-study position should apply online via the portal or by visiting the Student Financial Services Office.

Federal Direct Loan Program

Students may apply for loans to assist them in meeting their educational costs. Students may apply for Federal Direct Loans to help cover the cost of their education. Loan eligibility is determined based on a student's grade level (earned credits) and dependency status.

Federal Direct Loan Program and Eligibility (Undergraduate Students)

If you choose to borrow through the Federal Government's loan programs, please note that you must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and loan entrance counseling online at

studentaid.gov. You will need to set aside some time (about 30 minutes) to complete both processes. If you have completed the MPN and entrance counseling electronically within the past 5 years, please let the Office of Student Financial Services know and we will retrieve them electronically. The amount of loan money students can borrow depends on their enrollment level at the College. Federal direct loans are a major source of financial aid for many college students. All loans, including federal direct loans, represent debts that must be repaid; however, most federal direct loans do not go into repayment until 6 months after you cease enrollment, graduate or have an enrollment status of less than half time. In addition to delayed repayment, most federal direct loans have relatively low interest rates, and several repayment options from which a student can choose.

Direct Subsidized Loan

A loan for students with financial need as determined by federal regulations. No interest is charged while you are in school at least half-time (6 credits), during your grace period, and during deferment periods.

Direct Unsubsidized Loan

A loan for students that has interest while the student is in school. The student can choose to pay the interest while in school or make payments when he/she has stopped attending on an at least half-time (6 credits) basis.

PLEASE NOTE: Unsubsidized student loans begin to accrue interest at the time of disbursement, so you can expect to repay more than the amount you borrowed.

Grade Level 1 (0–23 earned credits):

- ❖ Up to \$3,500 in subsidized loans.
- ❖ Additional \$2,000 (dependent) or \$6,000 (independent) in unsubsidized loans

Grade Level 2 (24–61 earned credits):

- ❖ Up to \$4,500 in subsidized loans
- ❖ Additional \$2,000 (dependent) or \$6,000 (independent) in unsubsidized loans

Grade Level 3 (62 or more earned credits):

- ❖ Up to \$5,500 in subsidized loans
- ❖ An additional \$2,000 (dependent) or \$7,000 (independent) in unsubsidized loans

Master's Level

- ❖ \$20,500 in unsubsidized loans

For transfer students, earned credits include all credits accepted by Lackawanna College toward the student's program of study.

The amount of unsubsidized loan eligibility is determined by the student's dependency status as defined by federal financial aid regulations.

Actual loan amounts awarded may be adjusted based on cost of attendance, financial need, and other financial aid received.

Direct Parent Loan For Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

The parent or parents of a dependent student can borrow a PLUS for their dependent, son or daughter. This is a credit-worthy note so the parent would go through a credit check. The parent should know that the federal government is going to check the credit bureau such as Transunion, Equifax, and/or Experian. If the parent is approved for this loan, then the PLUS loan is in the parent's name. If the parent is denied, then the student is eligible for an increased amount of funding in the unsubsidized loan.

One Big Beautiful Bill Changes Effective 7/1/2026

- ❖ [Parent PLUS](#) Annual Loan Limit change - \$20,000 per year, per dependent student; \$65,000 lifetime per dependent student (combined across all parents).
- ❖ Part-time Enrollment Rule: Students enrolled less than full-time must have their annual loan limit reduced proportionally. Example: A freshman dependent student with a \$5,500 annual limit enrolled half-time could borrow up to 50% of that amount for the academic year.
- ❖ Student Loan Repayment Options: Repayment options will be streamlined to two plans: a new tiered standard repayment plan and a new income-driven repayment plan called the Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP)

State Aid Programs

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)

PA State Grants are offered by the state to students who demonstrate financial need. To qualify, a student must be a high school graduate or the recipient of a General Education Diploma (GED), must be a Pennsylvania resident, be enrolled in an eligible program, and must complete the FAFSA by May 1. PA State Grant recipients who received assistance as full-time students must complete a minimum of 24 credits for every two (2) semesters of state grant assistance, while those who received assistance as part time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits for every two (2)

semesters of state grant assistance. This requirement must be met even if a state grant was received for attendance at another institution. PHEAA reserves the right to adjust any state grant or scholarship based on a student meeting all eligibility requirements. Students may also qualify for other state grants or scholarships as determined by PHEAA.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) provides help to qualified students. Eligibility requirements should be discussed with the local service office, located at 300G Laird Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702 or by phone at 1-800-634-2060, 570-826-2011, 570-820-4848 TTY.

Institutional Aid

Lackawanna College offers multiple institutional grants and scholarships to qualified students. Scholarship selection is made through the Scholarship Committee by the end of May. Information can be obtained on the Lackawanna College portal, in the Office of Student Financial Services, or on the Student Financial Services webpage.

Private Scholarships and Funding

Lackawanna College encourages all interested students and their families to seek out additional scholarship opportunities. Information on scholarships is available at most public libraries or through a variety of websites. Students should make themselves aware of deadlines and requirements of such funding resources.

Veterans Benefits

Veterans' benefits may be available under the G.I. Bill® or other Veterans' Administration programs. Eligible students should visit the VA Certifying Official in the Financial Aid Office to complete paperwork for educational benefits. Visit the Veterans webpage for more information.

Lackawanna College also complies with the requirements of Title 38 United States Code Section 3679(e). This policy allows any covered individual to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date the individual provides the institution a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 31 or 33 (a "certificate of eligibility" can also include a "Statement of Benefits" obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) website e-Benefits, or a VAF 28-1905 form for chapter 31 authorization purposes) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date on which payment from the VA is made to the institution.
2. 90 days (about 3 months) after the date, the institution certified tuition and fees after receiving the student's certificate of eligibility.

Lackawanna College will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual's inability to meet their financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under chapter 31 or 33.

Military Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) Refunds

The military/veteran student is awarded the FTA benefit with the understanding that the student will attend the entire semester. When a military/veteran student withdraws, Lackawanna College is required to calculate FTA benefit earned and return the unearned portion of funding to the appropriate military service.

Unearned FTA funds that are returned to the appropriate military service will become a debt to the student.

For an explanation of military benefits, contact your School Certifying Official, Sharon Danks, DanksS@lackawanna.edu.

Lackawanna College's schedule of return of unearned FTA funds is as follows:

15-week course withdraw submitted:

- ❖ Before or during weeks 1-2 100% return
- ❖ During weeks 3-4 90% return
- ❖ During weeks 5-6 75% return
- ❖ During weeks 7-8 50% return
- ❖ During week 9 40% return (60% of course is completed)
- ❖ During weeks 10-15 0% return

7-week course withdraw submitted:

- ❖ Before or during week 1 100% return
- ❖ During week 2 75% return
- ❖ During weeks 3-4 50% return
- ❖ During week 5 40% return (60% of course completed)
- ❖ During weeks 6-7 0% return

Student Lending Code of Conduct

To learn more about Lackawanna College's Student Lending Code of Conduct, please see the College's Student Financial Services [webpage](#).

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

In accordance with U.S. Department of Education regulations, all students applying for federal and/or state financial assistance must maintain satisfactory academic progress in their course of study to receive financial aid. A student who does not meet these standards is not eligible to receive federal, state, and/or institutional financial aid. All semesters of attendance are considered for satisfactory progress regardless of whether the student received aid at Lackawanna College. Student progress will be evaluated according to this policy before aid is disbursed each semester.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards

Qualitative Measurement (Grade Point Average - GPA):

- ❖ Undergraduate Degrees & Certificate programs students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
- ❖ Graduate Degrees & Certificate programs students must maintain a 3.0 GPA.

*GPA requirements for institutional scholarships may be higher. Graduation requirements for GPA may also differ depending on program/degree. See Lackawanna College catalog for academic policies regarding the treatment of repeated courses and GPA.

Quantitative Measurement/Pace of Progression (Credit Hours):

- ❖ Complete at least 67% of cumulative credit hours attempted (i.e., earned divided by attempted)
- ❖ Audited courses are not considered credits attempted or earned.
- ❖ If/when a student completes a course previously graded as an "I", they must notify Student Financial Services of the completion if they wish to have a review of their Pace after the grade has been updated. Peirce will not review completion of "I" courses after the initial SAP Review has been completed.
- ❖ Courses completed at Lackawanna College, as well as courses transferred and accepted by Lackawanna College for the students program are considered in the Pace of Progression completion rate.

- ❖ Repeat courses are considered as attempted and earned in the Pace of Progress completion rate.

Maximum Time-Frame:

Degree requirements must be completed within a 150% of the programs published time-frame. Hours earned at Lackawanna College, as well as hours transferred and accepted by Lackawanna College are considered in this time-frame. Any student who has exceeded the maximum time-frame and/or who mathematically cannot finish the program within this period will be considered ineligible for financial aid.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Monitoring

At the end of each semester (Fall, Spring, & Summer), students will be reviewed to assess their SAP status according to the standards of this policy. Students pursuing a second/multiple degree(s) are subject to the same requirements as those students pursuing their initial degree.

Students enrolled in clock hour programs will have their Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) evaluated at the end of each payment period, prior to the disbursement of federal, state, and institutional financial aid. SAP evaluations for clock hour programs are conducted at each payment period to ensure continued eligibility in accordance with U.S. Department of Education regulations.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Status

Good Standing- A student that is meeting all SAP standards, for their program/degree.

Warning- A student will be placed on Financial Aid warning if:

- ❖ The cumulative GPA is less than the stated requirement in the Qualitative Measurement section. AND/OR
- ❖ The student is not meeting the Pace of Progression of 67% as outlined in the Quantitative Measurement section.

A student is placed on warning after the 1st semester of failed SAP standards. By the end of the warning semester, the student must meet the standards to regain eligibility/return to normal progress. A student is still eligible for financial aid while on warning.

Suspension- A student will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension after a warning semester if:

- ❖ The cumulative GPA is less than the stated requirement in the Qualitative Measurement section. AND/OR

- ❖ The student is not meeting the Pace of Progression of 67% as outlined in the Quantitative Measurement section AND/OR
- ❖ The student has reached or exceeded time-frame cumulative credit hours and will not successfully complete the degree requirements.

A student is placed on Suspension after their 2nd consecutive semester of failed SAP Standards, or reached Time-Frame. Students on Suspension are NOT eligible for Financial Aid. Students in Suspension status have the ability to appeal their Suspension status by completing a SAP Appeal (instructions for SAP Appeal provided below), or attending without Financial Aid until SAP standards are met and the student returns to Good Standing at the end of a semester.

Probation - A student is placed on Financial Aid Probation, when their appeal is approved by the Satisfactory Academic Progress Committee. This status will be reviewed at the end of each semester. Students that are on Probation that are unable to reach SAP in a single semester following their initial Suspension status, can continue to be eligible for aid if they follow their success plan and show academic growth/progress through the following each semester:

- ❖ The Qualitative Measurement (GPA) and Pace of Progression (67% of attempted hours completed) must be achieved each semester based on their approved EDP. Semester GPA and Pace will be reviewed to determine if the student met this measurement at the end of the semester.
- ❖ Students on a success plan must complete all courses with an above average grade (C or better for UG or B or better for GR) and have semester GPA higher than the previous semester.
- ❖ Students that wish to change their success plan and/or major must notify their Success Coach and Student Financial Services in writing for approval prior to the changes to remain in probation status. A new success plan must be submitted and a letter that addresses the changes needed, describe reasonable rationale for major/schedule change(s), and the progression the student expects to achieve with the updated success plan.

If either or both measurements are not achieved, the student will return to Financial Aid Suspension and loss of financial aid eligibility. Students that are placed on Suspension more than once may appeal up to a maximum of three times during their academic career at Lackawanna College. Subsequent appeals may not present the same extenuating or mitigating circumstances as previous approved appeals.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal

A student who has been placed on Suspension may complete and submit a Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal and Academic Success Plan, as a request for reinstatement. If there are extenuating

or mitigating circumstances contributing to their inability to meet the SAP requirements, students may appeal for one of the following reasons:

Circumstance(s) that apply:	Documentation needed (must include dates)
Severe illness, medical condition or injury	Signed & dated letter from physician on official/office letterhead; legible copy of accident report
Death of a family member	Death certificate and/or official obituary
Traumatic life-altering event such as fire, hurricane, Covid-19, etc.	Evidence of such event such as an insurance claim or FEMA application
Other circumstances beyond the control of the student (must explain in detail the nature of the circumstance and dates of the unexpected circumstance)	Appropriate documentation which will verify the situation

Reestablishing Aid Eligibility

Students who are not making SAP can restore their eligibility for Financial Aid by taking action that brings them into compliance with the SAP Standards. These actions include: Successfully completing the appeal process, and being placed on probation (EDP) or meeting all minimum SAP standards through continued enrollment.

A student who has been placed on Suspension from financial aid for academic reasons and has not had an appeal approved, may be eligible for reinstatement if they enroll in courses at their own expense and meet the criteria listed for Satisfactory Academic Progress. Students that are enrolled and placed on Suspension will be reviewed at the end of each semester. Once they have successfully maintained Satisfactory Academic Progress, they will have their financial aid reinstated. A student cannot reestablish eligibility by taking a semester off and then returning from a break and/or reapplying to Lackawanna College.

By submitting your appeal after the term begins you are responsible for all charges that may be accrued without the eligibility for aid. A student that was on suspension, or on probation then reaches normal progress by meeting SAP requirements, then fails to meet SAP again will go back in

warning, then suspension progression. A student can then appeal for a second or third time, only if their reasoning for failing the policy is different than before, and new documentation can be provided in lieu of original appeal. Any student who has not previously received financial aid may not be notified of their status until they apply for financial aid.

Disclosures

Student Financial Services will attempt to notify students via Lackawanna email address any student currently receiving financial aid who is placed on Financial Aid Warning and/or Suspension. However, failure to receive such notification does not relieve the student of the requirement to read, understand and follow the Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements for Financial Aid Recipients. A student who completes all the academic requirements for a certificate or degree but does not yet have a certificate or degree (or has not applied for graduation) is not eligible for further financial assistance for that certificate or degree.

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has a separate policy regarding state grant funds and satisfactory academic progress.

Return to Title IV

For any student receiving Title IV funding who withdraws from all or part of their coursework during a payment period or period of enrollment in which they have begun attendance, Lackawanna College's Office of Student Financial Services (SFS) is required to determine the amount of Title IV grant or loan award funds that the student may have earned according to the student's last date of attendance (LDOA) or last date of academic activity (LDAA). This determination is based on the Return to Title IV Funds (R2T4) calculation.

The R2T4 policy applies to all federal financial aid funds except for the federal work study award. Lackawanna faculty is required to take attendance at the College as determined by the institution's academic policies and procedures. Attendance is logged and maintained on the Starfish Platform, and academic activity is monitored and recorded on the College's Canvas LMS (Learning Management System).

The Office of Student Financial Services (SFS) and the Office of the Registrar considers a student to be withdrawn from a program that is measured in credit hours, if the student does not complete all days in a payment period or period of enrollment that the student was scheduled to attend for the semester or term. For a program measured in clock hours, the student does not complete all clock hours and weeks of instruction in the payment period they were scheduled to attend. All clock hour programs may not be based on a traditional semester or term.

As determined by the Department, a student must begin attendance in a course to receive Title IV funding for that course. If a student begins attendance in only one course, then the R2T4 calculation is based on that course load and appropriate funds are considered in that calculation. If a student does not begin attendance in a sufficient number of credits or course load (enrollment status) to earn loan assistance, then that loan cannot be disbursed, but the loan amount(s) are to be used as funds that could have been disbursed in the R2T4 calculation.

Because a student begins earning Title IV funds on the first day of attendance, even if the student withdraws before a school's census date, the R2T4 calculation is performed using the number of days or the number of scheduled clock hours the student attended classes divided by the total days or total clock hours in the payment period or period of enrollment. Lackawanna must include in the R2T4 calculation all forms of Title IV aid that were disbursed or that could have been disbursed, even if the student receives a full tuition and/or fees refund.

If a Title IV grant recipient withdraws from Lackawanna after beginning attendance, an R2T4 calculation is processed to determine the amount of Title IV aid earned by the student.

- ❖ If the amount disbursed is greater than the amount earned, the unearned funds must be returned to the Department.
- ❖ If the amount that can be disbursed is less than the amount earned, the student is eligible for a post withdrawal (PWD) of the earned aid.
- ❖ If a student drops classes (or is administratively dropped/withdrawn by a school) on the same day they withdraw, or if the student is later granted a retroactive withdrawal, the enrollment status and charges are not adjusted to reflect the dropped classes for R2T4 purposes.

Title IV funds included the R2T4 calculation:

- ❖ Pell Grant
- ❖ Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant TEACH Grant (not applicable to LC)
- ❖ FSEOG (Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant)
- ❖ Federal Direct Loans

After the 60 percent point in the payment period or period of enrollment, a student is considered to have earned 100 percent of the Title IV funds that they were eligible to receive for that payment period or period of enrollment.

If a student has not reached the 60 percent point in the payment period or period of enrollment, the student earns the calculated percentage of Title IV funds as determined by the R2T4 worksheet, the funds are returned in accordance with federal regulation.

Title IV Aid will be returned in the following order:

- ❖ Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- ❖ Direct Subsidized Loan
- ❖ Direct PLUS Loan (Parent)
- ❖ Federal Pell Grant
- ❖ Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant
- ❖ Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

Note: The Pell Grant is paid out in full first (if applicable) then Direct Subsidized, Unsubsidized, and lastly Parent Plus

Unofficial Withdrawal

- ❖ At the end of each semester or term, academic records are reviewed to identify students who have received a grade of AW (Administratively Withdrawn) in all courses for the semester or term. The unofficial withdrawal determination is also made for students who registered for coursework in Subterm 1 and Subterm 2 for the payment period, but for Subterm 2 the student failed to begin attendance and was dropped; or began attendance and was then later AW because they stopped attending for Subterm 2.
- ❖ Instructors who have assigned an AW grade are required to record a last date of attendance or last date of academic activity. These students' records are reviewed by Student Financial Services to determine if an R2T4 calculation is required

Payment Policy

The College requires that all tuition and fees be paid in full, or a satisfactory payment arrangement should be made prior to the beginning of any semester, at registration for students who register after the start of the semester, or prior to the residence hall move-in date.

The College offers interest-free monthly, bi-weekly, and weekly payment arrangements for the fall and spring semesters. Payments start approximately two (2) months prior to the start of the semester and are five (5) monthly installments, twelve (12) bi-weekly payments, or twelve (12) weekly payments per Subterm of any balance due after the total approved financial aid awarded/credited to the student account is deducted from the total charges for tuition, fees, and, if applicable, room and meals for each semester. The number of installments decreases the later in the semester that the plan is enrolled in. Resident students that are utilizing the Full-Service Payment Plan must have the first payment made prior to being financially cleared to move in regardless of due date for the plan they enrolled in.

A student who wishes to make online payments can do so through the College's portal, following the steps below:

- ❖ Log onto the portal using your college login credentials.
- ❖ Under Financial Services – select View & Pay Bills
- ❖ Select Make a Payment and follow the prompt

Enrollment for the Full-Service Payment Plan opens in June for the Fall semester and November for the Spring semester and payments begin the first week of July for the Fall semester and the first week of December for the Spring semester. A \$10 late payment fee is assessed by Transact each month that an installment is not received. If timely payments are not made, the College reserves the right to refuse the agreement to another payment arrangement with the student for subsequent semesters.

For any student not on a full-service payment plan or has not paid their full balance due by the end of week 2 of the semester, a \$25 late fee will be charged to the student's account and every 30 days after the balance goes unpaid additional late fees will be applied to their student account balance throughout the semester.

Lackawanna College also reserves the right to forward unpaid balances to our contracted third-party recovery service and collection agencies, dismiss any students who do not adhere to scheduled payments, or who attend classes without satisfying financial obligations. The student is responsible for all collection expenses incurred by the College to collect any delinquent receivables.

All questions concerning tuition costs, student invoices, payments, and payment dates should be directed to Student Financial Services at sfs@lackawanna.edu or by calling (570) 961-7859.

Refund Policy

The College must engage its faculty and make other costly commitments in advance of each semester based on anticipated revenue from tuition. When students withdraw, they leave a financial

void that cannot be filled after a semester has begun. Therefore, the following refund policy has been established for standard semesters (fall and spring semesters only):

- ❖ If a student fully withdraws prior to or until the end of the second week of scheduled classes, only the \$35 application fee and/or the \$100 commitment fee (\$375 commitment fee for resident students) will be retained. Only payments of tuition and fees will be refunded.
- ❖ Housing costs will not be refunded after the end of the second week of scheduled classes, including the meal plan. If a student's withdrawal falls under the medical exigency or military leave policy, the refund may coincide with those specific policies.
- ❖ If a student withdraws from an individual online class or Subterm course, a full refund will be provided through the last day to drop a Subterm course as noted on the academic calendar. The course will be recorded as a drop and will not reflect on the transcript. Students will be charged for individual Subterm courses after the last day dropping from a Subterm course.
- ❖ If a student officially withdraws from an in-person full semester course during the spring or fall semester, they may receive a full refund if done within the first two weeks. The course will be recorded as a drop and not recorded on a transcript.
- ❖ If a student withdraws from an in-person full semester course or fully withdraws from all courses during the third week of classes, the College will retain 25% of the total tuition for that semester.
- ❖ If a student withdraws from an in-person full semester course or fully withdraws during the fourth week of classes, the College will retain 50% of the total tuition for that semester.
- ❖ If a student withdraws after the fourth week of scheduled classes, the College will retain 100% of the tuition.
- ❖ If a student withdraws from a Subterm course by the end of the first week of that Subterm, the College will refund 100% tuition for that Subterm course. If the student withdraws from a Subterm course after the first week and stays enrolled in other coursework, the College will retain 100% of the total tuition for that semester.
- ❖ If a student withdraws from a day, evening, or online summer/intersession class, they will receive a 100% refund prior to the start of the scheduled classes through the end of the drop period. After the drop period as noted on the academic calendar, there will be no refund.
- ❖ If a student's financial aid is impacted negatively because of withdrawal or drop/add adjustments, the student will remain responsible for any balance owed and any costs

incurred by the College to collect the monies owed. Students are encouraged to speak to Student Financial Services Counselor before the withdrawal or drop/add of any course(s).

The last date of attendance or academic activity as defined by federal law will be used as the effective date of withdrawal. Students should process their withdrawal paperwork with the Student Success Department or Center designee and must receive all required signatures for the formal withdrawal to be completed.

Students may purchase tuition insurance upon request.

Student Housing Payment Policy

Any balances owed to the College that are not covered by financial aid are due in full or a satisfactory payment arrangement and must be made prior to the residence hall move-in date. Students enrolling in the College Payment Plan must not be delinquent in that plan to be allowed to move into the residence hall. Students will not be allowed access to their rooms or residence halls until all financial obligations to the College have been paid or payment plan arrangement have been made. All room assignments are tentative and can be changed without prior notice.

Tuition and Fees Schedule

Tuition and fees include:

Tuition (Undergraduate and Undergraduate Certificate)	
Undergraduate Tuition (12-18 credits)	\$9,075 per semester
Undergraduate Tuition – part-time	\$650 per credit
Undergraduate Tuition – Summer and Intersession	\$250 per credit
Tuition (Graduate and Graduate Certificate)	
Graduate Tuition	\$330 per credit
Additional Fees (Undergraduate, Graduate and Certificate)	
Activity fee	\$130 per semester
Technology Fee – (5 or more credits)	\$450 per semester
Technology Fee – (less than 5 credits, all sessions)	\$75 per semester
Room and Meal Fees	
Resident Housing (single)	\$5,165 per semester
Resident Housing (double)	\$4,160 per semester

Resident Housing (triple)	\$3,805 per semester
Resident Housing (quad)	\$3,535 per semester
Meal Plan — 19 meal plan	\$2,415 per semester
Other Fees (Undergraduate, Graduate and Certificate)	
Application – non-matriculating only	\$35
Commuter Commitment Fee	\$100 (one-time)
Resident Commitment Fee	\$375 (one-time)
New Student Orientation Fee	\$650 (one-time)
Graduation Fee	\$170 (one-time)
Parking Fee – Commuters ONLY	\$100 per semester (additional \$3.00 processing fee)
Special Fees (Undergraduate, Graduate and Certificate)	
Change of Grade / Incomplete Fee	\$20
Life Experience Processing Fee	\$35
Late Payment Fee	\$25
Late Submission Graduation Fee	\$150
Return Check Fee	\$25
Stop Payment Fee	\$50
Transcript Request Fee	\$12
Estimated Fees (Undergraduate, Graduate and Certificate)	
Books, Course Materials, Supplies & Equipment Estimated Cost	\$808
Personal/Miscellaneous Estimated Cost	\$1,960
Transportation	\$1,078
Undergraduate Program and Course Fees	
Advanced Automotive & Electronic Vehicle	\$475 per semester
Baking and Pastry Majors	\$475 per semester
Communications Fee	\$105 per course
Culinary Arts Majors	\$475 per semester
Hospitality Management Majors	\$230 per semester
Nursing (ASN) Majors	Full-time - \$850 per semester Part-time - \$60 per credit
Nursing ATI (ASN) Majors – First Year Fee	\$2,166 per year
Nursing ATI (ASN) Majors – Second Year Fee	\$1,916 per year
Occupational Therapy Assistant Majors	\$195 per semester

Physical Therapist Assistant Majors	\$195 per semester
School of Petroleum & Natural Gas (PNG)	\$265 per semester
Sonography, Cardiac, Diagnostic, or Vascular Majors	\$195 per semester
Surgical Technology Majors	\$195 per semester
Robotics & Integrated Technologies Majors	\$265 per semester
Trade Programs	\$790 per semester
Carpentry Tool Kit	\$515 (one-time, first-semester)
Electrical Tool Kit	\$642 (one-time, first-semester)
Welding Tool Kit	\$577 (one-time, first-semester)
Lab Fee (3-credit course)	\$120 (part-time/19+ credit students)
Lab Fee (1-credit course)	\$45 (part-time/19+ credit students)
Undergraduate Certificate Program and Course Fees	
Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Course *per course	\$1,875 per course
Massage Therapy	\$9,200
Police Academy (ACT 120)	\$8,500

*All fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Student Support Services

409 Dining Commons

Located in the Culinary Complex at 409 Adams Avenue, the 409 Dining Commons serves as the primary dining facility for Lackawanna College students, faculty, and staff. Operated by Metz Culinary Management, the Dining Commons offers a variety of fresh meal options designed to accommodate a wide range of tastes and dietary preferences, including homestyle favorites, grilled-to-order selections, vegetarian options, and locally sourced ingredients.

Available to both resident and commuter students, the 409 Dining Commons provides flexible dining options through meal plans, Flex Dollars, cash, and credit card payments. Students can enjoy a welcoming environment for dining, studying, and connecting with classmates throughout the day.

Due to the necessity to follow CDC and Department of Health guidelines, additional information, dining menus, meal plans, and hours of operation can be found at www.metzlackawanna.com.

Academic Advising

Strong academic advising is the key to student retention. The best way to keep students enrolled is to keep them stimulated, challenged, and progressing toward a meaningful goal.

Lackawanna College's Student Advising Services are based on the premise that there is no substitute for academic advisors, who serve as role models and mentors to their students. The academic advising services provided by our faculty and professional staff are some of the most powerful tools available to our students. Academic advisors are available at Scranton and at all satellite centers to make long-lasting connections with students to help them complete their coursework and get on the road to a career or four-year program of their choice.

Our advising program includes two (2) required meetings between advisors and their student advisees each semester, and their availability helps students make the right decisions to meet their education- and career-related goals. Academic advisors are equipped to help students with various educational needs including:

- ❖ Schedule adjustments
- ❖ Withdrawal from a course or from the College
- ❖ Change of major
- ❖ Leave of absence
- ❖ Request for excess of 18 credits (per semester)

Academic advisors help students coordinate their academic plans while at Lackawanna; however, students bear the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that they meet the requirements for their degrees.

While there is no substitute for the advisor/advisee connection, Scranton students may also visit the Student Success Center in Suite 105 of Angeli Hall, which is staffed with full- time academic advisors who can work with students when the assigned academic advisors are not available. Students attending a center should meet with their center advisors and online students will have a designated online advisor.

Advising Services is a part of the Student Success Center (Suite 105 – Angeli Hall) and is open Monday through Friday and may also be reached by calling (570) 961-7836 or via email - advising@lackawanna.edu.

Changing Advisors

If a student wishes to change their academic advisor, the student must complete a Request for Advisor Change Form, available as a fillable form [on the portal](#) or in the Student Success Center in Scranton. The student must have the approval and signature of the requested advisor before the form will be processed. Students in certain majors (such as any of the Health Sciences programs, School of Hospitality programs, and CTI Programs) will only be allowed to request an advisor change for another advisor within the major. Only active members of the College's advising program will be considered as academic advisors, so students should check with Advising Services before considering an advisor change.

Career Services

The primary mission of Career Services is to assist students in determining their personal interests and aptitudes, utilizing this information to develop specific career goals. A variety of resources are available to assist students in their career exploration and job searches including labor market information, job search preparation, job lead information, assistance with preparation of employment documentation such as résumés and cover letters. Full- and part-time employment opportunities are posted regularly to the Student Success Weekly Word email.

In addition, Career Services acts as a liaison between the College and the local community to facilitate job placement opportunities for Lackawanna students and graduates and to organize on-campus employer recruitment of Lackawanna College students. For more information, view the Career Services page on our [website](#). To contact Career Services, locate the service in Starfish or email career@lackawanna.edu.

Loaner Laptop Program

The Loaner Laptop Program is available to eligible undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate a need for temporary technology support. Students who do not have access to a computer may apply for the Loaner Laptop Program by following the link in their student portal, clicking [HERE](#), or by raising a hand in Starfish to notify the Student Success Center of their need.

Eligibility Note: Students enrolled in Level Up (LVUP), Dual Enrollment, Tuition Remission, or non–Title IV funded programs are not eligible for loaner laptop services.

Laptops are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, based on application submission dates and are subject to availability.

To receive a loaner laptop, students must:

- ❖ Have attended an Academic Orientation and/or have current courses
- ❖ Review the loaner laptop policy located on the application page [HERE](#)
- ❖ Submit an application
- ❖ Sign a waiver upon approval, at the time of pickup.
- ❖ Accept responsibility for the care and proper use of the device

Students are responsible for returning the laptop in good condition at the time of withdrawal, exit, graduation, or at the end of the spring semester, whichever occurs first. Failure to return the laptop or return it in good condition may result in fees or holds on the student's account.

A new application must be submitted each semester for continued use.

Questions regarding the Loaner Laptop Program can be directed to the Student Success Center or the Center Director.

The Falcon's Nest

The Falcon's Nest, located on the ground floor of Angeli Hall, provides students with convenient dining and lounge space on Main Campus. The café offers a selection of coffee, breakfast items, sandwiches, wraps, salads, snacks, and beverages. Students may utilize meal plan swipes through designated meal exchange programs while enjoying a comfortable space to study, meet with peers, or relax between classes.

Student Success Center

The Student Success Center's (SSC) mission is to provide an individualized approach of connecting students to the resources available from transition into Lackawanna College through graduation. We empower students in making informed academic and personal decisions to meet their goals. We offer a variety of program options to promote student persistence and success. Our goal is to help students thrive at Lackawanna College and beyond. Staff from the SSC communicates with faculty on a regular basis to identify performance or absentee problems, monitor academic warnings, stay in regular contact with students in jeopardy, and connect students with the supports needed on their academic journey. For more information, please contact the Student Success Center located in Suite 105 in Angeli Hall at (570) 961-7836 or studentsuccess@lackawanna.edu.

Student Success Coach

A Success Coach will work with students individually or in a group setting to assist them in improving skills they need to reach their academic goals. Through their individual or group meetings, students can individualize their learning styles to be successful in the classroom. Whether there is difficulty with organization, or a student needs a more individualized approach to studying, the Success Coach is here to assist in improving those skills.

For more information, please contact a Success Coach, located in Suite 105, Angeli Hall, or emailing studentsuccess@lackawanna.edu.

Online Student Success Coach

Students enrolled in online programs or taking online courses have access to a dedicated Online Success Coach who provides personalized support throughout their educational journey. The Online Success Coach assists students with navigating online learning, accessing College resources, developing effective study strategies, and overcoming challenges that may impact academic success.

Students planning to travel outside the United States while enrolled in online courses must contact IT (support@lackawanna.edu) prior to departure to ensure appropriate access to College systems. Students will be required to verify their travel information and provide an expected return date.

For additional assistance, students may contact the Online Success Coach located in Suite 105, Angeli Hall, or emailing by emailing onlinesuccess@lackawanna.edu.

Tutoring Assistance

Sometimes students need additional assistance in understanding academic concepts to alleviate any additional stress in the classroom. Through a cooperative, interactive learning experience, Lackawanna College Tutorial Services assist students in becoming independent learners who can then go on to achieve their personal goals. Professional, individual, and group tutoring sessions are available free of charge for Lackawanna College students. You can find information for Tutoring Services in Starfish. You can also find assistance in the Student Success Center in Suite 105 in Angeli Hall, at (570) 961-7885 or tutoring@lackawanna.edu.

Transfer Services

Lackawanna College offers a growing number of associate, bachelor's, and master's degree programs that allow many students to continue their education without leaving the College. For students

whose educational or career goals require enrollment at another institution, advising staff are available to assist with transfer planning and provide information regarding transfer opportunities. The College continually develops and maintains transfer agreements with other institutions to support student educational pathways. Information regarding transfer opportunities is available through the Student Services section of the Portal.

While many Lackawanna College courses and programs are designed to support transferability, the acceptance of transfer credits is determined solely by the receiving institution. Students considering transfer are encouraged to work closely with their academic advisor to understand transfer requirements, application deadlines, and degree completion options. Students should also consult directly with the institution they plan to attend for the most current information regarding transfer credit evaluation, program-specific requirements, and admissions criteria. For additional information, contact Advising Services at advising@lackawanna.edu.

Veterans' Services

As a Yellow Ribbon school, Lackawanna College has many services available to the veteran or service members looking to begin or further their education. Starting with a liaison in the enrollment office, the application fee at Lackawanna College is waived for any veteran or service member interested in enrolling in any degree-seeking program. The College has a Certifying Official in Student Financial Services Offices. Student veterans are allowed early priority registration during semesters.

Student-Veterans at Lackawanna College also enjoy the opportunity of an exclusive separate lounge for their use only, consisting of a small kitchenette, computer lab, and lounge area. Many students find this quiet lounge to be useful for studying while grabbing a cup of coffee and meeting others who share similar experiences. More information regarding our programs for Veterans can be found on our [College Website](#).

Voter Registration

Your vote is your voice as an American citizen, and voter registration is your opportunity to make your voice heard. In support, the College hosts voter registration events and programming. For out of state students, forms are usually available online at your state's website. For more information, please visit the Voter Registration section of the Student Services page on the Portal.

Information Technology

Lackawanna College provides computing and internet services to students, faculty, and staff for educational and administrative use. Use of these computing facilities is a privilege. All users of Lackawanna College's computing services are responsible for maintaining the integrity of these resources by using the system in a responsible, ethical, and legal manner. Any attempt to violate the provisions of this policy may result in loss of computing privileges and can result in disciplinary action and/or legal sanctions under international, federal, state, and/or local law.

Room 210 in Angeli Hall is a dedicated student computer lab. All other computer labs are available when classes are not in session.

Computer Use Policies

General Use of Computing and Network Resources

- ❖ Users are responsible for computing activity that take place on their account(s). Account holders are responsible for using their account in an appropriate manner. This includes safeguarding passwords, protecting confidential data, and following security policies.
- ❖ Unauthorized use of another individual's account is prohibited.
- ❖ Users are responsible for respecting the privacy of others. Programs and files are confidential unless they have been made available with written permission to other authorized individuals. Attempts to access, monitor, or alter another user's files or electronic messages is prohibited.
- ❖ Users are responsible for maintaining the integrity of personal equipment connecting to the College's network. Users are expected to maintain anti-virus software and update virus definitions to protect their PCs from damage and loss of valuable data. Users are strongly encouraged to perform regular updates to their computers.
- ❖ Lackawanna College respects the copyright protections given to authors, owners, and publishers under federal law. Copying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted materials, such as files, software, music, movies, or games on College computing equipment without the proper license or the express written consent of the copyright holder is prohibited. Please refer to the Copyright Policies and Guidelines for more information.

- ❖ Internet access is filtered to only allow connections through standard ports. All other ports are restricted to help prevent peer-to-peer file sharing and limit bandwidth usage.
- ❖ Copying system files is prohibited.
- ❖ Viewing, printing, or sending offensive, pornographic, or discriminatory messages, and/or images is prohibited.
- ❖ Conducting illegal activities is not permitted.
- ❖ The willful introduction of computer viruses or other disruptive/destructive programs is prohibited.
- ❖ Users may not attempt to uncover or exploit security loopholes in our servers, server software, routers, or other network hardware.
- ❖ The intentional attempt to crash or degrade performance of network systems or programs is prohibited.
- ❖ Decryption or capture of system or user passwords is prohibited.
- ❖ Any attempt to secure a higher level of privilege or gain unauthorized access to systems on or off campus is prohibited.
- ❖ Use of the systems and/or networks to interfere with the normal operations of the College, another student, faculty member, or staff is prohibited.
- ❖ Use of the College's computer and network resources for commercial or partisan political activity not related to the mission of the College is prohibited.
- ❖ Selling or advertising services/merchandise not related to Lackawanna College is not permitted.
- ❖ Network users are responsible for all traffic origination from their network device. The College reserves the right to monitor all network activity, incoming or outgoing. All web usage is logged by default.
- ❖ Attempts to reconfigure the network infrastructure are prohibited.
- ❖ Attempting to set up any other kind of server on the College's network is prohibited.

Computer Labs

- ❖ Computer labs are provided for students to conduct course-related or other academic work.
- ❖ Computer labs are available when the room is open and class is not in session. Please check the sign on the computer lab door for availability.
- ❖ Food and beverages are not permitted in computer labs.
- ❖ Users are not allowed to install software onto the systems. Anyone needing software installed for academic purposes should contact the IT administrator. Notification should be given at least two (2) weeks prior to the date needed in order to provide sufficient installation time.
- ❖ Students must save their work to their own USB drive or to cloud storage. Saving to the hard drive of the computers is not permitted.
- ❖ During peak usage times, students should be considerate of the needs of their peers by limiting their time using the computer equipment to one (1) hour.
- ❖ Users must show consideration for others and refrain from engaging in any activities that would interfere with the work of others or otherwise disrupt the intended use of network resources.

Email

- ❖ Intentionally disabling computer hardware or software, including modifications to settings, is prohibited.
- ❖ Email accounts are provided to students for academic use.
- ❖ Email account holders are responsible for all activity generated from their account. Therefore, users should not share accounts or disclose passwords.
- ❖ Users may not attempt to impersonate or represent another individual or affiliation by using a false identity or altering the source of an electronic message.

Violations

Lackawanna College is responsible for securing its network and computing systems in a reasonable and economically feasible way against unauthorized access or abuse, while making it accessible for

authorized and legitimate users. By using any of Lackawanna College's electronic and technology resources, users consent to assume personal responsibility for their appropriate use and agree to adhere to all applicable College policies and local, state, federal, and international laws and regulations.

If a user feels that they are a victim of computer abuse, harassment, malicious behavior, spamming, or unauthorized account access, they should report incidents to Public Safety.

If a user is suspected of violating any of the conditions of this policy, the appropriate department will initiate an investigation. During the investigation, files may be inspected, and all computing services may be suspended for the individual(s) in question. If a violation of the conditions is confirmed, the user may face disciplinary charges as defined in the Student Code of Conduct and/or legal action.

All users of the network are responsible for respecting and adhering to local, state, federal, and international laws. Any attempt to break those laws using Lackawanna College's computing facilities may result in legal action by the proper authorities. If such an event should occur, this organization will fully comply by providing any information necessary for the litigation process. While we cannot be responsible for the actions of individual users, it is understood that Lackawanna College will make every effort to ensure compliance with established laws.

Copyright Policies and Guidelines

Copyright is the right of an author, artist, composer, or other creator of a work of authorship to control the use of their work by others. Protection includes music, movies, software, and other literary and artistic works. Generally speaking, others may not reproduce a copyrighted work without the copyright owner's permission.

It is the policy of Lackawanna College to respect the copyright protections given to authors, owners, and publishers under federal law including the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Willful infringement may subject a defender to discipline and can impact the privilege to use information technology resources at the College.

Copyright Guidelines

- ❖ Copying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted materials such as files, software, music, movies, or games on College computing equipment without the proper license or the express written consent of the copyright holder is prohibited.

- ❖ Not all copyrighted material is denoted with a © symbol, and users should not assume that it is. Prior to downloading a file, image, or any other type of media, users should obtain permission from the author unless the fair use doctrine clearly applies to the situation.
- ❖ Acknowledging the source of copyrighted material does not substitute for obtaining permission.
- ❖ The recording, film, and software industries have become aggressive in their active pursuit of copyright infringement. They have spent millions of dollars and have hired hi-tech firms to develop and maintain software that is able to search the Internet and identify unauthorized distribution of their protected titles.
- ❖ The No Electronic Theft (NET) Act criminalizes sound recording copyright infringements regardless of whether there is financial gain.
- ❖ For further information on copyright infringement go to www.copyright.gov.

Fair Use Guidelines

There are certain circumstances under which it is permissible to reproduce or display copyrighted works without the permission of the copyright owner. These exceptions known as fair use are outlined in section 107 of the Copyright Act. When determining whether the use falls under this exception, the following factors should be considered as defined in the Fair Use doctrine:

- ❖ The purpose and the character of the use, including whether it is for commercial or nonprofit educational purposes;
- ❖ The nature or type of the copyrighted material (periodical, film, book, etc.);
- ❖ The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the whole;
- ❖ The effect of the use on the potential market for or value of the copyrighted material.

The Register of Copyrights on the General Revision of the U.S. Copyright Law cites the following examples of activities that courts have regarded as fair use in its 1961 report: “quotation of excerpts in a review or criticism for purposes of illustration or comment; quotation of short passages in a scholarly or technical work; for illustration or clarification of the author’s observations; use in a parody of some of the content of the work parodied; summary of an address or article, with brief quotations, in a news report; reproduction by a library of a portion of a work to replace part of a damaged copy; reproduction by a teacher or student of a small part of a work to illustrate a lesson; reproduction of a work in legislative or judicial proceedings or reports; incidental and fortuitous reproduction, in a newsreel or broadcast, of a work located in the scene of an event being reported.”

Peer-To-Peer File Sharing

- ❖ Peer-to-peer file sharing programs allow sharing of copyrighted music, movies, and software, often without the knowledge or consent of the user.
- ❖ The use of Peer-to-Peer file sharing networks (KaZaA, Gnutella Morpheus, LimeWire, BitTorrent, Gnucleus, Bearshare, Grokster, Aimster, iMesh) to share copyrighted material is a violation of the Federal Digital Millennium Copyright Act and is prohibited at Lackawanna College.
- ❖ Law enforcement agencies, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), and other copyright holders of digital media actively monitor the Internet for users who are distributing copyrighted material. When violations are discovered, they contact the owner of the network on which the offending computer resides. To protect the College and the student, the computer will be removed from the network on receipt of a DMCA complaint.
- ❖ For more information on the laws regarding file sharing, please visit www.campusdownloading.com.

Preventing Illegal File Sharing

- ❖ Avoid using file-sharing programs. Lackawanna College strongly discourages the use of file-sharing programs due to the risk that files may be copyrighted. Many of these programs can turn a computer into a server even if it was not the users' intent.
- ❖ Selected ports are blocked to help prevent file-sharing networks.
- ❖ Use legal online sources such as Amazon Prime Music/Video, Apple Music, iHeartRadio, Netflix, Pandora, Spotify, and YouTube.
- ❖ For further sources of legal online content, please visit www.educause.edu/legalcontent.

Digital Copyright Policy Violations

By using any of Lackawanna College's electronic and technology resources, users consent to assume personal responsibility for their appropriate use and agree to adhere to all applicable College policies as well as local, state, federal, and international laws and regulations.

Lackawanna College respects the protections provided under copyright law and takes seriously any violations of these protections. Those who illegally share copyrighted files face charges and additional penalties that are enforced by the College. In addition, violators may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution under the provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).

If a user is suspected of violating any of the conditions of this policy, the appropriate department will initiate an investigation. During the investigation, files may be inspected, and all computing services may be suspended for the individual(s) in question. If a violation of the conditions is confirmed, the user may face disciplinary charges as defined in the Student Code of Conduct and/or legal action. Sanctions may include warning, probation, 7 a.m. community service, Student Wellness, suspension from activities, housing suspension, academic success coaching, FIT mentoring, deferred suspension, and/or dismissal from the College.

Any attempt to break the law may result in legal action by the proper authorities. If such an event should occur, the College will fully comply by providing any information necessary for the litigation process. While we cannot be responsible for the actions of individual users, it is understood that Lackawanna College will make every effort to ensure compliance with established laws.

Public Relations Policies

Photo/Videotaping Policy

The Lackawanna College administration reserves the right to authorize persons to photograph/videotape activities and events on campus, at satellite centers, and places where college functions take place, providing such photographing/taping is performed and utilized without malice to any individuals.

Individuals desiring to be omitted from such photos/taping should make this request known to the Marketing Department in writing. By allowing inclusion of oneself in an authorized photograph/videotape, the individual consents without restriction to such use of the photo/videotape, as the College deems appropriate.

Lackawanna College Social Media Accounts Policy

Lackawanna College believes that having a presence on social media will allow the College to communicate information and interact with the public daily. Current and future students, faculty,

staff, alumni, and donors utilize media such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, and many others to stay connected. To operate within these platforms effectively, Lackawanna has developed a social media policy to ensure that any and all interactions on behalf of Lackawanna represent the College's best interests.

These guidelines are broad in nature to accommodate any differences in online platforms while maintaining a universal code of conduct; the policy may need to be adapted accordingly. The Lackawanna College Social Media Policy only applies to social media accounts created to represent Lackawanna groups, departments, programs, and entities, and does not apply to private, individual accounts.

- ❖ For an officially authorized group to obtain a social media account, the group's administrators must seek approval from the Marketing Department.
- ❖ No user may establish social networking sites that use the Lackawanna College logo or other intellectual properties such as photography, video, artwork, and publications copyrighted to the College without authorization from the College. It is a violation of social networking site policies to represent an institution without authorization.
- ❖ The Marketing Department is a resource for the College community for any social media needs. Approved administrators of individual accounts can manage the functions of each approved page, but the Marketing Department will make final decisions regarding any situation that arises in a social media setting.

Account Administrators

- ❖ All social media accounts officially recognized by Lackawanna College must always have a Lackawanna faculty or staff member as an administrator.
- ❖ Lackawanna College employees identified as administrators of accounts are held responsible for managing and monitoring content of their officially recognized accounts. Administrators are responsible for removing content that may violate the College's Code of Conduct Policy.
- ❖ Privacy does not exist in the world of social media. Use good ethical judgment and follow College policies and federal requirements, such as FERPA and HIPAA when posting on social media sites.
- ❖ Review content for accuracy, grammar, and spelling. This is especially important if posting on behalf of the College in any capacity.

- ❖ Representation of your personal opinions as being endorsed by the College or any of its organizations is strictly prohibited. You may not use the Lackawanna name to promote any opinion, product, cause, or political candidate.
- ❖ Do not post any content that could be deemed to be threatening, harassing, illegal, obscene, defamatory, slanderous, or hostile towards any individual or entity or information that is confidential and proprietary to the College or is a violation of intellectual property rights or privacy laws.
- ❖ Lackawanna College has the right to remove any content for any reason, including but not limited to, content that it deems threatening, harassing, illegal, obscene, a violation of intellectual property rights or privacy laws, or otherwise defamatory, slanderous, or hostile.
- ❖ Be aware that a presence in the social media world is or can easily be made available to the public at large. This includes prospective students, current students, current employers and colleagues, and peers. Consider this before publishing to ensure the post will not alienate, harm, or provoke any of these groups.
- ❖ When using or posting online material that includes direct or paraphrased quotes, thoughts, ideas, photos, or videos, always include citations. Provide a link to the original material if applicable.

Consequences

Violation of the Social Media Policy will result in discipline as outlined in the Student Handbook or the Employee Handbook, as applicable, and willful violations could result in a range of penalties, including expulsion for students or termination for employees. Please see specific program handbooks for additional policies regarding social media violations. Questions about this policy should be directed to: mediarelations@lackawanna.edu.

Student Supports

Bookstore

Lackawanna College has partnered with eCampus.com, an industry-leading provider of online course material solutions for colleges and universities, to provide bookstore services.

Bypassing the traditional brick and mortar store, eCampus' Virtual Bookstore provides cost saving solutions to Lackawanna students as they take advantage of every purchasing option, including new, used, rental, eTextbooks, and an expansive network of third-party Marketplace sellers. Financial aid may be available for books and supplies. To visit the bookstore, go to www.lackawanna.ecampus.com.

Lackawanna College Library Services

Beginning Fall semester 2026, the Lackawanna College Digital Library will serve the needs of all Lackawanna College students at every location. As a digital library, its resources are available to students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Digital Library provides access to electronic research databases, citation guides, course research guides, reliable subject websites, and more. Students can also chat with a librarian or leave a ticket for librarian assistance. Students can access the Digital Library on the College portal at <https://portal.lackawanna.edu/ICS/Library/>.

Additionally, Lackawanna College has a cooperative agreement with Scranton's Albright Memorial Library, where students can find some course materials on reserve. The library also provides access to a variety of electronic research databases as well as quiet study space, a computer lab, staff offices, and a makerspace. Students, faculty, and staff interested in using or borrowing any items at Albright must first obtain a Lackawanna County Library System [library card](#)

Through Access Pennsylvania, the Lackawanna County Library System card grants borrowing privileges to the Weinberg Memorial Library at the University of Scranton and the Marywood University Library, including Interlibrary Loan service throughout the state of Pennsylvania. The Albright Memorial Library is located directly across from Lackawanna College's Angeli Hall at 500 Vine St., Scranton, PA 18509.

For answers to library questions or for research assistance, please contact Kristin Inciardi, Director of Academic & Library Services, at library@lackawanna.edu. The Director of Academic & Library Services is a resource for students as well as a liaison to the resources available at Albright Memorial Library. Students can also search the Albright Memorial Library catalog [here](#), and its online resources [here](#).

Math Center

The Math Center welcomes all members of the Lackawanna College community to meet with one of our tutors for assistance with studying for their math classes. Its primary function is to provide students with the opportunity to receive personalized help from tutors ready and able to answer their math questions. The Math Center is located in Angeli Hall suite 110 and has appointments available Monday-Friday. To make an appointment, visit the Math Center services on the Starfish.

Writing Center

The Writing Center welcomes all members of the Lackawanna College Community to meet with a trained collaborator for assistance during any stage of the writing process and on any writing project. The Writing Center is located in Room 109 of Angeli Hall on the Scranton Campus. Students may arrange for individual or small-group collaboration either in-person or online at their convenience. To schedule an appointment with the writing center, follow the Writing Center link on the portal or Starfish.

Athletics

The mission of the Lackawanna College Athletics Department is to develop student-athletes through a competitive NCAA environment that supports academic achievement, personal growth, and athletic excellence. We are committed to preparing student-athletes for successful entry into meaningful careers, active and responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning. The Athletics Department emphasizes integrity, degree completion, leadership development, and compliance with NCAA principles while fostering a culture that prioritizes the holistic success of every student-athlete.

For more information, visit the [Athletics website](#), call (570) 961-0700, or email athletics@lackawanna.edu.

Public Safety Information

Public Safety

Lackawanna College's Department of Public Safety's mission is to ensure the safety and security of students, faculty, staff and visitors on all our campuses. We seek to ensure a safe and secure learning and working environment for all. Public Safety works closely with all departments in the college and local first responders to provide and maintain safety and security.

Public Safety officers regulate and enforce vehicle parking regulations, conduct random rounds throughout the campus to ensure a safe environment, check compliance with college rules and regulations, identify safety concerns and maintenance problems, assist with Student ID replacement and security risks, investigate and resolve problems and complaints, and offer assistance to anyone on the college's grounds. Lackawanna College's Public Safety department is available on campus 24

hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year and can be reached by calling (570) 241-2022 or (570) 961-7899. In case of a medical emergency, call 911 first.

RAVE Guardian

In its ongoing effort to keep the College community safe, Lackawanna College allows students to anonymously report on-campus crime and other incidents through RAVE Guardian. RAVE Guardian is a comprehensive, web-based risk management and prevention platform that notifies key personnel on campus of potential incidents. You can also download the “RAVE Guardian” app to your cellular devices through your device’s app store or register by visiting the website.

Incident Reporting

What types of Incidents should be reported?

The following list is not all inclusive of incidents that should be reported. If this is an emergency, please contact 911 immediately.

Physical/Personal Security

- ❖ Abuse Including Physical, Sexual, Emotional and/or Psychological
- ❖ Aggravated Assault
- ❖ Arson
- ❖ Bullying/Cyber-Bullying
- ❖ Burglary
- ❖ Campus Safety/Security Concerns
- ❖ Criminal Homicide
- ❖ Disorderly Conduct
- ❖ Domestic Violence
- ❖ Hate Crime
- ❖ Hazing (Fraternity and Sorority)
- ❖ Hazardous Campus Housing Conditions
- ❖ Mistreatment
- ❖ Robbery
- ❖ Sexual Offense
- ❖ Sexual Misconduct/Inappropriate Behavior
- ❖ Stalking
- ❖ Theft
- ❖ Unsafe Campus Conditions
- ❖ Unsafe Work Conditions

- ❖ Vandalism
- ❖ Weapon Law Violations
- ❖ Workplace Violence Information Security/Identity Theft
- ❖ Copyright Violations
- ❖ Cyber Bullying
- ❖ Disclosure of Confidential Information
- ❖ Identity Theft
- ❖ Social Networking Leak
- ❖ Unauthorized Access To Computerized Academic or Administrative Records or Systems

Employment

- ❖ Discrimination
- ❖ Harassment
- ❖ Racism
- ❖ Sexual Harassment
- ❖ Violation of the 1974 Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)
- ❖ Violation of Policy Emergency Scenarios
- ❖ Student Health Emergencies
- ❖ Terrorism
- ❖ Threat of Violence
- ❖ Weapon Suspicion
- ❖ Suspicious Picture/Note Taking
- ❖ Threat of Shooter/Bombing

Ethical

- ❖ Misappropriation of funds
- ❖ Misuse of authority

Once I submit an incident, what happens?

Incident Reports are securely transmitted to, and stored on, the RAVE Guardian platform. Once the Incident Report is received, notifications are sent to the appropriate personnel and the threat assessment team members selected by Lackawanna College. Your Incident Report will only be viewed and accessible by personnel that your organization has approved for each incident type. You may be contacted by a member of the appropriate department to address your report.

Is My Incident Report Anonymous?

Yes, if you choose to not share your personal information when submitting an Incident Report. Please keep in mind the more information you can provide to the investigating team, leads to a better chance at a conclusive answer.

Emergency Notification and/or Timely Warning

Presently, Lackawanna College is offering emergency notification alerts via RAVE Guardian Alert system. Lackawanna College uses this service to notify its students in the case of an emergency and/or unusual event. In the event of an emergency and/or unusual event, a phone call, text, and/or e-mail will be sent to the mobile number and/or email registered to receive alerts outlining the nature of the emergency. This is a free, mandatory service provided by the College, however normal text message fees may apply. Please note failure to register for the RAVE Guardian app may inhibit your ability to receive proper emergency notification.

Depending on the particular circumstances of an emergency and/or unusual event, especially in any situation that could pose an immediate threat to the Lackawanna College community and individuals, Public Safety, with the concurrence of the Vice President for External/Government Affairs and Special Projects, may post a notice via RAVE Guardian alert to every student, staff, and faculty member registered to receive alerts. The email/text/phone call is immediately accessible via computer/phone by all students, staff, and faculty registered. In addition, a notice containing essential information will be forwarded to the College community via the RAVE Guardian Alert system.

Public Safety Crime Reports

All Annual Security and Fire Safety Reports are kept up to date on the Lackawanna College website. Please refer to the Clery Reports page of the site, [which can be accessed here](#).

Student ID Cards

All students are issued a student ID card. Students can obtain one through the enrollment process or by contacting Public Safety at the Scranton location. This card is your official College identification and must be carried at all times. Report a lost, damaged, or stolen card immediately to Public Safety to prevent unauthorized use of the card. Replacement fees are charged on an escalating fee scale as follows:

First replacement: \$35

Second replacement: \$40

Third and subsequent replacements: \$60

Failure to present a student ID when requested by a College official shall result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Please reference the [Creating Safety Hazards](#) policy on page 292 for more information.

Using another person's ID to obtain goods and services at the College or to provide false identification shall result in immediate sanctioning up to and including dismissal, depending on the level of the offense.

Failure to surrender Student ID upon college exit, withdrawal, or dismissal could result in fines or institutional sanctions.

Student Right to Know Act

In compliance with the Student Right to Know Act, current re-enrollment rates, athletic graduation rates, and campus security statistics are published and posted on the Lackawanna College website. Graduation rates are available in the Registrar and Student Success Center; other rates are available through the corresponding departments.

Public Safety Policies

Fire and Emergency Evacuation Policy

All students, faculty members, administrators, and classified personnel must consider the ringing of the fire alarm as a real life or death emergency signal and react accordingly.

Upon the sounding of the fire alarm, all rooms and buildings will be vacated in an orderly fashion and as quickly as possible. No one is allowed to remain in the building with the exception of First Responders.

When exiting the building, students, staff and faculty are asked to leave backpacks, purses, coats, and valuables they have on or near their persons and focus on getting to a safe location. They should not return to the area for any items left behind until given permission to return to the area by a college administrator, Public Safety, or the Fire Department.

In case of an evacuation, please keep in mind:

- ❖ Exit the building quickly and safely.

- ❖ Do not panic.
- ❖ Use the closest safe exit and await instructions in the nearest parking area.
- ❖ All those exiting Angeli Hall from the front shall gather in the parking area on Vine Street.
- ❖ All those exiting Angeli Hall from the back shall gather in the parking area on North Washington Avenue.
- ❖ No one should remain near the doors or windows to the building.

After the emergency is over or the drill is completed, an administrator will give the signal to return to class. If it is not possible to re-enter the building, notification of how to proceed will be given by an administrator. Additional information of fire drills can be found in the Resident Life Handbook.

Any person who, through smoking or use of prohibited items, deliberate malice, carelessness, or neglect, causes the alarms to sound and the fire company to be dispatched to any College building, will be required to pay \$1,000 to the College due to the levy placed upon the College by the City of Scranton for false alarms. If such person is a guest of a student, the fine will be assessed to that student. Deliberately causing a fire alarm with malicious intent is a criminal offense, and the responsible person, if they are a student, may be dismissed from the College. The fine levied is currently \$1,000 and is subject to change without notice.

Missing Persons Policy

Upon acceptance, all students are required to enter their contact information and emergency contact information on the student portal.

In the event a resident student is reported missing, the Director of Public Safety or their designee will notify the Vice President for External/Government Affairs and Special Projects no later than 24 hours after receipt of the report. Public Safety will then begin the search process including speaking with the student's roommate, classmates, professors and the Residence Hall Director and detailed description will be disseminated to all staff and resident students. The students listed emergency contact person(s) will be contacted by the Vice President for External/Government Affairs and Special Projects. If the investigation concludes the student is indeed missing, a missing person's report will be filed with the Scranton Police Department, and the Police Department that has jurisdiction over the students home address.

In the event any college official receives a report of a missing commuter student, they must immediately contact Public Safety. The Director of Public Safety or their designee will notify the Vice President for External/Government Affairs and Special Projects upon initial report. The Vice President for External/Government Affairs and Special Projects and Public Safety will simultaneously notify the person(s) on student emergency contact form and the Police Department where the student resides.

If a missing person report is received on a student under the age of 18, and they are not an emancipated individual, the Vice President for External/Government Affairs and Special Projects will immediately contact the student's legal guardian upon receiving the information. The Director of Public Safety or their appointed designee will contact one, or more, of the following law enforcement agencies: Scranton Police (570) 348-4141 or the Pennsylvania State Police Dunmore Station (570) 963-3156. The initial contact will be to the authority of original jurisdiction, and the Director of Public Safety will reserve the right to contact all of the above.

The Director of Public Safety will also activate the College's internal emergency response procedures upon any missing persons report.

Student Motor Vehicle and Parking Policy

All motor vehicles parked on a Lackawanna College-owned or leased parking lot must be registered in Public Safety's parking database located at [Parking Permit Request Form | Public Safety | Portal](#). You may register on the portal or refer to the link to apply for a parking permit. Permits are issued each semester at a cost of \$100, plus a \$3.00 processing fee.

Once registered on the portal, you may retrieve your parking permit from the Public Safety office.

NOTE: You MUST display your parking permit from your rearview mirror.

Lackawanna College only offers parking for commuter students. There is no resident parking available at this time.

Handicapped permits must be displayed per state statute. No one will be permitted to utilize another handicapped individual's parking placard. The penalty for improper use of a handicapped placard will be revocation of parking privileges. Any vehicle without a valid parking permit registered on the above listed website will be subject to citations and/or towing. All illegally parked vehicles are subject to be towed or booted without notice. The driver/owner is solely responsible for all towing and storage fees incurred. Parking privileges in the campus lots will be revoked for repeated offenses.

Lackawanna College assumes no responsibility for vehicles parked on College property. Students, faculty, and staff are solely responsible for their vehicles (including parking citations and/or towing

or booting charges) while the vehicles are located on College property. Parking spaces are designated as faculty, staff, students, handicapped, visitor, and reserved. Park in proper spaces only.

Parking is allowed only in marked spaces, within the lines. Vehicles parked inappropriately in spaces, unmarked areas, or causing any properly parked vehicle to be blocked from entering or exiting will be subject to fine and/or immediate towing or booting. No notice will be given. Parking is prohibited in drives, driveways, walkways, and seeded areas.

Resident students are not permitted to park on-campus unless granted a specific exception by Public Safety. Residence Life staff can assist residents with options for off- campus parking.

Students with a balance owed to the College that is not covered by financial aid is due in full or satisfactory payment arrangements must be made prior to receiving their parking pass. See the financial information section on how to make payment arrangements and set up a payment plan.

Parking Chart

Location	Who Can Park
North Washington Avenue (Entrance) Lot	Designated for commuter students and adjunct faculty
Vine Street (Entrance) Lot	Designated for staff, faculty, handicapped staff and faculty. All others require prior approval by Human Resources.
McKinnie, Tobin, and Healey lots	Designated for employees only.

E-Powered Micro-Mobility Vehicles

The use or storage of personal electric motorized vehicles, including but not limited to, electric scooters, e-skateboards, hoverboards, electric bikes, and other self-propelled devices, within campus residence halls and other Lackawanna College buildings is strictly prohibited.

Electric mobility aids for individuals with disabilities or with official instruction from a physician may be permitted on campus.

Human-Powered Micro-Mobility Vehicles

The use of human-powered vehicles, including but not limited to bicycles, skateboards, and rollerblades, is prohibited within campus buildings. Resident students may store these vehicles in

their room, but not in common areas of the residence hall, unless specifically designated for vehicle storage.

Any violation of this policy will result in confiscation of vehicles, a violation fine, and/or pathways provided by Residence Life & Housing or the Student Accountability and Restorative Practices Office.

Masking Policy

No student shall, while wearing any mask whereby a substantial portion of the face is hidden or covered so as to conceal the identity of the wearer, enter, be or appear in any portion of any building owned or operated by Lackawanna College. For purposes of this policy, a mask is defined as any device or hood (including, but not limited to, facemasks, balaclavas, and ski masks) whereby any portion of the face is so hidden or covered as to conceal the identity of the wearer.

Exemptions from this rule shall be obtained from the Dean of Students for use of a mask that is deemed appropriate by the College or protected by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the United States Constitution.



Student Services Information

Student Health and Wellness

Student Wellness Program

The mission of the Student Wellness Program is to engage, educate, and empower students with the goal of promoting the overall wellness and personal effectiveness of the individual as well as the collective College community.

Engage - We engage students to explore the skills, attitudes, and resources necessary to both succeed in the college environment and better the communities in which they live.

Educate - We educate students on mental health issues, alcohol and other drug prevention, sexual misconduct awareness, as well as teach them about healthy lifestyle choices.

Empower - We empower students to enhance their social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual wellness to reach their academic goals and assist them in making the most of their educational experience at Lackawanna College.

The College experience can be one of the most challenging transitions in a young person's life. The Lackawanna College Student Wellness Program is dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles, positive choices, and total wellness for all students. Students can get support to overcome the difficulty of adjusting to the social, emotional, and educational demands of college.

Students can gain access to local resources to overcome a number of issues including relationship concerns, anxiety, depression, identity issues, stress management, substance abuse, and more.

All Student Wellness Program services are free and confidential for Lackawanna College students. Situations of a serious nature are referred to community agencies or local hospitals with the support and assistance from the Student Wellness Program. The Student Wellness Program and Public Safety also conduct emergency and crisis consultations. For additional information, visit the Student Wellness Program page on the Portal.

The Student Wellness Program office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (except during College observed holidays). To schedule an appointment, please call (570) 955-1478 or (570) 955-1466 or stop by Angeli Hall Room 102, 103, 104. You can also email studentwellness@lackawanna.edu or visit the Starfish Services page to access appointments.

All services are free and confidential.

Student Wellness Program
Director
Angeli Hall

Student Wellness Program –
Program Coordinator
Angeli Hall

Student Wellness Program -
Manager of Leadership and
Substance Use Prevention
Angeli Hall

College Health Services

Scranton Primary Health Care Center (SPHCC) provides on-campus student health services at Seeley Hall, 406 N. Washington Ave., Scranton. Information regarding SPHCC hours of operation can be found on the [Student Health Services Page](#). Otherwise, services are provided at their office at 959 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, which is within walking distance from campus.

Students may reach SPHCC at (570) 344-9684 or (570) 969-9662. More information regarding on-campus health services can be found by visiting the Portal. Emergency medical treatment can be sought at one of the following local hospitals:

Geisinger Community

Medical Center of Scranton
1800 Mulberry St.
Scranton, PA 18510
(570) 969-8000

The Regional Hospital

746 Jefferson Ave.
Scranton, PA 18510
(570) 348-7951

Health Insurance

All students are required to have adequate health and accident insurance coverage.

Falcons Performance Center

The Performance Center is located on the main floor of the Student Union. The Performance Center is free to all current Lackawanna College students, faculty, and staff with their College ID. The Performance Center offers a variety of cardio options including treadmills, elliptical cross trainers, stationary and recumbent bikes, stair climbers, and a Jacob's Ladder. There is also a large selection of strength equipment that includes Hammer Strength machines, free weights, kettlebells, and benches. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and hours.

Student Wellness Policies

Mental Health Emergency Response Policy formally known as: Emergency Psychological Response Policy

The Student Wellness Program and LC Public Safety are responsible for assessing students who may be exhibiting signs of emotional crisis. Any member of the College may report their concern for the student to the Student Wellness Program during business hours Monday through Friday 8am to 4 pm, excluding weekends, holidays, and college closures. If it is outside business hours or if the student's safety is at risk, please contact LC Public Safety immediately at 570-241-2022.

Crisis Consultation

A student facing instability in their life can potentially face an emotional crisis. Safety issues can surface when a student is unable to deal with their stressors and navigate their daily life routine. This places a student at risk for an emotional breakdown and crisis. Crises can range in intensity and rapidity depending on the students' resources, supports and overall emotional health.

Any member of the College may report their concern for the student to the Student Wellness Program for immediate assessment Monday through Friday 8am-4pm while college is in session. If there is an emotional crisis and concern for safety outside Monday through Friday 8am-4pm Public Safety should be called immediately.

Examples of a student who may be facing a potential emotional crisis include:

- ❖ A student is unable to take care of themselves.
- ❖ A student's thinking is illogical or disorganized, or behavior is unpredictable.
- ❖ A student is isolating from others and displaying unusual behavior.
- ❖ A student is experiencing suicidal ideation or intent.
- ❖ A student is considering harming others, lethally or otherwise.

The Student Wellness Program and Public Safety will collaborate to meet with the student; assess the level of need and ensure that the student is evaluated and a clinical course of action is developed to ensure the student's emotional stability.

Any concern about a student's safety, the safety of others, or if the student appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol should be reported immediately to Public Safety. Public Safety will

collaborate with the Student Wellness Program to complete an assessment of the student's current mental status.

Upon evaluation one of the following may apply:

1. A student is in imminent danger to self or others and is in need of an emergency psychiatric evaluation.
2. If a student is amenable, the Student Wellness Program or Public Safety arranges the emergency psychiatric evaluation through the local mental health crisis center and accompanies the student to the evaluation.
3. If the student is unamenable with the recommendation for a psychiatric evaluation, the Student Wellness Program or Public Safety will initiate the 302 processes for an involuntary psychiatric emergency evaluation.
4. If a student is not in imminent danger to self or others and needs a behavioral health evaluation, the Student Wellness Program facilitates the referral to Integrative Counseling Services or Thaxton Wellness Center and maintains ongoing support during normal business hours.
5. If the student is not in imminent danger to self or others and is in need of ongoing support and skill building, brief services can be provided through the Student Wellness Program with a limited, nonclinical scope of services.

Situations of a serious nature are referred to community agencies or local hospitals with the support and assistance from the Student Wellness Program. The Student Wellness Program services are nonclinical and designed for issues of adjustment to the college experience only. If a student exhibits clinical needs due to pathological or disordered thought, mood, or behavior, they will be referred to external services through area partners, which can be financially subsidized by the college within certain parameters.

When a crisis consultation is needed and classes are not in session contact:

❖ **Scranton Campus:**

- **Scranton Counseling Center**
- (570) 348-6100

❖ **Scranton Campus Resident Students:**

- **Public Safety**
- (570) 961-7899 or (570) 241- 2022.
- **WRC Inc.:**
- (570) 346-4671 or 1-800-257-5765

- ❖ **Hazleton Center:**
 - **Community Counseling Services**
 - (570) 552-6000 or (570) 836- 3118
- ❖ **Lake Region Center:**
 - **Resources for Human Development, Inc.**
 - (570)-992-0879 or 1(800)-338-6467
- ❖ **Peirce School of Online Learning**
 - **Belmont Hospital**
 - (484)-430-1038
- ❖ **Sunbury Center:**
 - **Northumberland County Behavioral Health:**
 - (844)-33-REACH (844-337-3224)
- ❖ **Towanda Center:**
 - **Guideline**
 - (800)- 332-6718
- ❖ **Bethlehem Center:**
 - **Lehigh County Crisis Intervention**
 - (610)-782-3127
- ❖ **Chambersburg Center**
 - **Keystone Health**
 - (717)-709-7900
 - 988 – Keystone Health Crisis Intervention Hotline
- ❖ **Greensburg Center:**
 - **Westmoreland County Crisis Hotline**
 - (800)-836-6010
- ❖ **Bradford County:**
 - **Abuse and Rape Crisis Center Hotline:**
 - (570) 265-5333
- ❖ **Carbon County:**
 - **Victims Resource Center Hotline:**
 - (866) 206-9050

- ❖ **Luzerne County:**
 - **Victims Resource Center Hotline:**
 - (570) 823-0765
- ❖ **Monroe County:**
 - **Women's Resources of Monroe County, Inc. Hotline:**
 - (570) 421-4200 or (800) 799-7233
- ❖ **Pike County:**
 - **Survivors Resources, Inc. D/B/ A Safe Haven, Inc. of Pike Hotline:**
 - (570) 296-4357
- ❖ **Susquehanna County:**
 - **Women's Resource Center, Inc. Hotline:**
 - (570) 346-4671
- ❖ **Wayne County:**
 - **Victims Intervention Program Hotline:**
 - (570) 253-4401 or (800) 698-4847

For additional information regarding the Mental Health Emergency Response Policy and reporting procedures, visit the Student Wellness Program page on the portal.

Communicable Disease Policy

Lackawanna College must be prepared to act in the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease among our students, faculty, and staff. Therefore, Lackawanna College recognizes the need to create policies and procedures to ensure the safety of and protect the College community. The definitions and guidance stem from guidance of the Department of Health. The college will cooperate with all county, state, and federal regulations regarding the identification, treatment, and prevention of all communicable diseases:

The policy is effective for, but are not limited to, the following:

- ❖ Chickenpox
- ❖ Cholera
- ❖ Diphtheria
- ❖ Hepatitis
- ❖ Influenza
- ❖ Measles (Rubella)
- ❖ Meningitis

- ❖ Mumps
- ❖ Pertussis
- ❖ Tuberculosis (TB) active

To help prevent the spread of disease on our campus, Lackawanna College encourages all prospective students to avail themselves of vaccination against several infectious diseases that can occur in the college environment. We recommend vaccination for several of the diseases since there has been an increase in transmission, particularly on college campuses nationwide, throughout the past several years. Some of the vaccinations and immunizations available are those against several forms of hepatitis, meningitis, and those considered diseases of childhood (chicken pox, measles, mumps, and rubella). Please note that some vaccinations are required for resident students and certain program eligible students at the college (including MMR, Varicella, Tdap, Hepatitis B, and Meningococcal B).

Lackawanna College takes the overall well-being of its students and staff seriously. The primary responsibility of Lackawanna College with regards to infectious diseases is education. Current educational information about infectious diseases will be made available to all members of the Lackawanna College community through the Student Success Center.

Protocol

The following procedures shall be followed when a student at Lackawanna College has an outbreak communicable disease:

1. Individual suspected cases of communicable diseases are to notify the Director of Student Success. Steps to ensure confidentiality will be implemented and only those college personnel required to know will be notified of individual students and their communicable disease status. The above communicable diseases are reportable to the Pennsylvania (PA) Department of Health, 24 hours a day, at 1-877-PAHEALTH. A local report will also be made to the Scranton City Health Department when required.
2. Lackawanna understands the need for students to continue their academic studies provided that the student will not pose any risk to other students or college staff. This requires verification from the student's physician. If a student is missing class due to investigation of a communicable disease, Lackawanna will provide reasonable accommodations to students. This will be addressed on a case-by- case basis.
3. If medical evidence indicates confirmation that the student does not pose a medical threat for transmission to others, persons with diseases will be allowed to attend and have access to all College facilities and services.

4. Any student who may require an extended leave of absence must notify the Director of Student Success. Students experiencing medical complications from a communicable disease that is preventing the student from attending classes will have to apply for a medical withdrawal.
5. Confidentiality will be maintained with all medical records. Lackawanna College will establish a policy as to whom in the college needs to be informed in the presence of a communicable disease. This policy shall be available on the college's portal.

Lackawanna College is committed to the implementation of appropriate procedures to prevent the accidental transmission of any communicable diseases. The precautions outlined by the United States Public Health Service (Universal Precautions) will be undertaken for any occupational activities or programs of instruction, research, or training in which there is a potential for exposure of individuals to any communicable diseases.

Lackawanna College recognizes that individuals have the right to privacy and confidentiality regarding their personal information. The College will ensure that processes are in place to protect this privacy.

Lackawanna College has a duty to provide and maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, staff, and others working at or visiting our sites. The College has an obligation to minimize the risk to anyone in the community of contracting a communicable disease. The institution is also committed to supporting and protecting our students, faculty, staff, and others who have a communicable disease from discrimination and/or harassment. If, however, an employee or student with a known communicable disease engages in activities, which, in the judgment of the College, appear to place others at risk, the College reserves the right to take corrective action.

Medical Suspension Policy

The College administration reserves the right to suspend/administratively withdraw a student from the College for medical reasons if the student has a communicable disease, which, in the opinion of medical personnel, can transmit or inflict the illness to others on campus through normal daily contact.

This suspension or withdrawal applies, at a minimum, for the remainder of the semester. Any student that has been diagnosed with a communicable disease, has been issued a medical suspension or withdrawal, and is no longer contagious must provide the College with documentation from their treating health-care provider. Documentation must state the student is no longer contagious and/or no longer poses a threat of infecting others at Lackawanna College. In addition, the document must attest that the returning student is capable of returning to the rigors of an academic course schedule and that there will be continued follow-up with a Health-care Provider. However, the student may not re-enroll until documentation is received in the Student Success Office and/or Center Director,

concerning the student's readiness to return. In all cases, this documentation must come from a licensed, board- certified professional actively involved in the treatment and care of the student and must indicate that the student is able to become an active participant in the learning environment. Further, it should be understood that, although the College will make an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation in appropriate circumstances, the College cannot care for students with serious medical conditions and therefore reserves the right to decide, in certain circumstances, that it cannot provide educational services or housing.

Lackawanna College Mental Health Policy

Lackawanna College is committed to the success of all students, including those with mental health conditions.

Lackawanna College will:

- ❖ Acknowledge but not stigmatize mental health conditions
- ❖ Prioritize suicide prevention
- ❖ Encourage students to seek help or treatment that they may need
- ❖ Ensure that personal information is kept confidential
- ❖ Allow students to continue their education as normally as possible by making reasonable accommodations.
- ❖ Refrain from discrimination against students with mental health concerns, including punitive actions towards those in crisis.

Counseling and Mental Health Services

Students are encouraged to seek counseling, assessment, and mental health treatment referrals through the Student Wellness Program (SWP), Integrative Counseling, Scranton Primary Health Care Center, or Thaxton Wellness Center.

Emergency psychiatric services are available to students at all times through the local community mental health providers. Student Wellness Program Services are designed for addressing issues of adjustment to the college experience. Situations of a serious nature (i.e. imminent threats or related crises or the student has made a suicidal gesture or is known to have contemplated suicide) are

referred out to community agencies or local hospitals with the support and assistance from the Student Wellness Program.

If a student is amenable, the Student Wellness Program and/or LC Public Safety arrange the emergency psychiatric evaluation through the local mental health crisis center and accompanies the student to the evaluation. If the student declines the recommendation for a psychiatric evaluation, the Student Wellness Program and/or LC Public Safety will initiate the 302 process for an involuntary psychiatric emergency evaluation. Please refer to the Mental Health Emergency Response Policy & Flowchart found on the Student Wellness Program portal page for emergency mental health response procedures.

Counseling and mental health treatment referrals will be based on the student's preferences, strengths, and needs. Non-emergency mental health services are provided on a voluntary basis and it remains the student's decision whether or not to seek services.

Lackawanna College will refer a student to the Student Wellness Program & the Behavioral Intervention Team when faculty/staff learns that:

- ❖ The student exhibits academic, behavioral, or other difficulties that appear to be due to a mental health condition

If a referred student does not seek services through the Student Wellness Program, Scranton Counseling Center, Integrative Counseling, Thaxton Wellness, or Scranton Primary Health Care Center Inc., the Student Wellness Program will make individualized efforts, including direct outreach, to encourage students to access services.

If a student is hospitalized and the student chooses, the Student Wellness Program will work with the student and hospital to ensure aftercare planning. This could include the student sharing their discharge plan and safety plan, which will promote the student's autonomy in their health, education, and growth.

There may be some cases in which the College may not know that a student was recently hospitalized, as there are some circumstances that do not occur within the College grounds or community. If a student mentions that he/she has been hospitalized in the past for a mental health reason, then the Student Wellness Program would follow up and offer resources and support. If the hospitalization happened a while ago, the student can very well be functioning successfully.

In the event that a student experiences a mental health crisis and lives on campus, the Student Wellness Program in conjunction with Residence Life may ask the student to receive an evaluation from a licensed mental health clinician to ensure students safety and success before coming back to campus. Together, the mental health clinician, Student Wellness staff, and the student would work together to create a safety plan for living on campus.

Confidentiality

Student Wellness services are confidential. The Student Wellness Program will not share information about a student with faculty, staff, administrators, or others, unless the student consents. As appropriate, the Student Wellness Program may encourage the student to consent to sharing information with the student's family or others. As permitted by law, the Student Wellness Program may disclose information about a student to the extent needed to protect the student or others from a serious and imminent threat to safety, for example, by making disclosures to crisis intervention or emergency personnel. Student Wellness staff are mandated reporters and will need to report any mention of elder or child abuse.

Disclosures are permitted only if the student will not consent to interventions that will ameliorate the risk. When a student seeks services through the Student Wellness Program, the student will be asked whom, if anyone, the student wants contacted in case of a psychiatric emergency (i.e. family member, friend, clergy).

Accommodations

Lackawanna College will reasonably attempt to accommodate students with formally diagnosed mental health conditions by a licensed mental health clinician. Accommodations will be designed to enable the student to remain in school, meet academic standards, and maintain normal social relationships. Students can make requests for academic accommodations through the Office of Disability Services. The Student Wellness Program will help identify and secure all other non-academic accommodations needed, with the student's consent. Absences for treatment including hospitalizations will need to be addressed through Lackawanna College's Medical Exigency Policy located in the LC Student Handbook.

Disciplinary Action

Disciplinary action will not be used as a pretext for discrimination. Self-injurious behavior will not be addressed through the Student Accountability and Restorative Practices (SARP) Office. Lackawanna College will not bring SARP pathways against a student for suicide attempts, suicidal thoughts, or self-injury, including self-cutting.

Students in violation of the Student Code of Conduct will be afforded the following accommodations:

- ❖ If the student takes a voluntary leave for mental health reasons, Student Conduct proceedings will be placed on hold until the student returns.

- ❖ If a student is placed on emergency removal, Student Conduct proceedings will move forward during that time.

During the period of emergency removal, the student may explore opportunities for continued academic progress remotely. It is the student's responsibility to contact their faculty members for consideration. Decisions regarding continued academic progress are made at the sole discretion of the faculty members and may differ by course depending upon the nature of the course and point of the semester. For more information, please review the Student Code of Conduct (Section VII. Interim Measures Pending Student Conduct Hearings).

Disciplinary action should be avoided, and pathways mitigated, when the offense was the product of a mental health condition. This is especially true when, as a result of treatment or other interventions, the student is likely to comply with the code of conduct in the future.

Education and Training

Lackawanna College provides education and training so that:

- ❖ Students and staff are familiar with signs of mental illness, self-harm, or suicide risk
- ❖ Understand and know how to access the range of supports available to students, including counseling services and accommodations
- ❖ Know what emergency procedures to follow in a crisis
- ❖ Know information about mental health and services

Students are encouraged to seek support, assessment, and mental health treatment through the Student Wellness Program. For additional information on the Mental Health Policy, visit the Student Wellness Program page on the portal.

Student Life Information

Student Life at Lackawanna College is based upon the premise that learning extends beyond the classroom into all aspects of the collegiate experience.

The Student Life department strives to develop and implement a variety of events, programs, clubs, activities, and service projects, which complement the academic experience of Lackawanna College students and enhance their adjustment to college life and the local community. Participation in organizations and activities allows students to develop their leadership and social skills through

interaction, involvement, and service, and students are strongly encouraged to get involved on campus and in our neighborhoods.

Programming updates are shared in the Weekly Newsletter emailed each week to all current students. Programming calendars listing scheduled activities, club meetings, and community service projects are published monthly, and all events are included on the Canvas calendar. Some of these include new student orientations, homecoming festivities, spring fling, recreational activities, holiday celebrations, and more. In addition, students regularly support community organizations such as CHOP, Children's Advocacy Center, Elm Park United Methodist Church, Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, Griffin Pond Animal Shelter, Head Start Child Care Centers, St. Joseph's Center Baby Pantry, and more. They also volunteer with local agencies for food drives, fundraising events, literacy efforts, and community service projects.

The Student Life department, located in Falcon's Nest, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. These hours may differ on event days.

Lackawanna College Student Organizations (LCSO)

The College provides a formalized means for students to develop leadership skills through participation in student organizations.

Active Minds: Focused on changing the conversation about mental health on campus. Promoting healthy conversations and dialogue about problems facing today's young adults.

Book Club: To expand members' personal literacy experience by reading and discussing works chosen by the students in a welcoming and open atmosphere

Cheer: Provide a fun, safe, encouraging atmosphere; while teaching the skills to develop strong character, positive attitudes, responsibility and citizenship as well as instilling positive goals, dreams and values.

Creative Arts: To give a creative outlet in all art forms: writing, painting, theater.

Cyber Security: To apply knowledge learned in the classroom and prepare them for internships. To participate in competitions such as National Cyber League, support students K-12 in Cyber Patriot competitions, and increase awareness on campus.

Falcon Ambassadors: To form a more representative and unifying student body; to encourage student development and interaction; to foster growth in leadership skills; to promote open communication and cooperation among student organizations; to promote favorable working relationships between the College, the student body, other local Falcon Ambassadors Associations, and community organizations; and to promote a positive image in the community through an active and committed community service program.

Human Services Organization: Aims to benefit the lives of others through projects with collegiate partners, promoting the values and standards of the National Organization of Human Services Educators and Human Services professionals.

LC Student Veterans of America (SVA): Provide military veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in the transition to civilian life, higher education, and following graduation.

Lackawanna College Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (LSAAC) - Composed of elected or appointed representatives from each team, the committee serves as a liaison between student-athletes, athletic department administrators, coaches, and campus leadership to discuss issues such as rules and policies, mental health resources, academic support, and the overall student-athlete experience. Through regular meetings and initiatives, LSAAC helps foster a stronger sense of community, advocates for positive change, and promotes the well-being and success of student-athletes both on and off the field.

FBLA Collegiate: Focused on helping students reach their full potential by growing their leadership abilities, communication and team skills, and networking on a state and national level.

Pinky Swear Pack: Pinky Swear's mission is to help every family with a child fighting cancer with emotional and financial support. Aim to raise and donate directly to families to assist with mortgage payments, bills, gas, and food.

P.R.I.D.E. (Peace, Respect, Inclusion, Dignity, and Equality): Aims to provide a safe space for students to discuss issues, plan events, and raise awareness and acceptance across campus.

Sexual Awareness and Wellness Club: To advocate for the awareness of personal intimacy and hygiene, as well as sexual health and wellness for the Lackawanna student body. To aid students of Lackawanna College in promoting awareness of safe sexual health, as well as personal hygiene within the local community, in order to better advocate for overall general health and wellness.

Student Government Association (SGA): Aims to foster unity between the students and the college, to promote student concerns, and to advance the general welfare of the institution.

Student Occupational Therapy Association: Fundraise, advocate, and be the driving force for community outreach to the Occupational Therapy Program in the Scranton Area and beyond.

Student Nursing Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP): Intends to increase awareness to the LC and local communities in regard to nursing education, provide programs representative of fundamental interests and concerns to nursing students, and to aid in the

development of the whole person in their responsibility for the healthcare of people in all walks of life.

Volunteers of Lackawanna College: Provide outstanding community service not just to the Lackawanna College community, but to Lackawanna County and all who could use a helping hand.

Public Relations for Student Organizations

Each student organization is responsible for creating its own internal public relations materials (i.e. posters, fliers, etc.). All publicity for use within the College must be submitted to the Office of Student Life for approval before release or posting on College bulletin boards. External publicity and public information must also be submitted to Student Life to be approved by the College's Office of Advancement.

Off-campus Events and Travel

There are several opportunities for students to travel for activities with student life and academics. The events may include activities such as the Alternative Spring Break Service Learning trips, study abroad, sporting events, amusement parks, and city visits. Off-campus trips are voluntary, educational, and service-learning opportunities sponsored by Lackawanna College. Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right. The College reserves the right to determine participation eligibility and continued participation at any time. If a student has conduct issues in association with the trip, it may result in early departure. This will also be reviewed per the Student Handbook upon return by the SARP Office to determine any additional sanctions.

Student Grievance Procedure

1. Purpose and Scope

- A. The purpose of this procedure is to provide Lackawanna College students an opportunity to file Non-Academic grievances. Students are expected to attempt to resolve the matter informally prior to filing a formal grievance.
- B. While the Student Grievance procedure may be used for complaints alleging discrimination, students are encouraged to use the Affirmative Action Complaint process for resolution prior to bringing a complaint of harassment under the Student Grievance Procedure.

- C. The Student Grievance procedure should not be used for complaints alleging sexual harassment. Any student wishing to file a complaint of sexual harassment should consult with the College's Title IX Coordinator and the Title IX Handbook.

2. Definitions

- A. Student: an individual who is officially enrolled as a non-degree student, a degree-seeking student, or enrolled in a College-approved certificate program.
- B. Respondent: the person designated to answer or respond to the complaint. Generally, the respondent would be the head of the department in which the violation allegedly occurred or the Associate Vice President of Student Success.
- C. Time/Days: all time periods referred to in this procedure refer to calendar days, excluding summer term and inter-semester recesses. If the designated time period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or designated College holiday, the time period will be extended to the following working day. The time periods designated in this procedure may be extended only where there is a good cause and notice of the extension is provided to all parties.
- D. "In Writing": should be understood to include email, except where written signature is required.

3. Department Level Resolution

- A. **Informal Process:** Before filing a grievance under this Policy, a student should attempt to resolve the matter informally with the person alleged to have committed the violation, with the head of the department in which the alleged violation occurred, or both of them. The student may contact the Student Success Center for assistance with informal resolution. Attempts to resolve the matter informally should be completed within thirty (30) days from the time at which the student knew or could reasonably be expected to have known of the action being grieved.
- B. **Formal Process:** If the department fails to provide notice of resolution to the student within thirty (30) days of receiving the complaint, or if the response is unsatisfactory to the student, the student may file a formal student grievance within ten (10) days from when the response should have been received or within ten (10) days of receiving the unsatisfactory response.

4. Formal Resolution Procedure

- A. Filing:** Student grievances can be filed by completing the Grievance Form published on the College's portal or by contacting the Associate Vice President of Student Success directly. Students electing the latter must put their grievance in writing prior to, or within, two (2) days of contact. Grievances must be signed, dated, and contain the student's email address and telephone number to the extent available, a detailed statement of the specific action being grieved, the approximate date when the action took place, the resulting injury or harm, the description of the evidence supporting the grievance, and whether informal procedures were taken to remedy the matter and relief requested. It is the responsibility of the student filing the grievance to update the Associate Vice President of Student Success of any changes to contact information.
- B. Initial Review:** Upon receipt of a formal student grievance, the Associate Vice President of Student Success shall promptly review and make an initial determination regarding whether the grievance is complete, timely, within the jurisdiction of the Student Grievance Procedure, and alleges facts which, if true, would constitute a violation of law or College policy. If the grievance is found to be incomplete, the student will be notified in writing and will have ten (10) days from the written notice to complete the missing information. If the student fails to do so, the grievance will be dismissed. If the grievance is dismissed, the student will be provided with a written explanation of the basis for dismissal. The student will have ten (10) days from the written notice to request an appeal from the Associate Vice President of Student Success. The request for appeal must be a signed and written document stating why the grievance should not be dismissed. The Associate Vice President of Student Success will respond to the request for appeal within ten (10) days.
- C. Investigation:** If the grievance is not dismissed for reasons outlined above, a prompt investigation into the matter will begin. The Associate Vice President of Student Success will send a copy of the written grievance to the head of the department involved with a copy sent to the Human Resources Department. Each allegation will be investigated to determine whether or not it has merit.
- D. Resolution:** Upon conclusion of the investigation, the student will be provided with a written response summarizing the outcome. If the outcome of the grievance involves a recommendation for disciplinary action, the matter will be referred to the appropriate personnel.
- E. Request for Reconsideration:** The student may seek reconsideration of an adverse determination by filing a written request for review with the College Provost. This

written request must be submitted within ten (10) days of receiving the written notice of determination. It must be supported by evidence that the Student Grievance procedure was not followed and show that the failure to follow procedure resulted in an adverse decision.

Further questions, comments or concerns can be directed to:

Denise Larson

Associate Vice President of Student Success

LarsonD@lackawanna.edu

(570) 955-1479

The graphic features a dark blue background with a repeating pattern of stylized eagle heads in profile, facing right. The eagles are white with red beaks and eyes. The pattern is framed by solid red horizontal bars at the top and bottom. The text "Title IX" is centered in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Title IX

Title IX

Lackawanna College is committed to providing an educational and work environment that prohibits conduct that falls under the definitions outlined in the College's Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy, and as governed by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. The Title IX policy and procedures outlined in the Student Handbook are in compliance with 2020 Title IX Regulations.

What Is Title IX?

Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in federally funded education programs and activities. Under Title IX, discrimination on the basis of sex can include sexual harassment or sexual violence, such as rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual coercion, and gender-based violence and harassment. This also includes discrimination against pregnant and parenting students.

Who Is Covered by Title IX?

Title IX covers any educational institution receiving federal funding. Title IX applies to all members of the Lackawanna College community, including students, staff, faculty, administrators, contractors, visitors, third parties, and to all programs and activities that take place either on or off campus.

Where Can I Find the College's Title IX Policy and Procedures?

Lackawanna College provides a comprehensive summary of all related policy and procedures on our Title IX Website.

The website provides contact information, a summary of staff trainings, and important documents, including the Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy and the resolution processes associated with Title IX and Other Sexual Misconduct offenses.

Where Do I File a Report?

Students are encouraged to directly report information regarding incidents of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct to titleix@lackawanna.edu or any of the following:

Kelly Schneider, Esq.
Title IX Coordinator
Healey Hall Room 237
(570)961-7890
SchneiderK@lackawanna.edu

Tanya Morgan
Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Seeley Hall Office G-03
(570) 955-1522
MorganT@lackawanna.edu

Brian Costanzo
Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Angeli Hall Suite 101-C
(570) 961-7841
CostanzoB@lackawanna.edu

Josh Pardini
Deputy Title IX Coordinator
570-955-8246
Student Union, Office 105A
PardiniJ@lackawanna.edu

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, HARASSMENT, AND NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY FOR ALL FACULTY, STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND THIRD PARTIES

1. Glossary

- ❖ ***Advisor*** means a person chosen by a party or appointed by the institution to accompany the party to meetings related to the Resolution Process, to advise the party on that process, and to conduct questioning for the party at the hearing, if any.
- ❖ ***Appeal Decision-maker*** means the person or panel who accepts or rejects a submitted appeal request, determines whether an error occurred that substantially affected the investigation or original determination, and directs corrective action, accordingly.
- ❖ ***Complainant*** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute harassment or discrimination based on a protected characteristic, or retaliation for engaging in a protected activity.
- ❖ ***Confidential Resource*** means an employee who is not a Mandated Reporter of notice of harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation (irrespective of Clery Act Campus Security Authority status).
- ❖ ***Day*** means a business day when Lackawanna College is in normal operation.

- ❖ ***Decision-maker*** means the person or panel who hears evidence, determines relevance, and makes the Final Determination of whether this Policy has been violated and/or assigns pathways.
- ❖ ***Directly Related Evidence*** is evidence connected to the complaint, but which is neither inculpatory (tending to prove a violation) nor exculpatory (tending to disprove a violation) and cannot be relied upon by the Decision-maker(s). Compare to Relevant Evidence, below.
- ❖ ***Education Program or Activity*** means locations, events, or circumstances where Lackawanna College exercises substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation occurs and also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by Lackawanna College.
- ❖ ***Final Determination*** is a conclusion by the standard of proof that the alleged conduct did or did not violate policy.
- ❖ ***Finding*** is a conclusion by the standard of proof that the conduct did or did not occur as alleged (as in a “finding of fact”).
- ❖ ***Formal Complaint*** means a document submitted or signed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging a Respondent engaged in harassment or discrimination based on a protected characteristic or retaliation for engaging in a protected activity and requesting that Lackawanna College investigate the allegation(s).
- ❖ ***Formal Grievance Process*** means “Process A,” a method of formal resolution designated by Lackawanna College to address conduct that falls within the policies included below, and which complies with the requirements of the Title IX regulations (34 C.F.R. § 106.45) and the Violence Against Women Act § 304.
- ❖ ***Grievance Process Pool*** includes any Investigators, Hearing Decision-makers, Appeal Decision-makers, and Advisors who may perform any or all of these roles (though not at the same time or with respect to the same complaint).
- ❖ ***Informal Resolution*** a complaint resolution agreed to by the Parties and approved by the Title IX Coordinator that occurs prior to a formal Final Determination being reached.

- ❖ ***Investigator*** means the person(s) authorized by Lackawanna College to gather facts about an alleged violation of this Policy, assess relevance and credibility, synthesize the evidence, and compile this information into an investigation report of Relevant Evidence and a file of Directly Related Evidence.
- ❖ ***Mandated Reporter*** means a Lackawanna College employee who is obligated by policy to share knowledge, notice, and/or reports of harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation with the Title IX Coordinator.
- ❖ ***Notice*** means that an employee, student, or third party informs the Title IX Coordinator or other Official with Authority of the alleged occurrence of harassing, discriminatory, and/or retaliatory conduct.
- ❖ ***Official with Authority (OWA)*** means a Lackawanna College employee who has responsibility to implement corrective measures for harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation on behalf of Lackawanna College.
- ❖ ***Parties*** means the Complainant(s) and Respondent(s), collectively.
- ❖ ***Process A*** means the Formal Grievance Process detailed below and defined above.
- ❖ ***Process B*** means the administrative resolution procedures detailed in Appendix F that only apply when Process A does not, as determined by the Title IX Coordinator.
- ❖ ***Recipient*** means a postsecondary education program that receives federal funding.
- ❖ ***Relevant Evidence*** is evidence that tends to prove (inculpatory) or disprove (exculpatory) an issue in the complaint.
- ❖ ***Remedies*** are post-Final Determination actions directed to the Complainant and/or the community as mechanisms to address safety, prevent recurrence, and restore access to Lackawanna College's education program.
- ❖ ***Respondent*** means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute harassment or discrimination based on a protected characteristic, or retaliation for engaging in a protected activity under this Policy.
- ❖ ***Resolution*** means the result of an Informal Resolution or Formal Grievance Process.
- ❖ ***Pathways*** means a consequence imposed on a Respondent who is found to have violated this Policy.

- ❖ ***Sexual Harassment*** is an umbrella category including the offenses of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and domestic violence. See Section 17.B. for greater detail.
- ❖ ***Student*** means any individual who has accepted an offer of admission, or who is registered or enrolled for credit or non-credit bearing coursework, and who maintains an ongoing educational relationship Lackawanna College.
- ❖ ***Title IX Coordinator*** is at least one official designated by Lackawanna College to ensure compliance with Title IX and Lackawanna College's Title IX program. References to the Coordinator throughout this policy may also encompass a designee of the Coordinator for specific tasks.
- ❖ ***Title IX Team*** refers to the Title IX Coordinator, any deputy coordinators, and any member of the Grievance Process Pool.

2. Rationale for Policy

Lackawanna College is committed to providing a workplace and educational environment, as well as other benefits, programs, and activities, that are free from discrimination and harassment based on a protected characteristic, and retaliation for engaging in a protected activity.

Lackawanna College values and upholds the equal dignity of all members of its community and strives to balance the rights of the parties in the grievance process during what is often a difficult time for all involved.

To ensure compliance with federal, state, and local civil rights laws and regulations, and to affirm its commitment to promoting the goals of fairness and equity in all aspects of the education program or activity, Lackawanna College has developed policies and procedures that provide a prompt, fair, and impartial process for those involved in an allegation of discrimination or harassment on the basis of a protected characteristic, and for allegations of retaliation.

3. Applicable Scope

The core purpose of this policy is the prohibition of all forms of discrimination. Sometimes, discrimination involves exclusion from or different treatment in activities, such as admission, athletics, or employment. At other times, discrimination takes the form of harassment, or, in the case of sex-based discrimination, it can encompass sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, sexual exploitation, dating violence, or domestic violence. When an alleged policy violation is reported, the allegations are subject to resolution using Lackawanna College's "Process A" or

“Process B,” as determined by the Title IX Coordinator, and as detailed below. Conduct occurring before August 14, 2020, can be resolved using Process B.

When the Respondent is a member of Lackawanna College community, a Formal Complaint may be filed and a grievance process may be available regardless of the status of the Complainant, who may or may not be a member of Lackawanna College community. This community includes, but is not limited to, students, student organizations, faculty, administrators, staff, and third parties such as guests, visitors, volunteers, vendors, contractors, invitees, and campers. The procedures below may be applied to incidents, to patterns, and/or to the institutional culture/climate, all of which may be addressed and investigated in accordance with this Policy.

Lackawanna College recognizes that reports and/or Formal Complaints under this Policy may include multiple forms of discrimination and harassment as well as violations of other Lackawanna College policies; may involve various combinations of students, employees, and other members of the Lackawanna College community; and may require the simultaneous attention of multiple Lackawanna College departments. Accordingly, all Lackawanna College departments will share information, combine efforts, and otherwise collaborate, to the maximum extent permitted by law and consistent with other applicable Lackawanna College policies, to provide uniform, consistent, efficient, and effective responses to alleged discrimination and harassment or retaliation.

4. Title IX Coordinator

Kelly Schneider, Esq. serves as the Title IX Coordinator and oversees implementation of Lackawanna College’s Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity plan and Lackawanna College’s policy on equal opportunity, harassment, and nondiscrimination. The Title IX Coordinator has the primary responsibility for coordinating Lackawanna College’s efforts related to the intake, investigation, resolution, and implementation of supportive measures to stop, remedy, and prevent discrimination, harassment, and retaliation prohibited under this Policy.

All parties will be provided with a comprehensive electronic brochure detailing options and resources, which the Title IX Coordinator may also review with the parties in person.

5. Independence and Conflict of Interest

The Title IX Coordinator manages the Title IX Team and acts with independence and authority free from bias and conflicts of interest. The Title IX Coordinator oversees all resolutions under this Policy and these procedures. The members of the Title IX Team are vetted and trained to ensure they are not biased for or against any party in a specific complaint, or for or against Complainants and/or Respondents, generally.

To raise any concern involving bias, conflict of interest, misconduct, or discrimination by the Title IX Coordinator, contact the Lackawanna College Provost, Erica Barone Pricci, PhD, 570-510-5198, priccie@lackawanna.edu. Concerns of bias, misconduct, discrimination, or a potential conflict of interest by any other Title IX Team member should be raised with the Title IX Coordinator.

6. Administrative Contact Information

Complaints or notice of alleged policy violations, or inquiries about or concerns regarding this Policy and procedures, may be made internally to:

Kelly Schneider, Esq.
Title IX Coordinator
Healey Hall Room 237
(570)961-7890
SchneiderK@lackawanna.edu

Tanya Morgan
Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Seeley Hall Office G-03
(570) 955-1522
MorganT@lackawanna.edu

Brian Costanzo
Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Angeli Hall Suite 101-C
(570) 961-7841
CostanzoB@lackawanna.edu

Josh Pardini
Deputy Title IX Coordinator
570-955-8246
Student Union, Office 105A
PardiniJ@lackawanna.edu

Complaints of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct made by any faculty, staff, and administrator should be immediately reported to:

Gina Leach
Human Resources Business Partner
Angeli Hall, Suite 316
(570) 955-7860
Email: LeachV@lackawanna.edu

Lackawanna College has determined that the following administrators are Officials with Authority (OWAs) to address and correct harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation. In addition to the Title IX Team members listed above, these OWAs may also accept notice or complaints on behalf of Lackawanna College. List all Officials with Authority here:

- ❖ Title IX Coordinator/Deputy Title IX Coordinators
- ❖ President of the College

- ❖ Senior Level Administrators
 - Vice Presidents
 - Academic Deans
 - Center Directors
 - Department and/or Division Chairs
- ❖ Student Success Deans
- ❖ Director of Athletics and Assistant Director of Athletics
- ❖ Director of Student Life and Housing and Resident Directors
- ❖ Human Resources Business Partners
- ❖ Public Safety Department

Lackawanna College has also classified most employees as Mandated Reporters of any knowledge they have that a member of the community is experiencing harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation. The section below on Mandated Reporting details which employees have this responsibility and their duties, accordingly.

Inquiries may be made externally to:

Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

U.S. Department of Education
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20202-1100
 Customer Service Hotline #: (800) 421-3481
 Facsimile: (202) 453-6012
 TDD#: (877) 521-2172
 Email: OCR@ed.gov
 Web: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>

For complaints involving employee-on-employee conduct: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

Harrisburg Regional Office
 333 Market Street, 8th Floor
 Harrisburg, PA 17101-2210
 United States

Telephone: (717) 787-9780

Web: <https://www.phrc.pa.gov/About-Us/Pages/RegionalOffices.aspx>

7. Notice/Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment, and/or Retaliation

Notice or complaints of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation may be made using any of the following options:

- 1) File a report or Formal Complaint with, or give verbal notice to, the Title IX Coordinator / Deputy Coordinators or any Officials with Authority, as listed above. Such a report or Formal Complaint may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the telephone number or email address, or by mail, to the office listed for the Title IX Coordinator or any other official listed.
- 2) Report online, using the reporting form posted in the Rave Guardian app <https://www.ravemobilesafety.com/rave-guardian-app>. Anonymous reports are accepted but can give rise to a need to investigate to determine if the parties can be identified. If not, no further formal action is taken, though measures intended to protect the community may be enacted. Lackawanna College tries to provide supportive measures to all Complainants, which may be impossible with an anonymous report that does not identify the Complainant.

Because reporting carries no obligation to initiate a formal response, and because Lackawanna College respects Complainant requests to dismiss complaints unless there is a compelling threat to health and/or safety, the Complainant is largely in control and should not fear a loss of confidentiality by making a report that allows Lackawanna College to discuss and/or provide supportive measures.

- 3) Report to Lackawanna College the Public Safety Department:
 - a. Satellite Office: Angeli Hall, 501 Vine St., Scranton, PA 18509
 - b. Main Office: 540 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18509
 - c. Telephone: 570-961-7899 or 570-241-2022
 - d. Email: PublicSafety@lackawanna.edu
- 4) Employees can file a complaint with, or give verbal notice to, the Human Resources Office, Angeli Hall, Suite 316.

As used in this Policy, the term “Formal Complaint” means a document or electronic submission (such as by electronic mail or through an online portal provided by Lackawanna College for this purpose) that contains the Complainant’s physical or digital signature or

otherwise indicates that the Complainant is the person filing the complaint, and requests that Lackawanna College investigate the allegations. If notice is submitted in a form that does not meet this standard, the Title IX Coordinator will contact the Complainant to ensure that it is filed correctly.

8. Supportive Measures

Lackawanna College will offer and implement appropriate and reasonable supportive measures to the parties upon notice of alleged harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation. Supportive measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate and as reasonably available. They are offered, without fee or charge to the parties, to restore or preserve access to Lackawanna College's education program or activity, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties and/or Lackawanna College's educational environment and/or to deter harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation.

The Title IX Coordinator promptly makes supportive measures available to the parties upon receiving notice or a complaint. At the time that supportive measures are offered, Lackawanna College will inform the Complainant, in writing, that they may file a Formal Complaint with Lackawanna College either at that time or in the future, if they have not done so already. The Title IX Coordinator works with the Complainant to ensure that their wishes are considered with respect to any planned and implemented supportive measures.

Lackawanna College will maintain the confidentiality of the supportive measures, provided that confidentiality does not impair the Lackawanna College's ability to provide those supportive measures. Lackawanna College will act to ensure as minimal an academic/occupational impact on the parties as possible. Lackawanna College will implement measures in a way that does not unreasonably burden the other party.

These actions may include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Referral to counseling, medical, and/or other healthcare services
- ❖ Referral to the Employee Assistance Program
- ❖ Referral to community-based service providers
- ❖ Visa and immigration assistance
- ❖ Student financial aid counseling
- ❖ Education to the institutional community or community subgroup(s)
- ❖ Altering campus housing assignment(s)
- ❖ Altering work arrangements for employees or student-employees
- ❖ Safety planning
- ❖ Providing campus safety escorts
- ❖ Providing transportation assistance
- ❖ Implementing contact limitations (no contact orders) between the parties

- ❖ Academic support, extensions of deadlines, or other course/program-related adjustments
- ❖ Trespass, Persona Non Grata (PNG), or Be-On-the-Lookout (BOLO) orders
- ❖ Timely warnings
- ❖ Class schedule modifications, withdrawals, or leaves of absence
- ❖ Increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus
- ❖ Any other actions deemed appropriate by the Title IX Coordinator

Violations of no contact orders or other restrictions may be referred to appropriate student or employee conduct processes for enforcement or added as collateral misconduct allegations to an ongoing complaint under this Policy.

9. Emergency Removal

Lackawanna College can act to remove a student Respondent from its education program or activities—partially or entirely—on an emergency basis when an individualized safety and risk analysis has determined that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual justifies removal. This risk analysis is performed by the Title IX Coordinator in conjunction with the Behavioral Intervention Team.

When an emergency removal is imposed, the student will be given notice of the action and the option to request to meet with the Title IX Coordinator prior to such action/removal being imposed, or as soon as reasonably possible thereafter, to show cause why the action/removal should not be implemented or should be modified.

This meeting is not a hearing on the merits of the allegation(s), but rather is an administrative process intended to determine solely whether the emergency removal is appropriate. When this meeting is not requested in a timely manner, objections to the emergency removal will be deemed waived. A Complainant and their Advisor may be permitted to participate in this meeting if the Title IX Coordinator determines it equitable to do so. This section also applies to any restrictions that a coach or athletic administrator may place on a student-athlete arising from allegations related to Title IX. There is no appeal process for emergency removal decisions.

A Respondent may be accompanied by an Advisor of their choice when meeting with the Title IX Coordinator for the show cause meeting. The Respondent will be given access to a written summary of the basis for the emergency removal prior to the meeting to allow for adequate preparation.

The Title IX Coordinator has sole discretion under this Policy to implement or modify an emergency removal and to determine the conditions and duration. Violation of an emergency removal under this policy will be grounds for discipline within the student or employee conduct processes, which may include expulsion or termination.

Lackawanna College will implement the least restrictive emergency actions possible in light of the circumstances and safety concerns. As determined by the Title IX Coordinator, these actions could include, but are not limited to: removing a student from a residence hall, temporarily re-assigning an employee, restricting a student's or employee's access to or use of facilities or equipment, allowing a student to withdraw or take incomplete grades without financial penalty, authorizing an administrative leave, and suspending a student's participation in extracurricular activities, student employment, student organizational leadership, or intercollegiate/intramural/club athletics.

At the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, alternative coursework options may be pursued to ensure as minimal an academic impact on the parties as possible.

When the Respondent is an employee, or a student employee, accused of misconduct in the course of their employment, existing provisions, listed in the Employee Handbook [listed here](#), for interim action are applicable instead of the above emergency removal process.

10. Promptness

Once Lackawanna College has received notice or a Formal Complaint, all allegations are promptly acted upon. Complaints typically take 60-90 business days to resolve. There are always exceptions and extenuating circumstances that can cause a resolution to take longer, but Lackawanna College will avoid all undue delays within its control.

Any time the general timeframes for resolution outlined in Lackawanna College procedures will be delayed, Lackawanna College will provide written notice to the parties of the delay, the cause for the delay, and an estimate of the anticipated additional time that will be needed as a result of the delay.

11. Confidentiality/Privacy

Every effort is made by Lackawanna College to preserve the confidentiality of reports. Lackawanna College will not share the identity of any individual who has made a report or Formal Complaint of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation; any Complainant; any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation; any Respondent; or any witness, except as permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or its implementing regulations, or as required by law; or to carry out the purposes of 34 C.F.R. Part 106, including any investigation, hearing, or grievance proceeding arising under these policies and procedures.

Lackawanna College reserves the right to determine which Lackawanna College officials have a legitimate educational interest in being informed about incidents that fall under this Policy, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Only a small group of officials who need to know will typically be told about the complaint, including but not limited to: Division of Student Success, Lackawanna College Public Safety, and the Behavioral Intervention Team. Information will be shared as necessary with Investigators, Decision-makers, witnesses, and the parties. The circle of people with this knowledge will be kept as tight as possible to preserve the parties' rights and privacy.

Lackawanna College may contact parents/guardians of students to inform them of situations in which there is a significant and articulable health and/or safety risk but will usually consult with the student first before doing so.

Confidentiality and mandated reporting are addressed more specifically below.

12. Jurisdiction

This Policy applies to Lackawanna College's education program and activities, to conduct that takes place on property owned or controlled by Lackawanna College, at Lackawanna College-sponsored events, and in buildings owned or controlled by Lackawanna College's recognized student organizations. The Respondent must be a member of Lackawanna College's community in order for this Policy to apply.

This Policy can also be applicable to the effects of off-campus misconduct that effectively deprives a person of access to Lackawanna College's education program or activities.

Lackawanna College may also extend jurisdiction to off-campus and/or to online conduct when the Title IX Coordinator determines that the conduct affects a substantial Lackawanna College interest.

Regardless of where the conduct occurred, Lackawanna College will address notice/complaints to determine whether the conduct occurred in the context of its employment or education program or activity and/or has continuing effects on campus (including virtual learning and employment environments) or in an off campus sponsored program or activity. A substantial Lackawanna College interest includes:

- 1) Any action that constitutes a criminal offense as defined by law. This includes, but is not limited to, single or repeat violations of any local, state, or federal law.
- 2) Any situation in which it is determined that the Respondent poses an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student, employee, or other individual.
- 3) Any situation that significantly impinges upon the rights, property, or achievements of others, significantly breaches the peace, and/or causes social disorder.
- 4) Any situation that substantially interferes with the educational interests or mission of Lackawanna College.

If the Respondent is unknown or is not a member of Lackawanna College community, the Title IX Coordinator will assist the Complainant in identifying appropriate institutional and local resources and support options. If criminal conduct is alleged, Lackawanna College can assist in contacting local or institutional law enforcement if the individual would like to file a police report.

Further, even when the Respondent is not a member of Lackawanna College's community, supportive measures, remedies, and resources may be provided to the Complainant by contacting the Title IX Coordinator.

In addition, Lackawanna College may take other actions as appropriate to protect the Complainant against third parties, such as barring individuals from Lackawanna College property and/or events.

All vendors serving Lackawanna College through third-party contracts are subject to the policies and procedures of their employers and to these Policies and procedures to which their employer has agreed to be bound by their contracts.

When the Respondent is enrolled in or employed by another institution, the Title IX Coordinator can assist the Complainant in liaising with the appropriate individual at that institution, as it may be possible to pursue action under that institution's policies.

Similarly, the Title IX Coordinator may be able to assist and support a student or employee Complainant who experiences discrimination in an externship, study abroad program, or other environment external to Lackawanna College where sexual harassment or nondiscrimination policies and procedures of the facilitating or host organization may give the Complainant recourse.

13. Time Limits on Reporting

There is no time limitation on providing notice/complaints to the Title IX Coordinator. However, if the Respondent is no longer subject to Lackawanna College's jurisdiction and/or significant time has passed, the ability to investigate, respond, and/or provide remedies may be more limited or impossible.

Acting on notice/complaints significantly impacted by the passage of time (including, but not limited to, the rescission or revision of policy) is at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, who may document allegations for future reference, offer supportive measures and/or remedies, and/or engage in informal or formal action, as appropriate.

When notice/complaint is affected by significant time delay, Lackawanna College will typically apply the policy in place at the time of the alleged misconduct and the procedures in place at the time of notice/complaint. Typically, this Policy is only applied to alleged incidents that occurred

after August 14, 2020. For alleged incidents that occurred prior to August 14, 2020, previous versions of this Policy will apply. Those versions are available from the Title IX Coordinator.

14. Online Harassment and Misconduct

Lackawanna College policies are written and interpreted broadly to include online manifestations of any of the behaviors prohibited below, when those behaviors occur in or have an effect on Lackawanna College's education program and activities or when they involve the use of Lackawanna College networks, technology, or equipment.

Although Lackawanna College may not control websites, social media, and other venues through which harassing communications are made, when such communications are reported to Lackawanna College, it will engage in a variety of means to address and mitigate the effects.

Members of the community are encouraged to be good digital citizens and to refrain from online misconduct, such as feeding anonymous gossip sites; sharing inappropriate content via social media; unwelcome sexual or sex-based messaging; distributing, or threatening to distribute, nude or semi-nude photos or recordings; breaches of privacy; or otherwise using the ease of transmission and/or anonymity of the Internet or other technology to harm another member of Lackawanna College community.

Otherwise, such communications are considered speech protected by the First Amendment. Supportive measures for Complainants will be provided, but legally protected speech cannot be subjected to discipline.

Off-campus harassing speech by employees, whether online or in person, may be regulated by Lackawanna College only when such speech is made in an employee's official or work-related capacity.

15. Policy on Nondiscrimination

Lackawanna College adheres to all federal, state, and local civil rights laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination in higher education institutions.

A. Protected Characteristics

Lackawanna College does not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, student, or applicant for admission on the basis of:

- ❖ Race
- ❖ Religion
- ❖ Hearing status
- ❖ Personal appearance
- ❖ Color

- ❖ Sex
- ❖ Pregnancy
- ❖ Political affiliation
- ❖ Source of income
- ❖ Place of business
- ❖ Residence
- ❖ Religion
- ❖ Creed
- ❖ Ethnicity
- ❖ National origin (including ancestry)
- ❖ Citizenship status
- ❖ Physical or mental disability (including perceived disability)
- ❖ Age
- ❖ Marital status
- ❖ Family responsibilities
- ❖ Sexual orientation
- ❖ Gender identity
- ❖ Gender expression
- ❖ Veteran or military status (including disabled veteran; recently separated veteran; active-duty, wartime, or campaign badge veteran; and Armed Forces Service Medal veteran)
- ❖ Predisposing genetic characteristics
- ❖ Domestic violence victim status
- ❖ Height
- ❖ Weight
- ❖ Or any other protected characteristic under applicable local, state, or federal law, including protections for those opposing discrimination or participating in any grievance process within the institution, with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and/or other human/civil rights agencies

This Policy covers nondiscrimination in both employment and access to educational opportunities. Therefore, any member of the Lackawanna College community whose acts deny, deprive, or limit the educational or employment or residential and/or social access, benefits, and/or opportunities of any member of Lackawanna College community, guest, or visitor on the basis of that person's actual or perceived protected characteristics listed above, is in violation of Lackawanna College's Nondiscrimination Policy.

When brought to the attention of Lackawanna College, any such discrimination will be promptly and fairly addressed and remedied by Lackawanna College according to the grievance process described below.

B. Inclusion Related to Gender Identity/Expression

Lackawanna College strives to ensure that all individuals are safe, included, and respected in their working and learning environments, regardless of their gender identity or expression, including intersex, transgender, agender, and gender diverse students and employees.

Discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression is not tolerated by Lackawanna College. If a member of Lackawanna College community feels they have been subjected to discrimination under this Policy, they should follow the appropriate reporting/Formal Complaint process described above.

In upholding the principles of equity and inclusion, Lackawanna College supports the full integration and healthy development of those who are transgender, transitioning, or gender diverse, and seeks to eliminate any stigma related to gender identity and expression.

Lackawanna College is committed to fostering a climate where all identities are valued and create a more vibrant and diverse community. The purpose of this Policy is to have the Lackawanna College administratively address issues some students and employees, including those identifying as intersex, transgender, agender, and gender diverse, may confront as they navigate systems originally designed around the assumption that gender is binary. As our society's understanding of gender evolves, so do Lackawanna College's processes and policies.

Concepts like misgendering and deadnaming may not be familiar to all but understanding them is essential to Lackawanna College's goal of being as welcoming and inclusive a community as possible.

Misgendering is the intentional or unintentional use of pronouns or identifiers that are different from those used by an individual. Unintentional misgendering is usually resolved with a simple apology if someone clarifies their pronouns for you. Intentional misgendering is inconsistent with the type of community we hold ourselves out to be. We all get to determine our own gender identity and expression, but we don't get to choose or negate someone else's.

Deadnaming, along with misgendering, can be very traumatic to a person who is transgender, transitioning, or gender diverse. Deadnaming means using someone's birth-assigned (cisgender) name, rather than the name they have chosen.

To a person who is transgender, transitioning, or gender diverse, their cisgender identity may be something that is in their past, dead, buried, and behind them. To then revive their deadname could trigger issues, traumas, and experiences of the past that the individual has moved past, or is moving past, and can interfere with their health and well-being.

Again, unintentional deadnaming can be addressed by a simple apology and an effort to use the person's chosen name. Intentional deadnaming could be a form of bullying, outing, or otherwise harassing an individual, and thus should be avoided.

This policy should be interpreted consistent with the goals of maximizing the inclusion of intersex, transgender, transitioning, agender, and gender diverse students and employees, including:

- ❖ Maintaining the privacy of all individuals consistent with law
- ❖ Ensuring all students equal access to educational programming, activities, and facilities, including restrooms and locker rooms
- ❖ Ensuring all employees equal access to employment opportunities and work, service, or health-related facilities
- ❖ Providing professional development for employees and education for students on topics related to gender inclusion
- ❖ Encouraging all students and employees to respect the pronoun usage and identities of all members of Lackawanna College community

Lackawanna College The has set forth its specific processes for implementing this Policy through the accompanying Title IX-related procedures.

16. Disability Discrimination and Accommodation Policy

Lackawanna College is committed to full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibit discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities, as well as other federal, state, and local laws and regulations pertaining to individuals with disabilities.

Under the ADA and its amendments, a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.

The ADA also protects individuals who have a record of a substantially limiting impairment or who are regarded as disabled by Lackawanna College, regardless of whether they currently have a disability. A substantial impairment is one that significantly limits or restricts a major life activity such as hearing, seeing, speaking, breathing, performing manual tasks, walking, or caring for oneself.

The Director of Disability Services has been designated as Lackawanna College's ADA/504 Coordinator responsible for overseeing efforts to comply with these disability laws, including responding to grievances and conducting investigations of any allegation of noncompliance or discrimination based on disability.

Grievances related to disability status and/or accommodations will be addressed using the procedures in Appendix F. For details relating to disability accommodations in Lackawanna College's Resolution Process, see page 80.

A. Students with Disabilities

Lackawanna College is committed to providing qualified students with disabilities with reasonable accommodations and support needed to ensure equal access to Lackawanna College academic programs, facilities, and activities.

All accommodations are made on an individualized basis. A student requesting any accommodation should first contact the Director of Disability Services, who coordinates services for students with disabilities.

The Director of Disability Services reviews documentation provided by the student and, in consultation with the student, determines which accommodations are appropriate for the student's particular needs and academic program(s) in accordance with applicable Lackawanna College policies.

B. Employees with Disabilities

Pursuant to the ADA, Lackawanna College will provide reasonable accommodation(s) to all qualified employees with known disabilities when their disability affects the performance of their essential job functions, except when doing so would be unduly disruptive or would result in undue hardship to Lackawanna College.

An employee with a disability is responsible for submitting an accommodation request to the Human Resources Department and providing necessary documentation. The Human Resources Department will work with the employee's supervisor to identify which essential functions of the position are affected by the employee's disability and what reasonable accommodations could enable the employee to perform those duties in accordance with applicable Lackawanna College policies.

17. Discriminatory Harassment Policy

Students, staff, administrators, and faculty are entitled to an employment and educational environment that is free of discriminatory harassment. This Policy is not meant to inhibit or prohibit educational content or discussions inside or outside of the classroom that include germane, but controversial, or sensitive subject matters protected by academic freedom.

The sections below describe the specific forms of legally prohibited harassment that are also prohibited under Lackawanna College Policy. When speech or conduct is protected by academic freedom and/or the First Amendment, it will not be considered a violation of Lackawanna College Policy, though supportive measures will be offered to those impacted. All offense definitions encompass actual and/or attempted offenses.

A. Discriminatory Harassment

Discriminatory harassment—defined as unwelcome conduct by any member or group of the community on the basis of actual or perceived characteristic protected by policy or law—is a form of prohibited discrimination under Lackawanna College policy.

Lackawanna College does not tolerate discriminatory harassment of any employee, student, visitor, or third party. Lackawanna College will act to remedy all forms of harassment when reported, whether or not the harassment rises to the level of creating a “hostile environment.” A hostile environment is one that unreasonably interferes with, limits, or effectively denies an individual’s educational or employment access, benefits, or opportunities. This definition of hostile environment is based on Federal Register / Vol. 59, No. 47 / Thursday, March 10, 1994: Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, Racial Incidents and Harassment Against Students at Educational Institutions Investigative Guidance. This discriminatory effect results from harassing verbal, written, graphic, and/or physical conduct that is severe or pervasive and objectively offensive.

When discriminatory harassment rises to the level of creating a hostile environment, Lackawanna College may also impose pathways on the Respondent through application of the grievance process.

Lackawanna College reserves the right to address offensive conduct and/or harassment that (1) does not rise to the level of creating a hostile environment, or (2) that is of a generic nature and not based on a protected characteristic. Addressing such conduct will not result in the imposition of discipline under Lackawanna College policy, but may be addressed through respectful conversation, remedial actions, education, effective Alternative Resolution, and/or other Informal Resolution mechanisms.

For assistance with Alternative Resolution and other Informal Resolution techniques and approaches, employees should contact the Director of Human Resources, and students should contact the Director of Student Conduct.

B. Sexual Harassment

The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regard sexual harassment, a specific form of discriminatory harassment, as an unlawful discriminatory practice.

Acts of sexual harassment may be committed by any person upon any other person, regardless of the sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity of those involved.

Lackawanna College has adopted the following definitions of sexual harassment in order to address the unique environment of an academic community. Two definitions are required by federal law. While they overlap, they are not identical, and they each apply as noted.

Title VII Sexual Harassment applies to situations where an employee is subjected to workplace sexual harassment or where a situation involves a residential Complainant in Lackawanna College-provided housing:

- a. Unwelcome verbal, written, graphic, and/or physical conduct;
- b. that is severe or pervasive and objectively offensive;
- c. on the basis of sex/gender, that
- d. unreasonably interferes with, limits, or effectively denies an individual's educational or employment access, benefits, or opportunities.

Title IX Sexual Harassment, as an umbrella category, includes the offenses of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. This definition applies to all formal complaints that fall within Title IX jurisdiction as determined by the Title IX Coordinator. Sexual harassment includes:

Conduct on the basis of sex, including gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and sex stereotypes, or that is sexual in nature, that satisfies one or more of the following:

- 1) Quid Pro Quo:
 - a. an employee of the Lackawanna College,
 - b. conditions, implicitly or explicitly, the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of Lackawanna College,

- c. on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.
- 2) Sexual Harassment (Hostile Environment):
- a. unwelcome conduct,
 - b. determined by a reasonable person,
 - c. to be so severe, and
 - d. pervasive, and,
 - e. objectively offensive,
 - f. that it effectively denies a Complainant equal access to Lackawanna College's education program or activity.
- 3) Sexual Assault, defined as:
- a. Any sexual act directed against a Complainant, this would include having another person touch you sexually, forcibly, and/or without their consent.
 - without their consent, or
 - instances in which the Complainant is incapable of giving consent.

A 'sexual act' is specifically defined by federal regulations to include one or more of the following:

 - Rape:
The carnal knowledge of a Complainant OR Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without their consent,
Including instances where they are incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity."
 - Sodomy:
Oral or anal sexual intercourse with a Complainant, forcibly, and/or against their will (non-consensually), or not forcibly or against their will in instances in which the Complainant is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
 - Sexual Assault with an Object:
The use of an object or instrument to penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of the Complainant, forcibly, and/or against their will (non-consensually), or

not forcibly or against their will in instances in which the Complainant is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

○ Fondling:

The touching of the private body parts of the Complainant (buttocks, groin, breasts), for the purpose of sexual gratification, forcibly, and/or against their will (non-consensually), or

○ not forcibly or against their will in instances in which the Complainant is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

b. Incest:

- Non-forcible sexual intercourse,
- between persons who are related to each other,
- within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by Commonwealth of Pennsylvania law.

c. Statutory Rape:

- Non-forcible sexual intercourse,
- with a person who is under the statutory age of consent of sixteen (16).

4) Dating Violence, defined as:

- a. violence,
- b. on the basis of sex,
- c. committed by a person,
- d. who is in or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the Complainant.
 - i. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the Complainant's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. For the purposes of this definition—
 - a) Dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse.
 - b) Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence.

5) Domestic Violence, defined as:

- a. violence,

- b. on the basis of sex,
 - c. committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the Complainant,
 - d. by a person with whom the Complainant shares a child in common, or
 - e. by a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the Complainant as a spouse or intimate partner, or
 - f. by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the Complainant under the domestic or family violence laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or
 - g. by any other person against an adult or youth Complainant who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 - h. to categorize an incident as Domestic Violence under this Policy, the relationship between the Respondent and the Complainant must be more than just two people living together as roommates. The people cohabitating must be current or former spouses or have an intimate relationship.
- 6) **Stalking**, defined as:
- a. engaging in a course of conduct,
 - b. on the basis of sex,
 - c. directed at the Complainant, that
 - i. would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety, or
 - ii. the safety of others; or
 - iii. Suffer substantial emotional distress.

For the purposes of this definition—

- ❖ Course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to acts in which the Respondent directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property.
- ❖ Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the Complainant.
- ❖ Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may but does not necessarily require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

Lackawanna College reserves the right to impose any level of sanction, ranging from a reprimand up to and including suspension or expulsion/termination, for any offense under this Policy. The most serious offenses are likely to result in suspension/expulsion/termination.

C. Force, Coercion, Consent, and Incapacitation

As used in the offenses above, the following definitions and understandings apply:

Force: Force is the use of physical violence and/or physical imposition to gain sexual access. Force also includes threats, intimidation (implied threats), and coercion that is intended to overcome resistance or produce consent (e.g., “Have sex with me or I’ll hit you,” which elicits the response, “Okay, don’t hit me. I’ll do what you want.”).

Sexual activity that is forced is, by definition, non-consensual, but non-consensual sexual activity is not necessarily forced. Silence or the absence of resistance alone is not consent. Consent is not demonstrated by the absence of resistance. While resistance is not required or necessary, it is a clear demonstration of non-consent.

Coercion: Coercion is unreasonable pressure for sexual activity. Coercive conduct differs from seductive conduct based on factors such as the type and/or extent of the pressure used to obtain consent. When someone makes clear that they do not want to engage in certain sexual activity, that they want to stop, or that they do not want to go past a certain point of sexual interaction, continued pressure beyond that point can be coercive.

Consent is:

- ❖ knowing, and
- ❖ voluntary, and
- ❖ clear permission
- ❖ by word or action
- ❖ to engage in sexual activity.

Individuals may perceive and experience the same interaction in different ways. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each party to determine that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

If consent is not clearly provided prior to engaging in the activity, consent may be ratified by word or action at some point during the interaction or thereafter, but clear communication from the outset is strongly encouraged.

For consent to be valid, there must be a clear expression in words or actions that the other individual consented to that specific sexual conduct. Reasonable reciprocation can be implied consent. For example, if someone kisses you, you can kiss them back (if you want to) without the need to explicitly obtain their consent to being kissed back.

Consent can also be withdrawn once given, as long as the withdrawal is reasonably and clearly communicated. If consent is withdrawn, that sexual activity should cease within a reasonably immediate time.

Consent to some sexual contact (such as kissing or fondling) cannot be presumed to be consent for other sexual activity (such as intercourse). A current or previous intimate relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent. If an individual expresses conditions on their willingness to consent (e.g., use of a condom) or limitations on the scope of their consent, those conditions and limitations must be respected.

Proof of consent or non-consent is not a burden placed on either party involved in a complaint. Instead, the burden remains on Lackawanna College to determine whether its policy has been violated. The existence of consent is based on the totality of the circumstances evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable person in the same or similar circumstances, including the context in which the alleged misconduct occurred and any similar and previous patterns that may be evidenced.

Consent in relationships must also be considered in context. When parties consent to BDSM (Bondage, discipline/dominance, submission/sadism, and masochism), or other forms of kink, non-consent may be shown by the use of a safe word. Resistance, force, violence, or even saying “no” may be part of the kink and thus consensual, thus Lackawanna College’s evaluation of communication in kink situations should be guided by reasonableness, rather than strict adherence to policy that assumes non-kink relationships as a default.

Incapacitation: A person cannot consent if they are unable to understand what is happening or are disoriented, helpless, asleep, or unconscious for any reason, including due to alcohol or other drug consumption. As stated above, a Respondent violates this Policy if they engage in sexual activity with someone who is incapable of giving consent.

It is a defense to a sexual assault policy violation that the Respondent neither knew nor should have known the Complainant to be physically or mentally incapacitated. “Should have known” is an objective, reasonable person standard that assumes that a reasonable person is both sober and exercising sound judgment.

Incapacitation occurs when someone cannot make rational, reasonable decisions because they lack the capacity to give knowing/informed consent (e.g., to understand the “who, what, when, where, why, and how” of their sexual interaction).

Incapacitation is determined through consideration of all relevant indicators of an individual’s state and is not synonymous with intoxication, impairment, blackout, and/or being drunk.

This Policy also covers a person whose incapacity results from a temporary or permanent physical or mental health condition, involuntary physical restraint, and/or the consumption of incapacitating substances.

D. Other Civil Rights Offenses

In addition to the forms of sexual harassment described above, which are covered by Title IX, Lackawanna College additionally prohibits the following offenses as forms of discrimination that may be within or outside of Title IX when the act is based upon the Complainant's actual or perceived protected characteristic.

1) Sexual Exploitation, defined as:

- a.** an individual taking non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another
- b.** for their own benefit or for the benefit of anyone other than the person being exploited, and
- c.** that conduct does not otherwise constitute Sexual Harassment under this Policy.

Examples of Sexual Exploitation include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Sexual voyeurism (such as observing or allowing others to observe a person undressing or using the bathroom or engaging in sexual acts, without the consent of the person being observed)
- ❖ Invasion of sexual privacy (e.g., doxxing)
- ❖ Knowingly making an unwelcome disclosure of (or threatening to disclose) an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression
- ❖ Taking pictures, video, or audio recording of another in a sexual act, or in any other sexually related activity when there is a reasonable expectation of privacy during the activity, without the consent of all involved in the activity; or exceeding the boundaries of consent (such as allowing another person to hide in a closet and observe sexual activity; or disseminating sexual pictures without the photographed person's consent), including the making or posting of non-consensual pornography
- ❖ Prostituting another person

- ❖ Engaging in sexual activity with another person while knowingly infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or a sexually transmitted disease (STD) or infection (STI), without informing the other person of the virus, disease, or infection
- ❖ Causing or attempting to cause the incapacitation of another person (through alcohol, drugs, or any other means) for the purpose of compromising that person's ability to give consent to sexual activity, or for the purpose of making that person vulnerable to non-consensual sexual activity
- ❖ Misappropriation of another person's identity on apps, websites, or other venues designed for dating or sexual connections (e.g., spoofing)
- ❖ Forcing a person to take an action against that person's will by threatening to show, post, or share information, video, audio, or an image that depicts the person's nudity or sexual activity
- ❖ Knowingly soliciting a minor for sexual activity
- ❖ Engaging in sex trafficking
- ❖ Knowingly creating, possessing, or disseminating child pornography

2) Harm/Endangerment, defined as:

- a. threatening or causing physical harm;
- b. extreme verbal, emotional, or psychological abuse; or
- c. other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person or damages their property.

3) Discrimination, defined as:

- a. actions that deprive, limit, or deny
- b. other members of the community
- c. of educational or employment access, benefits, or opportunities,
- d. including disparate treatment.

4) Intimidation, defined as:

- a. implied threats or
- b. acts that cause the Complainant reasonable fear of harm.

5) Hazing, defined as:

- a. acts likely to cause physical or psychological harm or social ostracism

- b. to any person within Lackawanna College community,
- c. when related to the admission, initiation, pledging, joining, or any other group-affiliation activity (as defined further in Lackawanna College Student Code of Conduct which can be found in the Student Handbook).

6) Bullying, defined as:

- a. repeated and/or severe aggressive behavior
- b. that is likely to intimidate or intentionally hurt, control, or physically or mentally diminish the Complainant,
- c. that is not speech or conduct that is otherwise protected by the First Amendment.

Violation of any other Lackawanna College policies may constitute a Civil Rights Offense when a violation is motivated by actual or perceived protected characteristic(s), and the result is a discriminatory limitation or denial of employment or educational access, benefits, or opportunities.

Pathways for the above-listed Civil Rights Offenses range from warning through expulsion/termination.

18. Retaliation

Protected activity under this Policy includes reporting alleged misconduct that may implicate this Policy, participating in the resolution process, supporting a Complainant or Respondent, assisting in providing information relevant to an investigation, and/or acting in good faith to oppose conduct that constitutes a violation of this Policy. Retaliation allegations can be routed exclusively through Process B if a recipient so elects, but where retaliation and sexual harassment allegations are both alleged, it will likely make more sense to use Process A to resolve all together.

Acts of alleged retaliation should be reported immediately to the Title IX Coordinator and will be promptly investigated. Lackawanna College will take all appropriate and available steps to protect individuals who fear that they may be subjected to retaliation.

Lackawanna College and any member of Lackawanna College's community are prohibited from taking or attempting to take materially adverse action by intimidating, threatening, coercing, harassing, or discriminating against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by law or policy, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this Policy and procedure.

Filing a complaint under Process B could be considered retaliatory if those allegations could be subject to Process A, when the Process B allegations are made for the purpose of interfering

with or circumventing any right or privilege provided afforded within Process A that is not provided by Process B. Therefore, Lackawanna College carefully vets all complaints to ensure this does not happen, and to ensure that complaints are routed to the appropriate process.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation.

Pursuing a Student Code of Conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this Policy and procedure does not constitute retaliation, provided that the determination of responsibility, by itself, is not sufficient to conclude that any party has made a materially false statement in bad faith.

19. Mandated Reporting

All Lackawanna College employees (faculty, staff, administrators) are expected to report actual or suspected discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation to appropriate officials immediately, although there are some limited exceptions.

To make informed choices, it is important to be aware of confidentiality and mandatory reporting requirements when consulting institutional resources. Within the institution, some resources may maintain confidentiality and are not required to report actual or suspected harassment, discrimination, or retaliation in a way that identifies the parties. They may offer options and resources without any obligation to inform an outside agency or institution official unless a Complainant has requested the information be shared.

If a Complainant expects formal action in response to their allegations, reporting to any Mandated Reporter can connect them with resources to report alleged crimes and/or policy violations, and these employees will immediately pass reports to the Title IX Coordinator (and/or police, if desired by the Complainant or required by law), who will act when an incident is reported to them.

The following sections describe Lackawanna College reporting options for a Complainant or third party (including parents/guardians when appropriate):

A. Confidential Resources

If a Complainant would like the details of an incident to be kept confidential, the Complainant may speak with:

- ❖ Student Wellness Program - Studentwellness@lackawanna.edu
- ❖ Scranton Primary Health Care Center (SPHCC)

Seeley Hall, 406 N. Washington Avenue, 1st Floor, Scranton, PA 18503
or

959 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18519
(570) 344-9684 or (570) 969-9662

- ❖ Athletic Trainers; athletictrainers@lackawanna.edu
- ❖ Off Campus Free and Confidential Supports (available 24 hours a day)
 - Abuse and Rape Crisis Center (Towanda) (570) 265-5333
 - Blackburn Center (Greensburg) – HOTLINE 1-888-832-2272
 - Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley (Bethlehem) – HOTLINE 610-437-6611
 - Employee Assistance Program – Mutual of Omaha 1(800) 316-2796 or www.mutualofomaha.com/eap/
 - Maternal Family Services (570) 595-4496
 - National Domestic Violence Hotline 1(800) 799-SAFE 1(800) 850-7948
 - National Sexual Assault Hotline/www.rain.org 1(800) 656-HOPE
 - Transitions (Sunbury) 1(800) 850-7948
 - Turning Point of Lehigh Valley (Bethlehem) – 610-437-3369
 - Victims' Intervention Program (Lake Region) (570) 253-4401
 - Victims' Resource Center (Hazleton) 1(866) 206-9050
 - Victims' Resource Center (Tunkhannock) – 570-836-5544
 - WIN Victim Services (Chambersburg) 717-264-3056
 - WOAR Against Sexual Violence (Philadelphia) – HOTLINE 215-985-3333
 - Women in Transition (Philadelphia) (866) 723-3014
 - WRC (Scranton) (570) 346-46714

All of the above-listed individuals will maintain confidentiality when acting under the scope of their licensure, professional ethics, professional credentials, or official designation, except in extreme cases of immediacy of threat or danger or abuse of a minor/elder/individual with a disability, or when required to disclose by law or court order.

Student Wellness Program or the Employee Assistance Program are available to help free of charge and may be consulted on an emergency basis during normal business hours.

Employees who have confidentiality as described above, and who receive reports within the scope of their confidential roles will timely submit anonymous statistical information for Clery Act purposes unless they believe it would be harmful to their client, patient, or parishioner.

B. Mandated Reporters and Formal Notice/Complaints

All Lackawanna College employees (including student employees), with the exception of those who are designated as Confidential Resources, are Mandated Reporters and must promptly share with the Title IX Coordinator all known details of a report made to them in the course of their employment.

Employees must also promptly share all details of behaviors under this Policy that they observe or have knowledge of, even if not reported to them by a Complainant or third party.

Complainants may want to carefully consider whether they share personally identifiable details with non-confidential Mandated Reporters, as those details must be shared with the Title IX Coordinator.

Generally, disclosures in climate surveys, classroom writing assignments or discussions, human subjects research, or at events such as “Take Back the Night” marches or speak-outs do not provide notice that must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator by employees, unless the Complainant clearly indicates that they desire a report to be made or a seek a specific response from Lackawanna College.

Supportive measures may be offered as the result of such disclosures without formal Lackawanna College action.

Failure of a Mandated Reporter, as described above in this section, to report an incident of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation of which they become aware is a violation of Lackawanna College Policy and can be subject to disciplinary action for failure to comply/failure to report.

Though this may seem obvious, when a Mandated Reporter is engaged in harassment or other violations of this Policy, they still have a duty to report their own misconduct, though Lackawanna College is technically not on notice simply because a harasser is also a Mandated Reporter unless the harasser does in fact report themselves.

Finally, it is important to clarify that a Mandated Reporter who is themselves a target of harassment or other misconduct under this Policy is not required to report their own experience, though they are, of course, encouraged to do so.

20. When a Complainant Does Not Wish to Proceed

If a Complainant does not wish for their name to be shared, does not wish for an investigation to take place, and/or does not want a Formal Complaint to be pursued, they may make such a request to the Title IX Coordinator, who will evaluate that request in light of the duty to ensure the safety of the institution and to comply with state or federal law.

The Title IX Coordinator has ultimate discretion over whether Lackawanna College proceeds when the Complainant does not wish to do so, and the Title IX Coordinator may sign a Formal Complaint to initiate a grievance process, usually upon completion of an appropriate violence risk assessment.

The Title IX Coordinator's decision should be based on results of the violence risk assessment that show a compelling risk to health and/or safety that requires Lackawanna College to pursue formal action to protect the community.

A compelling risk to health and/or safety may result from evidence of patterns of misconduct, predatory conduct, threats, abuse of minors, use of weapons, and/or violence. Lackawanna Colleges may be compelled to act on alleged employee misconduct irrespective of a Complainant's wishes.

The Title IX Coordinator must also consider the effect that non-participation by the Complainant may have on the availability of evidence and Lackawanna College's ability to pursue a Formal Grievance Process fairly and effectively.

When the Title IX Coordinator executes the written complaint, they do not become the Complainant. The Complainant is the individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute a violation of this Policy.

When Lackawanna College proceeds, the Complainant (and/or their Advisor) may have as much or as little involvement in the process as they wish. The Complainant retains all rights of a Complainant under this Policy irrespective of their level of participation. Typically, when the Complainant chooses not to participate, the Advisor may be appointed as proxy for the Complainant throughout the process, acting to ensure and protect the rights of the Complainant, though this does not extend to the provision of evidence or testimony.

Note that Lackawanna College's ability to remedy and respond to notice may be limited if the Complainant does not want Lackawanna College to proceed with an investigation and/or grievance process. The goal is to provide the Complainant with as much control over the process as possible, while balancing Lackawanna College's obligation to protect its community.

In cases in which the Complainant requests confidentiality/no formal action and the circumstances allow Lackawanna College to honor that request, Lackawanna College may offer Informal Resolution options, supportive measures, and remedies to the Complainant and the community, but will not otherwise pursue formal action.

If the Complainant elects to take no action, they can change that decision if they decide to pursue a Formal Complaint at a later date. Upon making a Formal Complaint, a Complainant has the right, and can expect, to have allegations taken seriously by Lackawanna College and to have the incidents investigated and properly resolved through these procedures. Please consider that delays may cause limitations on access to evidence, or present issues with respect to the status of the parties.

21. Federal Timely Warning Obligations

Lackawanna College must issue timely warnings for reported incidents that pose a serious or continuing threat of bodily harm or danger to members of the campus community.

Lackawanna College will ensure that a Complainant's name and other identifying information is not disclosed, while still providing enough information for community members to make safety decisions in light of the potential danger.

22. False Allegations and Evidence

Deliberately false and/or malicious accusations under this Policy are a serious offense and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. This does not include allegations that are made in good faith but are ultimately shown to be erroneous or do not result in a policy violation determination.

Additionally, witnesses and parties knowingly providing false evidence, tampering with or destroying evidence, or deliberately misleading an official conducting an investigation, hearing, or informal resolution can be subject to discipline under appropriate Lackawanna College policies.

23. Amnesty

The College community encourages the reporting of misconduct and crimes by Complainants and witnesses. Sometimes, Complainants or witnesses are hesitant to report to Lackawanna College officials or participate in resolution processes because they fear that they themselves may be in violation of certain policies, such as underage drinking or use of illicit drugs at the time of

the incident. Respondents may hesitate to be forthcoming during the process for the same reasons.

It is in the best interests of the College community that Complainants choose to report misconduct to Lackawanna College officials, that witnesses come forward to share what they know, and that all parties be forthcoming during the process.

To encourage reporting and participation in the process, Lackawanna College maintains a policy of offering parties and witnesses amnesty from minor policy violations—such as underage consumption of alcohol or the use of illicit drugs—related to the incident.

Amnesty does not apply to more serious allegations such as physical abuse of another or illicit drug distribution. The decision not to offer amnesty to a Respondent is based on neither sex nor gender, but on the fact that collateral misconduct is typically addressed for all students within a progressive discipline system, and the rationale for amnesty—the incentive to report serious misconduct—is rarely applicable to Respondent with respect to a Complainant.

A. Students

Sometimes, students are hesitant to assist others for fear that they may get in trouble themselves (for example, an underage student who has been drinking or using marijuana) might hesitate to help take an individual who has experienced sexual assault to Lackawanna College's Department of Public Safety.

Lackawanna College maintains a policy of amnesty for students who offer help to others in need. Although policy violations cannot be overlooked, Lackawanna College may provide purely educational options with no official disciplinary finding, rather than punitive pathways, to those who offer their assistance to others in need.

B. Employees

Sometimes, employees are hesitant to report harassment, discrimination, or retaliation they have experienced for fear that they may get in trouble themselves.

Lackawanna College may, at its discretion, offer employee Complainants amnesty from such policy violations (typically more minor policy violations) related to the incident. Amnesty may also be granted to Respondents and witnesses on a case-by-case basis.

24. Federal Statistical Reporting Obligations

Certain institutional officials—those deemed Campus Security Authorities—have a duty to report the following for federal statistical reporting purposes (Clery Act):

- 1) All “primary crimes,” which include criminal homicide, rape, fondling, incest, statutory rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson
- 2) Hate crimes, which include any bias-motivated primary crime as well as any bias-motivated larceny or theft, simple assault, intimidation, or destruction/damage/vandalism of property
- 3) VAWA-based crimes, (VAWA is the Violence Against Women Act, enacted in 1994 and codified in part at 42 U.S.C. sections 13701 through 14040) which include sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking
- 4) Arrests and referrals for disciplinary action for weapons-related law violations, liquor-related law violations, and drug law violations

All personally identifiable information is kept private, but statistical information must be shared with Department of Public Safety regarding the type of incident and its general location (on or off campus or in the surrounding area, but no addresses are given) for publication in the Annual Security Report and daily campus crime log. Campus Security Authorities include: Student Success/SARP staff, Department of Public Safety, local police, coaches, Athletic Directors, Residence Life staff, Student Life staff, Human Resources staff, advisors to student organizations, and any other official with significant responsibility for student and campus activities.

25. Preservation of Evidence

The preservation of evidence in incidents of sexual assault and stalking is critical to potential criminal prosecution and to obtaining restraining/protective orders and is particularly time sensitive. Lackawanna College will inform the Complainant of the importance of preserving evidence by taking actions such as the following:

Sexual Assault

- ❖ Seek forensic medical assistance at the nearest hospital, ideally within 120 hours of the incident (sooner is better). Local hospitals with the ability to complete SANE reports include:

- **Geisinger Community Medical Center**
1800 Mulberry Street Scranton, PA 18510
570-969-8000
- **Moses Taylor Hospital**
700 Quincy Ave Scranton, PA 18510
570-340-2900
- **The Regional Hospital of Scranton**
746 Jefferson Ave. Scranton, PA 18510
570-348-7951
- **Lehigh Valley Hospital**
330 Main Street, Dickson City, PA 18519
570-330-5000
- **Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital**
91 Hospital Drive, Towanda, PA 18848
570-265-2191
- **Wayne Memorial Hospital**
601 Park Street, #1445, Honesdale, PA 18431
570-253-8100
- **Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania**
3400 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
1-800-789-7366
- **St. Luke's Allentown Campus**
1736 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18104
1-866-785-8537
- **Nazarath Hospital**
2601 Holme Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19152
215-335-6000
- **Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania**
3400 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
1-800-789-7366
- **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**
5800 Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19128

215-483-9900

— **Temple University Hospital – Main Campus**

3401 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19140
1-800-836-7536

— **Thomas Jefferson University Hospital**

111 South 11th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
1-800-533-3669

— **Lehigh Valley Hospital - Muhlenberg**

2545 Schoenersville Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017
610-402-8000

— **WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital**

112 North 7th Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-267-3000

— **AHN Hempfield Neighborhood Hospital**

6321 US-30
Greensburg, PA 15601
878-295-4735

- ❖ Avoid urinating, showering, bathing, washing hands or face, or douching, if possible, but evidence may still be collected even if you do.
- ❖ If oral sexual contact took place, refrain from smoking, eating, drinking, or brushing teeth.
- ❖ If clothes are changed, place soiled clothes in a paper bag (plastic destroys evidence) or secure evidence container available from law enforcement.
- ❖ Seeking medical treatment can be essential even if it is not for the purposes of collecting forensic evidence.

Stalking

- ❖ Evidence in the form of text and voice messages will be lost in most cases if the Complainant changes their phone number.
 - Make a secondary recording of any voice messages and/or save the audio files to a cloud server.
 - Take screenshots and/or a video recording of any text messages or other electronic messages (e.g., Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook).

- ❖ Save copies of e-mail and social media correspondence, including notifications related to account access alerts.
- ❖ Take time-stamped photographs of any physical evidence including notes, gifts, etc. in place when possible.
- ❖ Save copies of any messages, to include those showing any request for no further contact.
- ❖ Obtain copies of call logs showing the specific phone number being used rather than a saved contact name if possible.

During the initial meeting between the Complainant and the Title IX Coordinator, the importance of taking these actions will be discussed, if timely.

RESOLUTION PROCESS FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, HARASSMENT, AND NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY (KNOWN AS PROCESS “A”)

1. Overview

Lackawanna College will act on any formal notice/complaint of violation of the Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy (“the Policy”) that is received by the Title IX Coordinator (or designee) or any other Official with Authority by applying these procedures, known as “Process A.”

The procedures below apply to all allegations of harassment or discrimination on the basis of an actual or perceived protected characteristic involving students, staff, administrators, or faculty members. A set of technical dismissal requirements within the Title IX regulations may apply as described below, but when a technical dismissal under the Title IX allegations is required, any remaining allegations may proceed using these same grievance procedures, clarifying which Policy provisions above are applicable. Although the effect of the Title IX regulations can be confusing, these grievance procedures apply to all Policy offenses.

The procedures below may be used to address alleged collateral misconduct by the Respondent arising from the investigation of or occurring in conjunction with reported misconduct (e.g.,

vandalism, physical abuse of another), when alleged violations of the Policy are being addressed at the same time. In such cases, the Title IX Coordinator may consult with the institution officials who typically oversee such conduct (e.g., human resources, SARP office, academic affairs, etc.) to provide input as needed. All other allegations of misconduct unrelated to incidents covered by the Policy will be addressed through procedures described in the student, faculty, and staff handbooks.

2. Notice/Complaint

Upon receipt of a Formal Complaint or notice of an alleged policy violation by the Title IX Coordinator, the Title IX Coordinator initiates a prompt initial assessment to determine the next steps Lackawanna College needs to take. The Title IX Coordinator will contact the Complainant to offer supportive measures and determine whether the Complainant wishes to file a Formal Complaint.

The Title IX Coordinator will then initiate at least one of three responses:

- 1) Offering supportive measures because the Complainant does not want to file a Formal Complaint
- 2) An Informal Resolution (upon submission of a Formal Complaint)
- 3) A Formal Grievance Process including an investigation and a hearing (upon submission of a Formal Complaint)

Lackawanna College uses a Formal Grievance Process as described below to determine whether the Policy has been violated. If so, the College will promptly implement effective remedies designed to ensure that it is not deliberately indifferent to harassment or discrimination, their potential recurrence, and/or their effects.

3. Initial Assessment

Following receipt of notice or a Formal Complaint of an alleged violation of this Policy, the Title IX Coordinator engages in an initial assessment, typically within one to five (1-5) business days. If circumstances require, the Title IX Coordinator will designate another person to oversee the Resolution Process should an allegation be made about the Coordinator or the Coordinator be otherwise unavailable, unable to fulfill their duties, or have a conflict of interest. The steps in an initial assessment can include:

- ❖ The Title IX Coordinator seeks to determine if the person impacted wishes to make a Formal Complaint, and will assist them to do so, if desired.

- If they do not wish to do so, the Title IX Coordinator determines whether to initiate a complaint themselves because a violence risk assessment indicates a compelling threat to health and/or safety.
- ❖ If a Formal Complaint is received, the Title IX Coordinator assesses its sufficiency and works with the Complainant to make sure it is correctly completed.
- ❖ The Title IX Coordinator reaches out to the Complainant to offer supportive measures.
- ❖ The Title IX Coordinator works with the Complainant to ensure they are aware of the right to have an Advisor.
- ❖ The Title IX Coordinator works with the Complainant to determine whether the Complainant prefers a supportive and remedial response, an Informal Resolution option, or a formal investigation and grievance process.
 - If a supportive and remedial response is preferred, the Title IX Coordinator works with the Complainant to identify their needs, determine appropriate supports, and implements accordingly. No Formal Grievance Process is initiated, though the Complainant can elect to initiate one later, if desired.
 - If an Informal Resolution option is preferred, the Title IX Coordinator assesses whether the complaint is suitable for Informal Resolution, which informal mechanism may serve the situation best or is available, and may seek to determine if the Respondent is also willing to engage in Informal Resolution. Per the 2020 Title IX regulations, recipients are prohibited from Informal Resolution of a complaint by a student against an employee.
 - If a Formal Grievance Process is preferred by the Complainant, the Title IX Coordinator determines if the alleged misconduct falls within the scope of the 2020 Title IX regulations:
 - If it does, the Title IX Coordinator will initiate the formal investigation and grievance process, directing the investigation to address, based on the nature of the complaint:
 - an incident, and/or
 - a pattern of alleged misconduct, and/or
 - a culture/climate issue
 - If alleged misconduct does not fall within the scope of the Title IX regulations, the Title IX Coordinator determines that the regulations do

not apply (and will “dismiss” that aspect of the complaint, if any), assesses which policies may apply, which Resolution Process is applicable, and will refer the matter accordingly, including referring the matter for resolution under Process B, if applicable. Please note that dismissing a complaint under the 2020 Title IX regulations is solely a procedural requirement under Title IX, which does not limit Lackawanna College’s authority to address a complaint with an appropriate process and remedies.

A. Violence Risk Assessment

In some cases, the Title IX Coordinator may determine that a Violence Risk Assessment (VRA) should be conducted by the Behavior Intervention Team (BIT) as part of the initial assessment. A VRA can aid in ten critical and/or required determinations, including:

- 1) Emergency removal of a Respondent on the basis of immediate threat to an individual or the community’s physical health/safety
- 2) Whether the Title IX Coordinator should pursue/sign a Formal Complaint absent a willing/able Complainant
- 3) Whether the scope of the investigation should include an incident, and/or pattern of misconduct, and/or climate of hostility/harassment
- 4) To help identify potential predatory conduct
- 5) To help assess/identify grooming behaviors
- 6) Whether it is reasonable to try to resolve a complaint through Informal Resolution, and if so, what approach may be most successful
- 7) Whether to permit a voluntary withdrawal by the Respondent
- 8) Whether to impose transcript notation or communicate with a transfer Lackawanna College about a Respondent

9) Assessment of appropriate pathways/remedies (to be applied post-hearing)

10) Whether a Clery Act Timely Warning/Trespass order/Persona-non-grata is needed

Threat assessment is the process of evaluating the actionability of violence by an individual against another person or group following the issuance of a direct or conditional threat. A VRA is a broader term used to assess any potential violence or danger, regardless of the presence of a vague, conditional, or direct threat.

VRAs require specific training and are typically conducted by psychologists, clinical counselors, social workers, case managers, law enforcement officers, student conduct officers, or other Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) team members. A VRA authorized by the Title IX Coordinator should occur in collaboration with the BIT/CARE or threat assessment team. Where a VRA is required by the Title IX Coordinator, a Respondent refusing to cooperate may result in a charge of failure to comply within the appropriate student or employee conduct process.

A VRA is not an evaluation for an involuntary behavioral health hospitalization (e.g., 5150 in California, Section XII in Massachusetts, Baker Act in Florida), nor is it a psychological or mental health assessment. A VRA assesses the risk of actionable violence, often with a focus on targeted/predatory escalations, and is supported by research from the fields of law enforcement, criminology, human resources, and psychology.

More about Lackawanna College's process for VRA can be found in Appendix E.

B. Dismissal (Mandatory and Discretionary)

Lackawanna College must dismiss a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein if, at any time during the investigation or hearing, it is determined that:

- 1) The conduct alleged in the Formal Complaint would not constitute Title IX Sexual Harassment as defined above, even if proved
- 2) The conduct did not occur in an educational program or activity controlled by Lackawanna College (including buildings or property controlled by recognized student organizations), and/or Lackawanna College does not have control of the Respondent
- 3) The conduct did not occur against a person in the United States

- 4) At the time of filing a Formal Complaint, a Complainant is not participating in or attempting to participate in Lackawanna College's education program or activity, and based on the available information, the Title IX Coordinator has determined that they do not need to sign a Formal Complaint on behalf of Lackawanna College. Such a Complainant is still entitled to supportive measures, but the formal grievance process is not applicable unless the Title IX Coordinator signs the complaint in the event the Complainant cannot/will not do so.

Lackawanna College may dismiss a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein if, at any time during the investigation or hearing:

- 1) A Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the Formal Complaint or any allegations therein
- 2) The Respondent is no longer enrolled in or employed by Lackawanna College
- 3) Specific circumstances prevent Lackawanna College from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the Formal Complaint or allegations therein

A Complainant who decides to withdraw a complaint may later request to reinstate it or refile it.

Upon any dismissal, Lackawanna College will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and the rationale for doing so simultaneously to the parties.

This dismissal decision is appealable by any party under the procedures for appeal (See Section 37). The decision not to dismiss is also appealable by any party claiming that a dismissal is required or appropriate.

4. Counterclaims

Lackawanna College is obligated to ensure that the grievance process is not abused for retaliatory purposes, thus counterclaims made with retaliatory intent will not be permitted. Lackawanna College permits the filing of counterclaims but uses an initial assessment, described above, to assess whether the allegations in the counterclaim are made in good faith.

Counterclaims determined to have been reported in good faith will be processed using the Resolution Process below. Investigation of such claims may take place after resolution of the underlying initial complaint, in which case a delay may occur.

Counterclaims may also be resolved through the same investigation as the underlying complaint, at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator. When counterclaims are not made in good faith, they will be considered retaliatory and may constitute a violation of this policy.

5. Right to an Advisor

The parties may each have an Advisor of their choice present with them for all meetings, interviews, and hearings within the Resolution Process, if they so choose. The parties may select whoever they wish to serve as their Advisor as long as the Advisor is eligible and available.

“Available” means the party cannot insist on an Advisor who simply doesn’t have inclination, time, or availability. Also, the Advisor cannot have institutionally conflicting roles, such as being a Title IX administrator who has an active role in the matter, or a supervisor who must monitor and implement Pathways.

Choosing an Advisor who is also a witness in the process creates potential for bias and conflict of interest. A party who chooses an Advisor who is also a witness can anticipate that issues of potential bias will be explored by the hearing Decision-maker(s).

A. Who Can Serve as an Advisor

The Advisor may be a friend, mentor, family member, attorney, or any other individual a party chooses to advise, support, and/or consult with them throughout the Resolution Process. The parties may choose Advisors from inside or outside of the Lackawanna College community.

The Title IX Coordinator will also offer to assign a trained Advisor to any party if the party so chooses. If the parties choose an Advisor from the pool available from the College, the Advisor will have been trained by the College and be familiar with Lackawanna College’s Resolution Process.

If the parties choose an Advisor from outside the pool of those identified by Lackawanna College, the Advisor may not have been trained by the College and may not be familiar with Lackawanna College policies and procedures.

Parties also have the right to choose not to have an Advisor in the initial stages of the Resolution Process, prior to a hearing.

B. Advisor’s Role in Meetings and Interviews

The parties may be accompanied by their Advisor in all meetings and interviews at which the party is entitled to be present, including intake and interviews. Advisors should help the parties prepare for each meeting and are expected to advise ethically, with integrity, and in good faith.

Lackawanna College cannot guarantee equal Advisory rights, meaning that if one party selects an Advisor who is an attorney, but the other party does not or cannot afford an attorney, Lackawanna College is not obligated to provide an attorney.

Where applicable under state law or Lackawanna College policy, Advisors or attorneys are permitted to fully represent their advisees or clients in resolution proceedings, including all meetings, interviews, and hearings. Although Lackawanna College prefers to hear from parties directly, in these cases, parties are entitled to have evidence provided by their chosen representatives.

C. Advisors in Hearings/Lackawanna College-Appointed Advisor

Under the Title IX Regulations, a form of indirect questioning is required during the hearing but must be conducted by the parties' Advisors. The parties are not permitted to directly question each other or any witnesses. If a party does not have an Advisor for a hearing, the College will appoint a trained Advisor for the limited purpose of conducting any questioning of the parties and witnesses.

D. Pre-Interview Meetings

Advisors and their advisees may request to meet with the Investigator(s) conducting interviews/meetings in advance of these interviews or meetings. This pre-meeting allows Advisors to clarify and understand their role and Lackawanna College's policies and procedures.

E. Advisor Violations of Lackawanna College Policy

All Advisors are subject to the same Lackawanna College policies and procedures, whether they are attorneys or not, and whether they are selected by a party or assigned by Lackawanna College. Advisors are expected to advise their advisees without disrupting proceedings. Advisors should not address Lackawanna College officials or Investigators in a meeting or interview unless invited to do so (e.g., asking procedural questions). The Advisor may not make a presentation or represent their advisee during any meeting or proceeding and may not speak on behalf of the advisee to the Investigator(s) or other Decision-maker(s) except during a hearing proceeding during questioning.

The parties are expected to ask and respond to questions on their own behalf throughout the investigation phase of the Resolution Process. Although the Advisor generally may not speak on behalf of their advisee, the Advisor may consult with their advisee, either privately as needed, or by conferring or passing notes during any Resolution Process meeting or interview. For longer or more involved discussions, the parties and their Advisors should ask for breaks to allow for private consultation.

Any Advisor who oversteps their role as defined by this Policy, or who refuses to comply with Lackawanna College's established rules of decorum for the hearing, will be warned. If the Advisor continues to disrupt or otherwise fails to respect the limits of the Advisor role, the meeting/interview/hearing may be ended, or other appropriate measures implemented, including Lackawanna College requiring the party to use a different Advisor or providing a different Lackawanna College-appointed Advisor. Subsequently, the Title IX Coordinator will determine how to address the Advisor's non-compliance and future role.

F. Sharing Information with the Advisor

Lackawanna College expects that the parties may wish to have the Lackawanna College share documentation and evidence related to the allegations with their Advisors. Lackawanna College provides a consent form that authorizes Lackawanna College to share such information directly with a party's Advisor. The parties must either complete and submit this form to the Title IX Coordinator or provide similar documentation demonstrating consent to a release of information to the Advisor before Lackawanna College is able to share records with an Advisor.

If a party requests that all communication be made through their attorney Advisor, Lackawanna College will not comply with that request OR will comply with that request at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator.

Advisors appointed by the institution will not be asked to disclose details of their interactions with their advisees to institutional officials or Decision-makers.

G. Privacy of Records Shared with Advisor

Advisors are expected to maintain the privacy of the records shared with them. These records may not be shared with third parties, disclosed publicly, or used for purposes not explicitly authorized by Lackawanna College. Advisors will be asked to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs). Lackawanna College may restrict the role of any Advisor who does not respect the sensitive nature of the process or who fails to abide by Lackawanna College's privacy expectations.

H. Expectation of an Advisor

Lackawanna College generally expects an Advisor to adjust their schedule to allow them to attend Lackawanna College meetings/interviews/hearings when planned, but Lackawanna College may change scheduled meetings/interviews/hearings to accommodate an Advisor's inability to attend, if doing so does not cause an unreasonable delay.

Lackawanna College may also make reasonable provisions to allow an Advisor who cannot be present in person to attend a meeting/interview/hearing by telephone, video conferencing, or other similar technologies as may be convenient and available.

I. Expectations of the Parties with Respect to Advisors

A party may elect to change Advisors during the process and is not obligated to use the same Advisor throughout. The parties are expected to inform the Investigator(s) of the identity of their Advisor at least two (2) business days before the date of their first meeting with Investigators (or as soon as possible if a more expeditious meeting is necessary or desired).

The parties are expected to provide timely notice to the Title IX Coordinator if they change Advisors at any time. It is assumed that if a party changes Advisors, consent to share information with the previous Advisor is terminated, and a release for the new Advisor should be secured. Parties are expected to inform the Title IX Coordinator of the identity of their hearing Advisor at least two (2) business days before the hearing.

J. Assistance in Securing an Advisor

Lackawanna College maintains a listing of local attorneys who may offer discounted or pro bono services here <https://www.pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Pro-Bono-Services/Map/Lackawanna>. This is being provided for informational purposes and does not constitute Lackawanna College's endorsement of any of the external individuals/organizations listed.

For representation, Respondents may wish to contact organizations such as:

- ❖ Families Advocating for Campus Equality (<http://www.facecampusequality.org>)
- ❖ Stop Abusive and Violent Environments (<http://www.saveservices.org>)

Complainants may wish to contact organizations such as:

- ❖ The Victim Rights Law Center (<http://www.victimrights.org>)
- ❖ The National Center for Victims of Crime (<http://www.victimsofcrime.org>), which maintains the Crime Victim's Bar Association
- ❖ The Time's Up Legal Defense Fund (<https://nwlc.org/times-up-legal-defense-fund/>)

6. Resolution Processes

Resolution proceedings are private. All persons present at any time during the Resolution Process are expected to maintain the privacy of the proceedings in accordance with Lackawanna College Policy.

Although there is an expectation of privacy around what Investigators share with parties during interviews, the parties have discretion to share their own knowledge and evidence with others if they so choose, except for information the parties agree not to disclose as part of an Informal Resolution. Lackawanna College encourages parties to discuss any sharing of information with their Advisors before doing so.

The Formal Grievance Process is Lackawanna College's primary resolution approach unless Informal Resolution is elected by all parties and the College.

A. Informal Resolution

Three options for Informal Resolution are detailed in this section.

- 1) **Supportive Resolution.** When the Title IX Coordinator can resolve the matter informally by providing supportive measures (only) to remedy the situation
- 2) **Alternative Resolution.** When the parties agree to resolve the matter through an alternative resolution mechanism, including mediation, restorative practices, facilitated dialogue, etc., as described below, often before a formal investigation takes place (See Section B)
- 3) **Accepted Responsibility.** When the Respondent accepts responsibility for violating policy, and desires to accept the recommended sanction(s) and end the Resolution Process (See Section C)

To initiate Informal Resolution, a Complainant must submit a Formal Complaint, as defined above. A Respondent who wishes to initiate Informal Resolution should contact the Title IX Coordinator. The parties may agree, as a condition of engaging in Informal Resolution, that statements made, or evidence shared, during the Informal Resolution process will not be considered in the Formal Grievance Process unless all parties consent.

It is not necessary to pursue Informal Resolution first in order to pursue a Formal Grievance Process, and any party participating in Informal Resolution can stop the process at any time and begin or resume the Formal Grievance Process. The parties may not enter into an agreement that requires Lackawanna College to impose specific pathways, though the parties can agree to certain restrictions or other courses of action. For example, the parties cannot require a student be suspended, but the parties can agree

that the Respondent will temporarily or permanently withdraw. The only Informal Resolution Process that can result in pathways levied by the institution is “Accepted Responsibility.” The Title IX Coordinator has discretion to determine if an investigation will be paused during Informal Resolution, or if it will be limited, or will continue during the Informal Resolution process.

Prior to implementing Informal Resolution, the College will provide the parties with written notice of the reported misconduct and any pathways (only in the case of Accepted Responsibility) or measures that may result from participating in such a process, including information regarding any records that will be maintained or shared by Lackawanna College.

The College will obtain voluntary, written confirmation that all parties wish to resolve the matter through Informal Resolution before proceeding and will not pressure the parties to participate in Informal Resolution.

B. Alternative Resolution Approaches

Alternative Resolution is an informal approach, including mediation, restorative practices, facilitated dialogue, etc., by which the parties reach a mutually agreed upon resolution of a complaint. All parties must consent to the use of an Alternative Resolution approach.

The Title IX Coordinator may consider the following factors to assess whether Alternative Resolution is appropriate, or which form of Alternative Resolution may be most successful for the parties:

- ❖ The parties’ amenability to Alternative Resolution
- ❖ Likelihood of potential resolution, considering any power dynamics between the parties
- ❖ The nature and severity of the alleged misconduct
- ❖ The parties’ motivation to participate
- ❖ Civility of the parties
- ❖ Results of a violence risk assessment/ongoing risk analysis
- ❖ Disciplinary history of the Respondent
- ❖ Whether an emergency removal is needed
- ❖ Skill of the Alternative Resolution facilitator with this type of complaint
- ❖ Complaint complexity
- ❖ Emotional investment/capability of the parties
- ❖ Rationality of the parties
- ❖ Goals of the parties
- ❖ Adequate resources to invest in Alternative Resolution (time, staff, etc.)

The ultimate determination of whether Alternative Resolution is available or successful is made by the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator is authorized to facilitate a resolution that is acceptable to all parties, and/or to accept a resolution that is proposed by the parties, usually through their Advisors, including terms of confidentiality, release, and non-disparagement.

The Title IX Coordinator maintains records of any resolution that is reached, and failure to abide by the resolution agreement may result in appropriate responsive/disciplinary actions (e.g., referral for formal resolution, referral to the conduct process for failure to comply). The results of complaints resolved by Alternative Resolution are not appealable.

C. Respondent Accepts Responsibility for Alleged Violations

The Respondent may accept responsibility for all or part of the alleged policy violations at any point during the Resolution Process. If the Respondent indicates an intent to accept responsibility for all of the alleged misconduct, the formal process will be paused, and the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether Informal Resolution can be used according to the criteria above.

If an Informal Resolution is applicable, the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether all parties and Lackawanna College are able to agree on responsibility, restrictions and/or remedies. If so, the Title IX Coordinator implements the accepted finding that the Respondent is in violation of Lackawanna College policy and implements agreed-upon restrictions and remedies and determines the appropriate sanction(s) in coordination with other appropriate administrator(s), as necessary.

This result is not subject to appeal once all parties indicate their written assent to all agreed upon resolution terms. When the parties cannot agree on all terms of resolution, the Formal Grievance Process will resume at the same point where it was paused. The parties may not want discussions that take place within Informal Resolution to be admissible in a later Formal Grievance Process, but essential facts must and do transfer from the informal process to the formal. Disclosing something in an informal setting to shield it from formal admissibility is a cynical strategy.

When a resolution is accomplished, the appropriate sanction(s) or responsive actions are promptly implemented to effectively stop the harassment or discrimination, prevent its recurrence, and remedy the effects of the discriminatory conduct, both on the Complainant and the community.

7. Formal Grievance Process Pool

The Formal Grievance Process relies on a pool of administrators (“the Pool”) to carry out the process. Members of the Pool are announced in an annual distribution of this Policy to all students, employees, prospective students, and prospective employees. They are also listed in the Annual Title IX Report published by the Title IX Office.

The list of Pool members and a description of the Pool can be found at <https://www.lackawanna.edu/student-resources/title-ix/>.

A. Pool Member Roles

Members of the Pool are trained annually, and can serve in the following roles, at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator:

- ❖ To provide appropriate intake of and initial guidance pertaining to complaints
- ❖ To act as an Advisor to the parties
- ❖ To serve in a facilitation role in Informal Resolution or Alternative Resolution if appropriately trained in appropriate resolution approaches (e.g., mediation, restorative practices, facilitated dialogue)
- ❖ To perform or assist with initial assessment
- ❖ To investigate complaints
- ❖ To serve as a hearing facilitator (process administrator, no decision-making role)
- ❖ To serve as a Decision-maker regarding the complaint
- ❖ To serve as an Appeal Decision-maker

B. Pool Member

The Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with the Provost, appoints the Pool, which acts with independence and impartiality. This does not preclude Lackawanna College from having all members of the Pool go through an application and/or interview/selection process. Although members of the Pool are typically trained in a variety of skill sets and can rotate amongst the different roles listed above in different complaints, Lackawanna College can also designate permanent roles for individuals in the Pool, using others as substitutes or to provide greater depth of experience when necessary. This process of role assignment may be the result of particular skills, aptitudes, or talents identified in members of the Pool that make them best suited to particular roles.

C. Pool Member Training

Pool members receive annual training. This training includes, but is not limited to:

- ❖ The scope of the Lackawanna College's Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy and Procedures
- ❖ How to conduct investigations and hearings that protect the safety of Complainants and Respondents, and promote accountability
- ❖ Implicit bias
- ❖ Disparate treatment
- ❖ Reporting, confidentiality, and privacy requirements
- ❖ Applicable laws, regulations, and federal regulatory guidance
- ❖ How to implement appropriate and situation-specific remedies
- ❖ How to investigate in a thorough, reliable, timely, and impartial manner
- ❖ How to conduct a sexual harassment investigation
- ❖ Trauma-informed practices pertaining to investigations and resolution processes
- ❖ How to uphold fairness, equity, and due process
- ❖ How to weigh evidence
- ❖ How to conduct questioning
- ❖ How to assess credibility
- ❖ Impartiality and objectivity
- ❖ How to render findings and generate clear, concise, evidence-based rationales
- ❖ The definitions of all offenses
- ❖ How to apply definitions used by Lackawanna College with respect to consent (or the absence or negation of consent) consistently, impartially, and in accordance with policy
- ❖ How to conduct an investigation and grievance process including hearings, appeals, and Informal Resolution Processes
- ❖ How to serve impartially by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias against Respondents and/or for Complainants, and on the basis of sex, race, religion, and other protected characteristics
- ❖ Any technology to be used at a live hearing
- ❖ Issues of relevance of questions and evidence
- ❖ Issues of relevance to create an investigation report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence
- ❖ How to determine appropriate pathways in reference to all forms of harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation allegations
- ❖ Recordkeeping

The materials used to train all members of the Pool are publicly posted here

<https://www.lackawanna.edu/student-resources/title-ix/>

8. Formal Grievance Process: Notice of Investigation and Allegations

The Title IX Coordinator will provide written Notice of the Investigation and Allegations (the “NOIA”) to the Respondent upon commencement of the Formal Grievance Process. This facilitates the Respondent’s ability to prepare for the interview and to identify and choose an Advisor to accompany them. The NOIA is also copied to the Complainant, who will be given advance notice of when the NOIA will be delivered to the Respondent.

The NOIA will include:

- ❖ A meaningful summary of all allegations
- ❖ The identity of the involved parties (if known)
- ❖ The precise misconduct being alleged
- ❖ The date and location of the alleged incident(s) (if known)
- ❖ The specific policies implicated
- ❖ A description of the applicable procedures
- ❖ A statement of the potential pathways/responsive actions that could result
- ❖ A statement that Lackawanna College presumes the Respondent is not responsible for the reported misconduct unless and until the evidence supports a different determination
- ❖ A statement that determinations of responsibility are made at the conclusion of the process and that the parties will be given an opportunity during the review and comment period to inspect and review all directly related and/or relevant evidence obtained
- ❖ A statement about Lackawanna College’s policy on retaliation
- ❖ Information about the confidentiality of the process
- ❖ Information on the need for each party to have an Advisor of their choosing and suggestions for ways to identify an Advisor
- ❖ A statement informing the parties that Lackawanna College’s policy prohibits knowingly making false statements, including knowingly submitting false information during the Resolution Process
- ❖ Detail on how the party may request disability accommodations during the Resolution Process
- ❖ Lackawanna College’s VAWA Brochure <https://www.lackawanna.edu/student-resources/title-ix/>
- ❖ The name(s) of the Investigator(s), along with a process to identify to the Title IX Coordinator, in advance of the interview process, any conflict of interest that the Investigator(s) may have
- ❖ An instruction to preserve any evidence that is directly related to the allegations

Amendments and updates to the NOIA may be made as the investigation progresses and more information becomes available regarding the addition or dismissal of various allegations.

Notice will be made in writing and may be delivered by one or more of the following methods: in person, mailed to the local or permanent address(es) of the parties as indicated in official

Lackawanna College records, or emailed to the parties' Lackawanna College-issued email or designated accounts. Once mailed, emailed, and/or received in-person, notice will be presumptively delivered.

9. Resolution Timeline

Lackawanna College will make a good faith effort to complete the Resolution Process within a sixty to ninety (60-90) business-day time period, including appeal if any, which can be extended as necessary for appropriate cause by the Title IX Coordinator, who will provide notice and rationale for any extensions or delays to the parties as appropriate, as well as an estimate of how much additional time will be needed to complete the process.

10. Appointment of Investigators

Once the decision to commence a formal investigation is made, the Title IX Coordinator appoints Pool members to conduct the investigation (typically using a team of two Investigators), usually within two (2) business days of determining that an investigation should proceed.

11. Ensuring Impartiality

Any individual materially involved in the administration of the Resolution Process including the Title IX Coordinator, Investigator(s), and Decision-maker(s) may neither have nor demonstrate a conflict of interest or bias for a party generally, or for a specific Complainant or Respondent.

The Title IX Coordinator will vet the assigned Investigator(s) for impartiality by ensuring there are no actual or apparent conflicts of interest or disqualifying biases. At any time during the Resolution Process, the parties may raise a concern regarding bias or conflict of interest, and the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether the concern is reasonable and supportable. If so, another Pool member will be assigned and the impact of the bias or conflict, if any, will be remedied. If the source of the conflict of interest or bias is the Title IX Coordinator, concerns should be raised with Provost.

The Formal Grievance Process involves an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence obtained, including evidence that supports that the Respondent engaged in a policy violation and evidence that supports that the Respondent did not engage in a policy violation. Credibility determinations may not be based solely on an individual's status or participation as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness.

Lackawanna College operates with the presumption that the Respondent is not responsible for the reported misconduct unless and until the Respondent is determined to be responsible for a policy violation by the applicable standard of proof.

12. Investigation Timeline

Investigations are completed expeditiously, normally within sixty (60) business days, though some investigations may take many weeks or even months, depending on the nature, extent, and complexity of the allegations, availability of witnesses, law enforcement involvement, etc.

Lackawanna College will make a good faith effort to complete investigations as promptly as circumstances permit and will communicate regularly with the parties to update them on the progress and timing of the investigation.

13. Investigation Process Delays and Interactions with Law Enforcement

Lackawanna College may undertake a short delay in its investigation (several days to a few weeks) if circumstances require. Such circumstances include but are not limited to: a request from law enforcement to temporarily delay the investigation, the need for language assistance, the absence of parties and/or witnesses, and/or health conditions.

Lackawanna College will communicate the anticipated duration of the delay and reason to the parties in writing and provide the parties with status updates if necessary. Lackawanna College will promptly resume its investigation and Resolution Process as soon as feasible. During such a delay, Lackawanna College will implement supportive measures as deemed appropriate.

Lackawanna College action(s) or processes are not typically altered or precluded on the grounds that civil or criminal charges involving the underlying incident(s) have been filed or that criminal charges have been dismissed or reduced.

14. Investigation Process Steps

All investigations are thorough, reliable, impartial, prompt, and fair. Investigations involve interviews with all available relevant parties and witnesses; obtaining available, relevant evidence; and identifying sources of expert information, as necessary.

All parties have a full and fair opportunity, through the investigation process, to suggest witnesses and questions, to provide evidence and expert witnesses, and to fully review and respond to all evidence on the record. Recordings of interviews are not provided to the parties

but the parties will have the ability to review the transcripts of the interview once the investigation report is compiled.

At the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, investigations can be combined when complaints implicate a pattern, collusion, and/or other shared or similar actions.

The Investigator(s) typically take(s) the following steps, if not already completed (not necessarily in this order):

- ❖ Determine the identity and contact information of the Complainant
- ❖ Identify all policies implicated by the alleged misconduct and notify the Complainant and Respondent of all of the specific policies implicated
- ❖ Assist the Title IX Coordinator, if needed, with conducting a prompt initial assessment to determine if the allegations indicate a potential policy violation
- ❖ Commence a thorough, reliable, and impartial investigation by identifying issues and developing a strategic investigation plan, including a witness list, evidence list, intended investigation timeframe, and order of interviews for the parties and witnesses
- ❖ Meet with the Complainant to finalize their interview/statement, if necessary
- ❖ Work with the Title IX Coordinator, as necessary, to prepare the initial Notice of Investigation and Allegations (NOIA). The NOIA may be amended with any additional or dismissed allegations
 - Notice should inform the parties of their right to have the assistance of an Advisor, who could be a member of the Pool or an Advisor of their choosing present for all meetings attended by the party
- ❖ Provide each interviewed party and witness an opportunity to review and verify the Investigator's summary notes (or transcript) of the relevant evidence/testimony from their respective interviews and meetings
- ❖ Make good faith efforts to notify each party of any meeting or interview involving another party, in advance when possible
- ❖ When participation of a party is expected, provide that party with written notice of the date, time, and location of the meeting, as well as the expected participants and purpose
- ❖ Interview all available, relevant witnesses and conduct follow-up interviews as necessary
- ❖ Allow each party the opportunity to suggest witnesses and questions they wish the Investigator(s) to ask of another party and/or witnesses, and document in the report which questions were asked, with a rationale for any changes or omissions
- ❖ Complete the investigation promptly and without unreasonable deviation from the intended timeline
- ❖ Provide regular status updates to the parties throughout the investigation
- ❖ Prior to the conclusion of the investigation, provide the parties and their respective Advisors (if so desired by the parties) with a list of witnesses whose information will be used to render a finding

- ❖ Write a comprehensive investigation report fully summarizing the investigation, all witness interviews, and addressing all relevant evidence. Appendices including relevant physical or documentary evidence will be included
- ❖ Gather, assess, and synthesize evidence, but make no conclusions, engage in no policy analysis, and render no recommendations as part of their report
- ❖ Prior to the conclusion of the investigation, provide the parties and their respective Advisors (if so desired by the parties) a secured electronic or hard copy of the draft investigation report as well as an opportunity to inspect and review all of the evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the reported misconduct, including evidence upon which Lackawanna College does not intend to rely in reaching a determination, for a ten (10) business-day review and comment period so that each party may meaningfully respond to the evidence. The parties may elect to waive the full ten (10) days. Each copy of the materials shared will be watermarked on each page with the role of the person receiving it (e.g., Complainant, Respondent, Complainant's Advisor, Respondent's Advisor).
- ❖ Elect to respond in writing in the investigation report to the parties' submitted responses and/or to share the responses between the parties for additional responses
- ❖ Incorporate relevant elements of the parties' written responses into the final investigation report, include any additional relevant evidence, make any necessary revisions, and finalize the report. The Investigator(s) should document all rationales for any changes made after the review and comment period.
- ❖ Share the report with the Title IX Coordinator and / or legal counsel for their review and feedback.
- ❖ Incorporate any relevant feedback and share the final report with all parties and their Advisors through secure electronic transmission or hard copy at least ten (10) business days prior to a hearing. The parties and Advisors are also provided with a file of any directly related evidence that was not included in the report.

15. Witness Role and Participation in the Investigation

Witnesses (as distinguished from the parties) who are employees of Lackawanna College are strongly encouraged to cooperate with and participate in Lackawanna College's investigation and Resolution Process. Student witnesses and witnesses from outside the Lackawanna College community are encouraged to cooperate with Lackawanna College investigations and to share what they know about a complaint.

Although in-person interviews for parties and all potential witnesses are ideal, circumstances (e.g., study abroad, summer break) may require individuals to be interviewed remotely. Skype, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, FaceTime, WebEx, or similar technologies may be used for interviews if the Investigator(s) determine that timeliness, efficiency, or other reasons dictate a need for remote interviewing. Lackawanna College will take appropriate steps to reasonably ensure the security/privacy of remote interviews.

Witnesses may also provide written statements in lieu of interviews or choose to respond to written questions, if deemed appropriate by the Investigator(s), though not preferred.

16. Interview Recording

No unauthorized audio or video recording of any kind is permitted during investigation meetings. If Investigator(s) elect to audio and/or video record interviews, all involved parties should be made aware of and consent to audio and/or video recording. Consent of the interviewer and interviewee is required in “dual-party recording” states.

17. Evidentiary Considerations

Neither the investigation nor the hearing will consider: (1) incidents not relevant or not directly related to the possible violation(s), unless they evidence a pattern; or (2) questions and evidence about the Complainant’s sexual predisposition; or (3) questions and evidence about the Complainant’s prior sexual behavior, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant’s prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant’s prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent.

Within the boundaries stated above, the investigation and the hearing can consider character evidence generally, if offered, but that evidence is unlikely to be relevant unless it is factual evidence or relates to a pattern of conduct.

18. Referral for Hearing

Provided that the complaint is not resolved through Informal Resolution, once the final investigation report is shared with the parties, the Title IX Coordinator will refer the matter for a hearing.

The hearing cannot be held less than ten (10) business days from the conclusion of the investigation—when the final investigation report is transmitted to the parties and the Decision-maker(s)—unless all parties and the Decision-maker(s) agree to an expedited timeline.

The Title IX Coordinator will select an appropriate Decision-maker or Decision-makers from the Pool and provide a copy of the investigation report and the file of directly related evidence. Allegations involving student-employees in the context of their employment will be directed to the appropriate Decision-maker(s) depending on the context and nature of the alleged misconduct.

19. Hearing Decision-maker Composition

Lackawanna College will designate a single Decision-maker or a three-member panel from the Pool, at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator. The single Decision-maker will also Chair the hearing. With a panel, one of the three members will be appointed as Chair by the Title IX Coordinator.

The Decision-maker(s) will not have had any previous involvement with the complaint. The Title IX Coordinator may elect to have an alternate from the Pool sit in throughout the hearing process in the event that a substitute is needed for any reason.

Those who have served as Investigators will be witnesses in the hearing and therefore may not serve as Decision-makers. Those who are serving as Advisors for any party may not serve as Decision-makers in that matter.

The Title IX Coordinator may not serve as a Decision-maker or Chair in the matter but may serve as an administrative facilitator of the hearing if their previous role(s) in the matter do not create a conflict of interest. Otherwise, a designee may fulfill the facilitator role. The hearing will convene at a time and venue determined by the Title IX Coordinator or designee.

20. Additional Evidentiary Considerations in the Hearing

Previous disciplinary action of any kind involving the Respondent may not be used unless there is an allegation of a pattern of misconduct. Such information may also be considered in determining an appropriate sanction upon a determination of responsibility, assuming Lackawanna College uses a progressive discipline system. This information is only considered at the sanction stage of the process and is not shared until then.

The parties may each submit a written impact and/or mitigation statement prior to the hearing for the consideration of the Decision-maker(s) at the sanction stage of the process when a determination of responsibility is reached.

After post-hearing deliberation, the Decision-maker(s) render(s) a determination based on the preponderance of the evidence; whether it is more likely than not that the Respondent violated the Policy as alleged OR clear and convincing evidence; whether there is a high probability that the Respondent violated the Policy as alleged.

21. Hearing Notice

No less than ten (10) business days prior to the hearing, unless an expedited hearing is agreed to by all parties, the Title IX Coordinator or the Chair will send notice of the hearing to the parties. Once mailed, emailed, and/or received in-person, notice will be presumptively delivered.

The notice will contain:

- ❖ A description of the alleged violation(s), a list of all policies allegedly violated, a description of the applicable hearing procedures, and a statement of the potential pathways/responsive actions that could result.
- ❖ The time, date, and location of the hearing.
- ❖ Description of any technology that will be used to facilitate the hearing.
- ❖ Information about the option for the live hearing to occur with the parties located in separate rooms using technology that enables the Decision-maker(s) and parties to see and hear a party or witness answering questions. Such a request must be raised with the Title IX Coordinator as soon as possible, preferably at least five (5) business days prior to the hearing.
- ❖ A list of all those who will attend the hearing, along with an invitation to object to any Decision-maker(s) based on demonstrated bias or conflict of interest. This must be raised with the Title IX Coordinator at least two (2) business days prior to the hearing.
- ❖ Information on how the hearing will be recorded and how the parties can access the recording after the hearing.
- ❖ A statement that if any party or witness does not appear at the scheduled hearing, the hearing may be held in their absence. For compelling reasons, the Chair may reschedule the hearing.
- ❖ Notification that the parties may have the assistance of an Advisor of their choosing at the hearing and will be required to have one present for any questions they may desire to ask. The party must notify the Title IX Coordinator if they wish to conduct cross-examination and do not have an Advisor, and Lackawanna College will appoint one. Each party must have an Advisor present if they intend to cross-examine others. There are no exceptions.
- ❖ A copy of all the materials provided to the Decision-maker(s) about the complaint unless they have already been provided. The final investigation report may be shared using electronic means that preclude downloading, forwarding, or otherwise sharing.
- ❖ An invitation to each party to submit to the Chair an impact and/or mitigation statement pre-hearing that the Decision-maker(s) will review during any sanction determination.

- ❖ An invitation to contact the Title IX Coordinator to arrange any disability accommodations, language assistance, and/or interpretation services that may be needed at the hearing, at least seven (7) business days prior to the hearing.
- ❖ Whether parties can/cannot bring mobile phones/devices into the hearing.

Hearings for possible violations that occur near or after the end of an academic term (assuming the Respondent is still subject to this Policy) and are unable to be resolved prior to the end of term will typically be held immediately after the end of the term or during the summer, as needed, to meet the resolution timeline followed by Lackawanna College and remain within the 60-90 business-day goal for resolution. Employees who do not have 12-month contracts are still expected to participate in Resolution Proceedings that occur during months between contracts.

22. Alternative Hearing Participation Options

If a party or parties prefer not to attend or cannot attend the hearing in person, the party should request alternative arrangements from the Title IX Coordinator or the Chair as soon as possible, preferably at least five (5) business days prior to the hearing.

The Title IX Coordinator or the Chair can arrange to use technology to allow remote testimony without compromising the fairness of the hearing. Remote options may also be needed for witnesses who cannot appear in person. Any witness who cannot attend in person should let the Title IX Coordinator or the Chair know as soon as possible, preferably at least five (5) business days prior to the hearing so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

23. Pre-Hearing Preparation

After any necessary consultation with the parties, the Chair will provide the names of persons who have been asked to participate in the hearing, all pertinent documentary evidence, and the final investigation report to the parties at least ten (10) business days prior to the hearing.

Any witness scheduled to participate in the hearing must have been first interviewed by the Investigator(s) or have proffered a written statement or answered written questions, unless all parties and the Chair assent to the witness's participation in the hearing. The same holds for any relevant evidence that is first offered at the hearing. If the parties and Chair do not assent to the admission of evidence newly offered at the hearing, the Chair may delay the hearing and/or instruct that the investigation needs to be re-opened to consider that evidence.

The parties will be given a list of the names of the Decision-maker(s) at least five (5) business days in advance of the hearing. All objections to any Decision-maker must be raised in writing,

detailing the rationale for the objection, and must be submitted to the Title IX Coordinator as soon as possible and no later than two (2) business days prior to the hearing. Decision-makers will only be removed if the Title IX Coordinator concludes that their actual or perceived bias or conflict of interest precludes an impartial hearing of the complaint.

The Title IX Coordinator will give the Decision-maker(s) a list of the names of all parties, witnesses, and Advisors at least five (5) business days in advance of the hearing. Any Decision-maker who cannot make an objective determination must recuse themselves from the proceedings when notified of the identity of the parties, witnesses, and Advisors in advance of the hearing. If a Decision-maker is unsure of whether a bias or conflict of interest exists, they must raise the concern to the Title IX Coordinator as soon as possible.

During the ten (10)-business-day period prior to the hearing, the parties have the opportunity for continued review and comment on the final investigation report and available evidence. That review and comment can be shared with the Chair at a pre-hearing meeting or at the hearing and will be exchanged between each party by the Chair.

24. Pre-Hearing Meetings

The Chair may convene a pre-hearing meeting(s) with the parties and/or their Advisors and invite them to submit the questions or topics they (the parties and/or their Advisors) wish to ask or discuss at the hearing, so that the Chair can rule on their relevance ahead of time to avoid any improper evidentiary introduction in the hearing or to provide recommendations for more appropriate phrasing.

However, this advance review opportunity does not preclude the Advisors from asking a question for the first time at the hearing or from asking for a reconsideration on a pre-hearing ruling by the Chair based on any new information or testimony offered at the hearing. The Chair must document and share with each party their rationale for any exclusion or inclusion at a pre-hearing meeting.

The Chair, only with full agreement of the parties, may decide in advance of the hearing that certain witnesses do not need to be present if their testimony can be adequately summarized by the Investigator(s) in the investigation report or during the hearing.

At each pre-hearing meeting with a party and/or their Advisor, the Chair will consider arguments that evidence identified in the final investigation report as relevant is, in fact, not relevant. Similarly, evidence identified as directly related but not relevant by the Investigator(s) may be argued to be relevant. The Chair may rule on these arguments pre-hearing and will exchange those rulings between the parties prior to the hearing to assist in preparation for the hearing. The Chair may consult with legal counsel and/or the Title IX Coordinator or ask either or both to attend pre-hearing meetings.

The pre-hearing meeting(s) will not be recorded. The pre-hearing meetings may be conducted as separate meetings with each party/Advisor, with all parties/Advisors present at the same time, remotely, or as a written-only exchange. The Chair will work with the parties to establish the format.

25. Hearing Procedures

At the hearing, the Decision-maker(s) have the authority to hear and make determinations on all allegations of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation and may also hear and make determinations on any additional alleged policy violations that occurred in concert with the discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation, even though those collateral allegations may not specifically fall within the Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy.

Participants at the hearing will include the Chair, any additional panelists, the Investigator(s) who conducted the investigation, the parties, Advisors to the parties, any called witnesses, the Title IX Coordinator (generally serving as Hearing Facilitator), and anyone providing authorized accommodations, interpretation, and/or assistive services.

The Chair will answer all questions of procedure.

Anyone appearing at the hearing to provide information will respond to questions on their own behalf.

The Chair will allow witnesses who have relevant information to appear at a portion of the hearing to respond to specific questions from the Decision-maker(s) and the parties, and the witnesses will then be excused. The Investigator(s) will remain present for the duration of the hearing.

26. Joint Hearings

In hearings involving more than one Respondent and/or involving more than one Complainant who has accused the same individual of substantially similar conduct, the default procedure will be to hear the allegations jointly.

However, the Title IX Coordinator may permit the investigation and/or hearings pertinent to each Respondent or complaint to be conducted separately if there is a compelling reason to do so. In joint hearings, separate determinations of responsibility will be made for each Respondent and/or for each complaint with respect to each alleged policy violation.

27. The Order of the Hearing – Introductions and Explanation of Procedure

The Chair explains the procedures and introduces the participants. This may include a final opportunity for challenge or recusal of the Decision-maker(s) based on bias or conflict of interest. The Chair will rule on any such challenge unless the Chair is the individual who is the subject of the challenge, in which case the Title IX Coordinator will review the challenge and decide.

The Chair then conducts the hearing according to the hearing script. At the hearing, recording, witness logistics, party logistics, curation of documents, separation of the parties, and other administrative elements of the hearing process are managed by a non-voting hearing facilitator/case manager appointed by the Title IX Coordinator.

The hearing facilitator may attend to: logistics of rooms for various parties/witnesses as they wait; flow of parties/witnesses in and out of the hearing space; ensuring recording and/or virtual conferencing technology is working as intended; copying and distributing materials to participants, as appropriate, etc.

28. Investigator Presentation of Final Investigation Report

The Investigator(s) will present a summary of the final investigation report, including items that are contested and those that are not, and will be subject to questioning by the Decision-maker(s) and the parties (through their Advisors). The Investigator(s) will be present during the entire hearing process, but not during deliberations.

Neither the parties nor the Decision-maker(s) should ask the Investigator(s) their opinions on credibility, recommended findings, or determinations, and Advisors and parties will refrain from discussion of or questions for Investigators about these assessments. If such information is introduced, the Chair will direct that it be disregarded.

29. Testimony and Questioning

Once the Investigator(s) present(s) the report and respond(s) to questions, the parties and witnesses may provide relevant information in turn, beginning with the Complainant, and then in the order determined by the Chair. The hearing will facilitate questioning of parties and witnesses by the Decision-maker(s) and then by the parties through their Advisors.

All questions are subject to a relevance determination by the Chair. The Advisor, who will remain seated during questioning, will pose the proposed question orally, electronically, or in writing (orally is the default, but other means of submission may be permitted by the Chair upon request if agreed to by all parties and the Chair), the proceeding will pause to allow the Chair to

consider the question (and state it if it has not already been stated aloud), and the Chair will determine whether the question will be permitted, disallowed, or rephrased.

The Chair may invite explanations or persuasive statements regarding relevance with the Advisors if the Chair so chooses. The Chair will then state their decision on the question for the record and advise the party/witness to whom the question was directed, accordingly. The Chair will explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant, or to reframe it for relevance.

The Chair will limit or disallow questions on the basis that they are irrelevant, unduly repetitious (and thus irrelevant), or abusive. The Chair has final say on all questions and determinations of relevance. The Chair may consult with legal counsel on any questions of admissibility. The Chair may ask Advisors to frame why a question is or is not relevant from their perspective but will not entertain arguments from the Advisors on relevance once the Chair has ruled on a question.

If the parties raise an issue of bias or conflict of interest of an Investigator or Decision-maker at the hearing, the Chair may elect to address those issues, consult with legal counsel, and/or refer them to the Title IX Coordinator, and/or preserve them for appeal. If bias is not in issue at the hearing, the Chair should not permit irrelevant questions that probe for bias.

30. Refusal to Submit to Questioning; Inferences

Any party or witness may choose not to offer evidence and/or answer questions at the hearing, either because they do not attend the hearing, or because they attend but refuse to participate in some or all questioning. The Decision-maker(s) can only rely on whatever relevant evidence is available through the investigation and hearing in making the ultimate determination of responsibility. The Decision-maker(s) may not draw any inference solely from a party's or witness's absence from the hearing or refusal to submit to cross-examination or answer other questions.

An Advisor may not be called as a witness at a hearing to testify to what their advisee has told them during their role as an Advisor unless the party being advised consents to that information being shared. It is otherwise considered off-limits, and an Advisor who is an institutional employee is temporarily alleviated from mandated reporter responsibilities related to their interaction with their advisee during the Resolution Process.

31. Hearing Recordings

Hearings (but not deliberations) are recorded by Lackawanna College for purposes of review in the event of an appeal. The parties may not record the proceedings and no other unauthorized recordings are permitted.

The Decision-maker(s), the parties, their Advisors, and appropriate administrators of Lackawanna College will be permitted to review the recording or review a transcript of the recording, upon request to the Title IX Coordinator. No person will be given or be allowed to make a copy of the recording without permission of the Title IX Coordinator.

32. Deliberation, Decision-making, and Standard of Proof

The Decision-maker(s) will deliberate in closed session to determine whether the Respondent is responsible for the policy violation(s) in question. If a panel is used, a simple majority vote is required to determine the finding. The preponderance of the evidence OR clear and convincing evidence standard of proof is used. The hearing facilitator may be invited to attend the deliberation by the Chair, but is there only to facilitate procedurally, not to address the substance of the allegations.

When there is a finding of responsibility on one or more of the allegations, the Decision-maker(s) may then consider the previously submitted party impact and/or mitigation statement(s) in determining appropriate sanction(s). The Chair will ensure that each of the parties has an opportunity to review any submitted impact and/or mitigation statement(s) once they are submitted.

The Decision-maker(s) will also review any pertinent conduct history provided by the Title IX Coordinator and will determine the appropriate pathways in consultation with other appropriate administrators, as required.

The Chair will then prepare a written statement detailing all findings and final determinations, the rationale(s) explaining the decision(s), the evidence used in support of the determination(s), the evidence not relied upon in the determination(s), any credibility assessments, and any pathways and rationales explaining the sanction(s) and will deliver the statement to the Title IX Coordinator.

This statement is typically three to five (3-5) pages in length and must be submitted to the Title IX Coordinator within two (2) business days of the end of deliberations unless the Title IX Coordinator grants an extension. If an extension is granted, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the parties.

33. Notice of Outcome

Using the deliberation statement, the Title IX Coordinator will work with the Chair to prepare a Notice of Outcome letter. The Title IX Coordinator will then share the letter, which includes the final determination, rationale, and any applicable sanction(s), with the parties and their Advisors within five (5) business days of receiving the deliberation statement.

The Notice of Outcome will be shared with the parties simultaneously. Notification will be made in writing and may be delivered by one or more of the following methods: in person, mailed to the local or permanent address of the parties as indicated in official Lackawanna College records, or emailed to the parties' Lackawanna College-issued email or otherwise approved account. Once mailed, emailed, and/or received in-person, notice will be presumptively delivered.

The Notice of Outcome will articulate the specific alleged policy violation(s), including the relevant policy section(s), and will contain a description of the procedural steps taken by Lackawanna College from the receipt of the misconduct report to the determination, including any and all notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to obtain evidence, and hearings held.

The Notice of Outcome will specify the finding for each alleged policy violation; the findings of fact that support the determination; conclusions regarding the application of the relevant policy to the facts at issue; a statement of, and rationale for, the result of each allegation to the extent Lackawanna College is permitted to share such information under state or federal law; any sanction(s) issued which College is permitted to share according to state or federal law; and whether remedies will be provided to the Complainant to ensure access to Lackawanna College's educational or employment program or activity.

The Notice of Outcome will also include information on when the results are considered final by Lackawanna College, will note any changes to the outcome and/or sanction(s) that occur prior to finalization, and the relevant procedures and bases for appeal.

34. Rights of the Parties (See [Appendix C](#))

35. Pathways

Factors considered when determining a sanction/responsive action may include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ The nature, severity of, and circumstances surrounding the violation(s)
- ❖ The Respondent's disciplinary history
- ❖ The need for pathways/responsive actions to bring an end to the discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation
- ❖ The need for pathways/responsive actions to prevent the future recurrence of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation

- ❖ The need to remedy the effects of the discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation on the Complainant and the community
- ❖ The impact on the parties
- ❖ Any other information deemed relevant by the Decision-maker(s)

The pathways will be implemented as soon as is feasible, either upon the outcome of any appeal or the expiration of the window to appeal without an appeal being requested.

The pathways described in this Policy are not exclusive of, and may be in addition to, other actions taken, or pathways imposed, by external authorities.

If it is later determined that a party or witness intentionally provided false or misleading information, that action could be grounds for reopening a grievance process at any time, and/or referring that information to another process for resolution.

A. Student Pathways

The following are the common pathways that may be imposed upon students singly or in combination:

- ❖ (Warning): A formal statement that the conduct was unacceptable and a warning that further violation of any Lackawanna College Policy, procedure, or directive will result in more severe pathways / responsive actions.
- ❖ Required Counseling: Student Wellness Program (SWP): This is a mandated assessment session with our wellness professionals. The sessions are a response to the incident and may include alcohol and drug counseling, life skills building, and emotional support. These sessions are private. Any information discussed in private will remain with the student and wellness professional in accordance with the confidentiality policies.
- ❖ Suspension from Activities: All students (including student-athletes) may be suspended from any Lackawanna College extracurricular activities until the student is actively participating in the pathways given. All student-athletes are suspended for a minimum of one game and remain suspended until the student is actively participating in the pathways given.
- ❖ Probation: Includes a period during which the student must demonstrate the ability to comply with the College's rules and regulations, as well as any imposed pathways. The length of the probationary period can vary from one (1) semester to the balance of the students' tenure at LC, depending on the severity of the offense(s). While on

probation, any further violation of College policy may result in disciplinary suspension or dismissal from the College.

- ❖ **Deferred Suspension:** This is the highest level of probation, in which any continued misconduct or non-compliance with pathways and provisions on the student's part will result in Dismissal with Appeal. In the case of an overturned disciplinary suspension or dismissal, the student will remain on Deferred Suspension. If a disciplinary suspension or dismissal occurs with a student who was not previously placed on Deferred Suspension and it is overturned, they will then be placed on Deferred Suspension. In the case of a second disciplinary suspension or dismissal, it will be without appeal. Students who are permitted to return to the College following a period of Disciplinary Suspension will be automatically placed on Deferred Suspension if found responsible for violation of College policy.
- ❖ **Disciplinary Suspension:** Separation of the student from the College for a specified period of time. While suspended, a student loses all rights and privileges and may not represent the College in any way. A student who is suspended is not in good standing with the College. Disciplinary Suspension may entail provisions added to a student's reentry into the College.
- ❖ **Fines:** Penalty fees paid to the College. The amount is dependent upon the degree of policy infraction and is set by the College administration. Fines are not subject to negotiation and can be levied in addition to other pathways and/or restitution. Fines can be substituted by community restoration under the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator.
- ❖ **Housing Suspension:** This pathway indicates that a student has been excluded from resident housing and the general grounds or parking lots surrounding the resident housing, including activities sponsored or supervised by the Residence Life and Housing staff.
- ❖ **College Dismissal:** This indicates permanent separation from LC. Students will be withdrawn from all enrolled courses by the College. The student will not be allowed to re-enroll at a future time. In accordance with federal and state regulations, all payments will be forfeited.
- ❖ **Restitution:** Reimbursement to the College for damage, destruction, or misappropriation of property on College premises. When imposed, restitution will be made in addition to any previously defined pathways. Restitution to other students can also be imposed.

- ❖ **Withholding Diploma:** The College may withhold a student's diploma for a specified period of time and/or deny a student participation in commencement activities as a sanction if the student is found responsible for violating Policy.
- ❖ **Revocation of Degree:** While very rarely employed, Lackawanna College reserves the right to revoke a degree previously awarded from Lackawanna College for fraud, misrepresentation, and/or other violation of Lackawanna College policies, procedures, or directives in obtaining the degree, or for other serious violations committed by a student prior to graduation.
- ❖ **Other Actions:** In addition to, or in place of, the above pathways, the College may assign any other pathways as deemed appropriate.

B. Student Organization Pathways

The following are the common pathways that may be imposed upon student organizations singly or in combination:

- ❖ **Warning:** A formal statement that the conduct was unacceptable and a warning that further violation of any Lackawanna College Policy, procedure, or directive will result in more severe pathways/responsive actions.
- ❖ **Probation:** An official sanction for violation of institutional Policy, providing for more severe disciplinary pathways in the event that the group or organization is found in violation of any institutional Policy, procedure, or directive within a specified period of time. Terms of the probation will be articulated and may include denial of specified social and event privileges, denial of Lackawanna College funds, ineligibility for honors and awards, restrictions on new member recruitment, no-contact orders, and/or other measures deemed appropriate.
- ❖ **Suspension:** Termination of student group or organization recognition and/or institutional support for a definite period of time not to exceed two years and/or until specific criteria are met. During the suspension period, a student group or organization may not conduct any formal or informal business or participate in Lackawanna College-related activities, whether they occur on- or off-campus. Re-recognition is possible but not guaranteed and will only be considered after the end of the suspension period and based on meeting all re-recognition criteria and obtaining clearance from Lackawanna College.

- ❖ Expulsion: Permanent termination of student group organization recognition and revocation of the privilege to congregate and conduct business on campus as an organization for any reason.
- ❖ Loss of Privileges: Restricted from accessing specific Lackawanna College privileges for a specified period of time.
- ❖ Other Actions: In addition to or in place of the above pathways, the College may assign any other pathways as deemed appropriate.

C. Employee Pathways/Responsive/Corrective Actions

Responsive actions for an employee who has engaged in harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation include:

- ❖ Verbal or Written Warning
- ❖ Performance Improvement Plan/Management Process
- ❖ Enhanced Supervision, Observation, or Review
- ❖ Required Counseling
- ❖ Required Training or Education
- ❖ Probation
- ❖ Denial of Pay Increase/Pay Grade
- ❖ Loss of Oversight or Supervisory Responsibility
- ❖ Demotion
- ❖ Transfer
- ❖ Shift or schedule adjustments.
- ❖ Reassignment
- ❖ Delay of (or referral for delay of) Tenure Track Progress
- ❖ Assignment to New Supervisor
- ❖ Restriction of Stipends, Research, and/or Professional Development Resources
- ❖ Suspension/Administrative Leave with Pay
- ❖ Suspension/Administrative Leave without Pay
- ❖ Termination
- ❖ Other Actions: In addition to or in place of the above pathways/responsive actions, the College may assign any other responsive actions as deemed appropriate.

36. Withdrawal or Resignation Before Complaint Resolution

A. Students

Should a Respondent decide not to participate in the Resolution Process, the process proceeds absent their participation to a reasonable resolution. Should a student Respondent permanently withdraw from Lackawanna College, the Resolution Process typically ends with a dismissal, as Lackawanna College has lost primary disciplinary jurisdiction over the withdrawn student. However, Lackawanna College may continue the Resolution Process when, at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, doing so may be necessary to address safety and/or remedy any ongoing effects of the alleged harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation.

Regardless of whether the complaint is dismissed or pursued to completion of the Resolution Process, Lackawanna College will continue to address and remedy any systemic issues or concerns that may have contributed to the alleged violation(s), and any ongoing effects of the alleged harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation. The student who withdraws or leaves while the process is pending may not return to Lackawanna College in any capacity. Enrollment and Human Resources will be notified, accordingly. Such exclusion applies to all Lackawanna College locations.

If the student Respondent only withdraws or takes a leave for a specified period of time (e.g., one semester or term), the Resolution Process may continue remotely and, if found in violation, that student is not permitted to return to Lackawanna College unless and until all pathways, if any, have been satisfied.

B. Employees

Should an employee Respondent resign with unresolved allegations pending, the Resolution Process typically ends with dismissal, as Lackawanna College has lost primary disciplinary jurisdiction over the resigned employee. However, Lackawanna College may continue the Resolution Process when, at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, doing so may be necessary to address safety and/or remedy any ongoing effects of the alleged harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation.

Regardless of whether the matter is dismissed or pursued to completion of the Resolution Process, Lackawanna College will continue to address and remedy any systemic issues or concerns that contributed to the alleged violation(s), and any ongoing effects of the alleged harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation.

The employee who resigns with unresolved allegations pending is not eligible for academic admission or rehire with Lackawanna College or any Lackawanna College location, and the records retained by the Title IX Coordinator will reflect that status.

All Lackawanna College responses to future inquiries regarding employment references for that individual will include that the former employee resigned during a pending disciplinary matter.

37. Appeals

Any party may submit a written request for appeal (“Request for Appeal”) to the Title IX Coordinator within five (5) business days of the delivery of the Notice of Outcome.

A [three]-member appeal panel chosen from the Pool will be designated by the Title IX Coordinator OR A single Appeal Decision-maker will Chair the appeal. No Appeal Decision-maker(s) will have been previously involved in the Resolution Process for the complaint, including in any dismissal appeal that may have been heard earlier in the process. A voting Chair of the Appeal panel will be designated by the Title IX Coordinator.

The Request for Appeal will be forwarded to the Appeal Chair or designee for consideration to determine if the request meets the grounds for appeal (a Review for Standing). This review is not a review of the merits of the appeal, but solely a determination as to whether the request meets the grounds and is timely filed.

A. Grounds for Appeal

Appeals are limited to the following grounds:

- 1) A procedural irregularity affected the outcome of the matter
- 2) New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter
- 3) The Title IX Coordinator, Investigator(s), or Decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the specific Complainant or Respondent that affected the outcome of the matter

If any of the grounds in the Request for Appeal do not meet the grounds in this Policy, that request will be denied by the Appeal Chair, and the parties and their Advisors will be notified in writing of the denial and the rationale.

If any of the grounds in the Request for Appeal meet the grounds in this Policy, then the Appeal Chair will notify all parties and their Advisors, the Title IX Coordinator, and, when appropriate, the Investigator(s) and/or the original Decision-maker(s).

All other parties and their Advisors, the Title IX Coordinator, and, when appropriate, the Investigator(s) and/or the original Decision-maker(s) will be mailed, emailed, and/or provided a hard copy of the Request for Appeal with the approved grounds and then be given five (5) business days to submit a response to the portion of the appeal that was approved and involves them. All responses, if any, will be forwarded by the Appeal Chair to all parties for review and comment.

The non-appealing party (if any) may also choose to appeal at this time. If so, that will be reviewed to determine if it meets the grounds in this Policy by the Appeal Chair and either denied or approved. If approved, it will be forwarded to the party who initially requested an appeal, the Title IX Coordinator, and the Investigator(s) and/or original Decision-maker(s), as necessary, who will submit their responses, if any, within five (5) business days. Any such responses will be circulated for review and comment by all parties. If not approved, the parties will be notified accordingly, in writing.

Neither party may submit any new requests for appeal after this time period. The Appeal Chair will collect any additional information needed and all documentation regarding the approved grounds for appeal, and the subsequent responses and the Chair will render a decision within no more than five (5) business days, barring exigent circumstances.

A Notice of Appeal Outcome will be sent to all parties simultaneously. The Notice of Appeal Outcome will specify the finding on each ground for appeal, any specific instructions for remand or reconsideration, any sanction(s) that may result which Lackawanna College is permitted to share according to state or federal law, and the rationale supporting the essential findings to the extent Lackawanna College is permitted to share under state or federal law.

Notification will be made in writing and may be delivered by one or more of the following methods: in person, mailed to the local or permanent address of the parties as indicated in official institutional records, or emailed to the parties' Lackawanna College-issued email or otherwise approved account. Once mailed, emailed and/or received in-person, notice will be presumptively delivered.

B. Pathways Status During the Appeal

Any pathways imposed as a result of the hearing are stayed (i.e.: not implemented) during the appeal process. Supportive measures may be reinstated, subject to the same supportive measure procedures above.

If any of the pathways are to be implemented immediately post-hearing, but pre-appeal, then the emergency removal procedures (detailed above) for a show cause meeting on the justification for doing so must be permitted within 48 hours of implementation.

C. Appeal Considerations

- ❖ Appeals are not intended to provide for a full re-hearing (de novo) of the allegation(s). In most cases, appeals are confined to a review of the written documentation or record of the original hearing and pertinent documentation regarding the specific grounds for appeal.
- ❖ Decisions on appeal are to be deferential to the original determination, making changes to the finding only when there is clear error and to the sanction(s)/responsive action(s) only if there is a compelling justification to do so.
- ❖ An appeal is not an opportunity for Appeal Decision-makers to substitute their judgment for that of the original Decision-maker(s) merely because they disagree with the finding and/or sanction(s).
- ❖ The Appeal Chair/Decision-maker(s) may consult with the Title IX Coordinator and/or legal counsel on questions of procedure or rationale, for clarification, if needed. Documentation of all such consultation will be maintained.
- ❖ Appeals granted should normally be remanded (or partially remanded) to the original Investigator(s) and/or Decision-maker(s) for reconsideration.
- ❖ Once an appeal is decided, the outcome is final: further appeals are not permitted, even if a decision or sanction is changed on remand (except in the case of a new hearing).
- ❖ In rare cases where an error cannot be cured by the original Investigator(s) and/or Decision-maker(s) or the Title IX Coordinator (as in cases of bias), the Appeal Chair/Decision-maker(s) may order a new investigation and/or a new hearing with new Pool members serving in the Investigator and Decision-maker roles.
- ❖ The results of a remand to a Decision-maker(s) cannot be appealed. The results of a new hearing can be appealed, once, on any of the three available appeal grounds.
- ❖ In cases that result in reinstatement to Lackawanna College or resumption of privileges, all reasonable attempts will be made to restore the Respondent to their prior status, recognizing that some opportunities lost may be irreparable in the short term.

38. Long-Term Remedies/Other Actions

Following the conclusion of the Resolution Process, and in addition to any pathways implemented, the Title IX Coordinator may implement additional long-term remedies or actions with respect to the parties and/or the institutional community that are intended to stop the harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation, remedy the effects, and prevent reoccurrence.

These remedies/actions may include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Referral to counseling and health services

- ❖ Referral to the Employee Assistance Program
- ❖ Education to the individual and/or the community
- ❖ Permanent alteration of housing assignments
- ❖ Permanent alteration of work arrangements for employees
- ❖ Provision of campus safety escorts
- ❖ Climate surveys
- ❖ Policy modification and/or training
- ❖ Provision of transportation assistance
- ❖ Implementation of long-term contact limitations between the parties
- ❖ Implementation of adjustments to academic deadlines, course schedules, etc.

At the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, certain long-term support or measures may also be provided to the parties even if no policy violation is found.

When no policy violation is found, the Title IX Coordinator will address any remedies Lackawanna College owes the Respondent to ensure no effective denial of educational access.

Lackawanna College will maintain the confidentiality of any long-term remedies/actions/measures, provided confidentiality does not impair Lackawanna College's ability to provide these services.

39. Failure to Comply with Pathways and/or Responsive Actions

All Respondents are expected to comply with the assigned pathways, responsive actions, and/or corrective actions within the timeframe specified by the final Decision-maker(s) (including the Appeal Chair/Decision-maker(s)).

Failure to abide by the sanction(s)/action(s) imposed by the date specified, whether by refusal, neglect, or any other reason, may result in additional sanction(s)/action(s), including suspension, expulsion, and/or termination from Lackawanna College. Supervisors are expected to enforce completion of pathways/responsive actions for their employees.

A suspension will only be lifted when compliance is achieved to the satisfaction of the Title IX Coordinator.

40. Recordkeeping

Lackawanna College will maintain for a period of seven years following the conclusion of the Resolution Process, records of:

- 1) Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility and any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript required under federal regulation
- 2) Any disciplinary pathways imposed on the Respondent
- 3) Any remedies provided to the Complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to Lackawanna College's education program or activity
- 4) Any appeal and the result therefrom
- 5) Any Informal Resolution and the result therefrom
- 6) All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, Investigators, Decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an Informal Resolution process. Lackawanna College will make these training materials publicly available on Lackawanna College's website.
- 7) Any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or Formal Complaint of sexual harassment, including:
 - a. The basis for all conclusions that the response was not deliberately indifferent
 - b. Any measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to Lackawanna College's education program or activity
 - c. If no supportive measures were provided to the Complainant, document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances

Lackawanna College will also maintain any and all records in accordance with state and federal laws.

41. Disability Accommodations in the Resolution Process

Lackawanna College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and support to qualified students, employees, or others with disabilities to ensure equal access to the Lackawanna College's Resolution Process.

Anyone needing such accommodations or support should contact the Director of Disability Services or Human Resources Department who will review the request and, in consultation with the person requesting the accommodation and the Title IX Coordinator, determine which accommodations are appropriate and necessary for full participation in the process.

42. Revision of this Policy and Procedures

This Policy and procedures supersede any previous policies addressing harassment, sexual misconduct, discrimination, and/or retaliation for incidents occurring on or after August 14, 2020, under Title IX and will be reviewed and updated annually by the Title IX Coordinator. The Lackawanna College reserves the right to make changes to this document as necessary, and once those changes are posted online, they are in effect.

During the Resolution Process, the Title IX Coordinator may make minor modifications to procedures that do not materially jeopardize the fairness owed to any party, such as to accommodate summer schedules. The Title IX Coordinator may also vary procedures materially with notice (on the institutional website, with the appropriate effective date identified) upon determining that changes to law or regulation require Policy or procedural alterations not reflected in this Policy and procedures.

If government laws or regulations change—or court decisions alter—the requirements in a way that impacts this document, this document will be construed to comply with the most recent government laws or regulations or court holdings.

This document does not create legally enforceable protections beyond the protections of the background state and federal laws which frame such policies and codes, generally.

This Policy and procedures are effective August 14, 2020. Revised on January 13, 2025.

APPENDIX A: PROHIBITED CONDUCT EXAMPLES (TITLE IX)

Examples of possible Title IX Sexual Harassment:

- ❖ A professor offers for a student to have sex or go on a date with them in exchange for a good grade. This constitutes sexual harassment regardless of whether the student agrees to the request and irrespective of whether a good grade is promised or a bad grade is threatened.
- ❖ A student repeatedly sends graphic, sexually oriented jokes and pictures to hundreds of other students via social media. Many don't find it funny and ask them to stop, but they do not. Because of these jokes, one student avoids the sender on campus and in the residence hall in which they both live, eventually asking to move to a different building and dropping a class they had together.
- ❖ A professor engages students in class in discussions about the students' past sexual experiences, yet the conversations are not in any way germane to the subject matter of the class. The professor inquires about explicit details and demands that students answer them, though the students are clearly uncomfortable and hesitant.
- ❖ An ex-partner widely spreads false stories about their sex life with their former partner to the clear discomfort and frustration of the former partner, turning the former partner into a social pariah on campus.
- ❖ Chris has recently transitioned from male to nonbinary, but primarily expresses as a female. Since their transition, Chris has noticed that their African Studies professor, Dr. Mukembo, pays them a lot more attention. Chris is sexually attracted to Professor Mukembo and believes the attraction is mutual. Chris decides to act on the attraction. One day, Chris visits Dr. Mukembo during office hours, and after a long conversation about being nonbinary, Chris kisses Dr. Mukembo. Dr. Mukembo is taken aback, stops the kiss, and tells Chris not to do that. Dr. Mukembo explains to Chris that they are not sexually or romantically interested in Chris. Chris takes it hard, crying to Dr. Mukembo about how hard it is to find someone who is interested in them now based on their gender identity. Dr. Mukembo feels sorry for Chris and softens the blow by telling them that no matter whether they like Chris or not, faculty-student relationships are prohibited by the university. Chris takes this as encouragement.

One night, Chris goes to a gay bar some distance from campus and sees Dr. Mukembo there. Chris tries to buy Dr. Mukembo a drink and, again, tries to kiss Dr. Mukembo. Dr.

Mukembo leaves the bar abruptly. The next day, Chris makes several online posts that out Dr. Mukembo as gay and raise questions about whether they are sexually involved with students. Dr. Mukembo contacts the Title IX Office and alleges that Chris is sexually harassing him.

Examples of Stalking:

- ❖ Students A and B were “friends with benefits.” Student A wanted a more serious relationship, which caused student B to end the relationship. Student A could not let go and relentlessly pursued Student B. Student B obtained a campus no-contact order. Subsequently, Student B discovered their social media accounts were being accessed, and things were being posted and messaged as if they were from them, but they were not. Whoever accessed their account posted a picture of a penis, making it look as if Student B had sent out a picture of themselves, though it was not their penis. This caused them considerable embarrassment and social anxiety. They changed their passwords, only to have it happen again. Seeking help from the Title IX Coordinator, Student B met with the IT department, which discovered an app on their phone and a keystroke recorder on their laptop, both of which were being used to transmit their data to a third party.
- ❖ A graduate student working as an on-campus tutor received flowers and gifts delivered to their office. After learning the gifts were from a student they recently tutored, the graduate student thanked the student and stated that it was not necessary and they would appreciate it if the gift deliveries stopped. The student then started leaving notes of love and gratitude on the tutor’s car, both on-campus and at home. Asked again to stop, the student stated by email, “You can ask me to stop, but I’m not giving up. We are meant to be together, and I’ll do anything to make you have the feelings for me that I have for you.” When the tutor did not respond, the student emailed again, “You cannot escape me. I will track you to the ends of the earth. If I can’t have you, no one will.”

Examples of Sexual Assault:

- ❖ Amanda and Bill meet at a party. They spend the evening dancing and getting to know each other. Bill convinces Amanda to come up to his room. From 11:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m., Bill uses every line he can think of to convince Amanda to have sex with him, but she adamantly refuses. Despite her clear communications that she is not interested in doing anything sexual with him, Bill keeps at her, questions her religious convictions, and accuses her of being “a prude.” He brings up several rumors that he has heard about how she performed oral sex on a number of other guys. Finally, it seems to Bill that her resolve is weakening, and he convinces her to “jerk him off” (hand to genital contact). Amanda would have never done it but for Bill’s incessant coercion.

- ❖ Jiang is a junior. Beth is a sophomore. Jiang comes to Beth's residence hall room with some mutual friends to watch a movie. Jiang and Beth, who have never met before, are attracted to each other. After the movie, everyone leaves, and Jiang and Beth are alone. They hit it off, soon become more intimate, and start to make out. Jiang verbally expresses his desire to have sex with Beth. Beth, who was abused by a babysitter at the age of five and avoids sexual relations as a result, is shocked at how quickly things are progressing. As Jiang takes her by the wrist over to the bed, lays her down, undresses her, and begins to have intercourse with Beth. Beth has a severe flashback to her childhood trauma. She wants to tell Jiang to stop but cannot. Beth is stiff and unresponsive during the intercourse.

- ❖ Kevin and John are at a party. Kevin is not sure how much John has been drinking, but he is pretty sure it's a lot. After the party, he walks John to his apartment, and John comes on to Kevin, initiating sexual activity. Kevin asks John if he is really up to this, and John says yes. They remove each other's clothes, and they end up in John's bed. Suddenly, John runs for the bathroom. When he returns, his face is pale, and Kevin thinks he may have thrown up. John gets back into bed, and they begin to have sexual intercourse. Kevin is having a good time, though he can't help but notice that John seems pretty groggy and passive, and he thinks John may have even passed out briefly during sex, but he came to again. When Kevin runs into John the next day, he thanks him for the great night. John remembers nothing and decides to make a report to the Dean.

Examples of Retaliation:

- ❖ A student-athlete alleges sexual harassment by a coach; the coach subsequently cuts the student-athlete's playing time without a legitimate justification.

- ❖ A faculty member alleges gender inequity in pay within her department; the Department Chair then revokes approval for the faculty member to attend a national conference, citing the faculty member's tendency to "ruffle feathers."

- ❖ A student from Organization A participates in a sexual harassment investigation as a witness whose testimony is damaging to the Respondent, who is also a member of Organization A; the student is subsequently removed as a member of Organization A because of their participation in the investigation.

APPENDIX B: AN ATIXA FRAMEWORK FOR INFORMAL RESOLUTION (IR)

ATIXA has framed a process for IR that includes three options:

- 1) A response based on supportive measure.
- 2) A response based on a Respondent accepting responsibility
- 3) A response based on alternative resolution, which could include various approaches and/or facilitation of dialogue

Alternative resolution approaches such as mediation, restorative practices, and transformative justice are likely to be used more and more often by colleges and universities. ATIXA does not endorse these approaches as better or worse than other formal or informal approaches.

ATIXA believes that if they are to be used in and are effective for sex offenses, they need to be carefully and thoughtfully designed and executed and be facilitated by well-trained personnel who take the necessary time to prepare and lay a foundation for success. Although no approach is a panacea, the framework below can help to lay that foundation, regardless of which approach(es) are used.

Here are the principles to be considered in supporting various approaches to Informal Resolution:

- ❖ IR can be applied in any sex/gender-based interpersonal conflict but may not be appropriate or advisable in cases involving violent incidents (sexual violence, stalking, domestic and dating violence, severe sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, etc.)
- ❖ Situations involving dangerous patterns or significant ongoing threat to the community should not be resolved by IR.
- ❖ The determination of whether to permit an IR-based resolution is entirely at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator (TIXC) and in line with the requirements for IR laid out in the Title IX regulations.
- ❖ Any party can end IR early-, mid-, or late-process for any reason or no reason.
- ❖ IR can be attempted before and in lieu of formal resolution as a diversionary resolution (although a Formal Complaint must be filed if you are within 34 C.F.R. § 106.30, per OCR).
- ❖ Alternative approaches can inform formal resolution, as in a formal resolution model infused with restorative practices.

- ❖ IR-based processes could be deployed after formal resolution, as an adjunct healing/catharsis opportunity (that could potentially mitigate pathways or be a form of sanction).
- ❖ Alternative Resolution approaches to IR must be facilitated by Lackawanna College or a third party. There may be value in creating clearly agreed-upon ground rules, which the parties must sign in advance and agree to abide by, otherwise the Informal Resolution process may be deemed to have failed.
- ❖ Technology-facilitated IR can be made available, should the parties not be able or willing to meet in person.
- ❖ If IR fails, a formal resolution can take place thereafter. Evidence elicited within the “safe space” of the IR facilitation could be later admissible in the formal resolution unless all parties determine it should not be. This will be clearly spelled out as a term of the decision to engage in the IR process.
- ❖ With cases involving violence, the preferred alternative approach typically involves a minimal number of essential parties and is not a restorative circle approach with many constituents, in order to ensure confidentiality.
- ❖ Some approaches require a reasonable gesture toward accountability (this could be more than an acknowledgement of harm) and some acceptance, or at least recognition, by the Respondent that catharsis is of value and likely the primary goal of the Complainant. A full admission by the Respondent is not a prerequisite. This willingness needs to be vetted carefully in advance by the TIXC before determining that an incident is amenable/appropriate for resolution by IR.
- ❖ IR can result in an accord or agreement between the parties (Complainant, Respondent, Lackawanna College), which is summarized in writing by and enforced by Lackawanna College. This can be a primary goal of the process.
- ❖ IR can result in the voluntary imposition of safety measures, remedies, and/or agreed-upon resolutions by the parties that are enforceable by Lackawanna College. These can be part of the agreement.
- ❖ As a secondary goal, IR can result in the voluntary acceptance of “pathways,” meaning that a Respondent could agree to withdraw, self-suspend (by taking a leave of absence), or undertake other restrictions/transfers/online course options that would help to ensure the safety/educational access of the Complainant, in lieu of formal pathways that would create a formal record for the Respondent. These are enforceable by Lackawanna College as part of

the agreement, as may be terms of mutual release, non-disparagement, and/or non-disclosure.

- ❖ Although a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) could result from IR, it would have to be mutually agreed-upon by the parties in an environment of non-coercion verified by the TIXC.
- ❖ Institutions must develop clear rules for managing/facilitating the conference/meeting/dialogue of alternative resolution approaches to ensure they are civil, age-appropriate, culturally competent, reflective of power imbalances, and maximize the potential for the Resolution Process to result in catharsis, restoration, remedy, etc., for the Complainant(s).

APPENDIX C: STATEMENT OF RIGHTS OF THE PARTIES

- ❖ The right to an equitable investigation and resolution of all credible allegations of prohibited harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation made in good faith to Lackawanna College officials.
- ❖ The right to timely written notice of all alleged violations, including the identity of the parties involved (if known), the precise misconduct being alleged, the date and location of the alleged misconduct (if known), the implicated policies and procedures, and possible pathways.
- ❖ The right to timely written notice of any material adjustments to the allegations (e.g., additional incidents or allegations, additional Complainants, unsubstantiated allegations) and any attendant adjustments needed to clarify potentially implicated policy violations.
- ❖ The right to be informed in advance of any public release of information by Lackawanna College regarding the allegation(s) or underlying incident(s), whenever possible.
- ❖ The right not to have any personally identifiable information released by Lackawanna College to the public without consent provided, except to the extent permitted by law.
- ❖ The right to be treated with respect by Lackawanna College officials.
- ❖ The right to have Lackawanna College policy and these procedures followed without material deviation.

- ❖ The right not to be pressured to mediate or otherwise informally resolve any reported misconduct involving violence, including sexual violence.
- ❖ The right not to be discouraged by Lackawanna College officials from reporting sexual harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation to both on-campus and off-campus authorities.
- ❖ The right to be informed by Lackawanna College officials of options to notify proper law enforcement authorities, including on-campus and local police, and the option(s) to be assisted by Lackawanna College in notifying such authorities, if the party so chooses. This also includes the right not to be pressured to report.
- ❖ The right to have allegations of violations of this Policy responded to promptly and with sensitivity by Lackawanna College Public Safety Department and/or other Lackawanna College officials.
- ❖ The right to be informed of available supportive measures, such as counseling; advocacy; health care; student financial aid, visa, and immigration assistance; and/or other services, both on campus and in the community.
- ❖ The right to a Lackawanna College-implemented no-contact order or a no-trespass order against a non-affiliated third party when a person has engaged in or threatens to engage in stalking, threatening, harassing, or other improper conduct.
- ❖ The right to be informed of available assistance in changing academic, living, and/or working situations after an alleged incident of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation, if such changes are reasonably available. No formal report, or investigation, either institutional or criminal, needs to occur before this option is available. Such actions may include, but are not limited to:
 - Relocating an on-campus student's housing to a different on-campus location
 - Assistance from Lackawanna College staff in completing the relocation
 - Changing an employee's work environment (e.g., reporting structure, office/workspace relocation)
 - Transportation assistance
 - Visa/immigration assistance
 - Arranging to dissolve a housing contract and provide a pro-rated refund
 - Exam, paper, and/or assignment rescheduling or adjustment
 - Receiving an incomplete in, or a withdrawal from, a class (may be retroactive)

- Transferring class sections
 - Temporary withdrawal/leave of absence (may be retroactive)
 - Campus safety escorts
 - Alternative course completion options
- ❖ The right to have Lackawanna College maintain such actions for as long as necessary and for supportive measures to remain confidential, provided confidentiality does not impair the Lackawanna College's ability to provide the supportive measures.
 - ❖ The right to receive sufficiently advanced, written notice of any Lackawanna College meeting or interview involving another party, when possible.
 - ❖ The right to identify and have the Investigator(s), Advisors, and/or Decision-maker(s) question relevant available witnesses, including expert witnesses.
 - ❖ The right to provide the Investigator(s)/Decision-maker(s) with a list of questions that, if deemed relevant by the Investigator(s)/Decision-maker(s), may be asked of any party or witness.
 - ❖ The right to have inadmissible sexual predisposition/prior sexual history or irrelevant character evidence excluded by the Decision-maker(s).
 - ❖ The right to know the relevant and directly related evidence obtained and to respond to that evidence.
 - ❖ The right to a fair opportunity to provide the Investigator(s) with their account of the alleged misconduct and have that account be on the record.
 - ❖ The right to receive a copy of all relevant and directly related evidence obtained during the investigation, subject to privacy limitations imposed by state and federal law, and a ten (10) business day period to review and comment on the evidence.
 - ❖ The right to receive a copy of the final investigation report, including all factual, policy, and/or credibility analyses performed, and to have at least ten (10) business days to review and comment on the report prior to the hearing.
 - ❖ The right to be informed of the names of all witnesses whose information will be used to make a finding, in advance of that finding, when relevant.

- ❖ The right to regular updates on the status of the investigation and/or resolution.
- ❖ The right to have reports of alleged Policy violations addressed by Investigators, Title IX Coordinators, and Decision-maker(s) who have received at least eight hours of relevant annual training.
- ❖ The right to a Hearing Panel that is not single sex in its composition, if a panel is used.
- ❖ The right to preservation of confidentiality/privacy, to the extent possible and permitted by law.
- ❖ The right to meetings, interviews, and/or hearings that are closed to the public.
- ❖ The right to petition that any Lackawanna College representative in the process be recused on the basis of disqualifying bias and/or conflict of interest.
- ❖ The right to have an Advisor of their choice to accompany and assist the party in all meetings and/or interviews associated with the Resolution Process.
- ❖ The right to the use of the appropriate standard of evidence, preponderance of the evidence OR clear and convincing evidence to make a Finding and Final Determination after an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence.
- ❖ The right to be present, including presence via remote technology, during all testimony given and evidence presented during any hearing.
- ❖ The right to have an impact and/or mitigation statement considered by the Decision-maker(s) following a determination of responsibility for any allegation, but prior to sanctioning.
- ❖ The right to be promptly informed of the finding(s) and sanction(s) (if any) of the Resolution Process and a detailed rationale of the decision (including an explanation of how credibility was assessed) in a written Notice of Outcome letter delivered simultaneously (without undue delay) to the parties.
- ❖ The right to be informed in writing of when a decision by Lackawanna College is considered final and any changes to the Final Determination or sanction(s) that occur post Notification of Outcome.

- ❖ The right to be informed of the opportunity to appeal the finding(s) and sanction(s) of the Resolution Process, and the procedures for doing so in accordance with the standards for appeal established by Lackawanna College.
- ❖ The right to a fundamentally fair resolution as defined in these procedures.

APPENDIX D: VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT (VRA)

Threat assessment is the process of assessing the actionability of violence by an individual against another person or group following the issuance of a direct or conditional threat. A Violence Risk Assessment (VRA) is a broader term used to assess any potential violence or danger, regardless of the presence of a vague, conditional, or direct threat.

The implementation of VRAs require specific training and are typically conducted by psychologists, clinical counselors, social workers, case managers, law enforcement officers, student conduct officers, and/or other Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) members.

A VRA occurs in collaboration with the BIT, and/or threat assessment team and must be understood as an ongoing process, rather than a singular evaluation or meeting. A VRA is not an evaluation for an involuntary behavioral health hospitalization (e.g., 5150 in California, Section XII in Massachusetts, Baker Act in Florida), nor is it a psychological or mental health assessment.

A VRA assesses the risk of actionable violence, often with a focus on targeted/predatory escalations, and is supported by research from the fields of law enforcement, criminology, human resources, and psychology.

When conducting a VRA, the assessor(s) use an evidence-based process consisting of:

- 1) An appraisal of risk factors that escalate the potential for violence
- 2) A determination of stabilizing influences that reduce the risk of violence
- 3) A contextual analysis of violence risk by considering environmental circumstances, hopelessness, and suicidality; catalyst events; nature and actionability of threat; fixation and focus on target; grievance collection; and action and time imperative for violence
- 4) The application of intervention and management approaches to reduce the risk of violence

To assess an individual's level of violence risk, the Title IX Coordinator will initiate the violence risk assessment process through the BIT. The BIT will assign a trained individual(s) to perform the assessment, according to the specific nature of the Title IX case.

The assessor(s) will follow the process for conducting a violence risk assessment as outlined in the BIT manual and will rely on a consistent, research-based, reliable system that allows for the evaluation of the risk levels.

Some examples of formalized approaches to the VRA process include:

- ❖ The NABITA Risk Rubric, (<https://www.nabita.org/training/nabita-risk-rubric/>)
- ❖ The Structured Interview for Violence Risk Assessment (SIVRA-35), (<https://www.nabita.org/training/sivra-35/>)
- ❖ Violence Risk Assessment of the Written Word (VRAWW), (<https://www.nabita.org/training/vraww/>)
- ❖ Workplace Assessment of Violence Risk (WAVR-21), (www.wavr21.com)
- ❖ Historical Clinical Risk Management (HCR-20), (<http://hcr-20.com>) and MOSAIC. (www.mosaicmethod.com).

The VRA is conducted independently from the Title IX process, informed by it, but free from outcome pressure. The individual(s) conducting the assessment will be trained to mitigate any bias and provide the analysis and findings in a fair and equitable manner.

The BIT team's member(s) conducts a VRA process and makes a recommendation to the Title IX Coordinator as to whether the VRA indicates there is a substantial, compelling, and/or immediate risk to the health and/or safety of an individual or the community.

APPENDIX E: PROCESS B

- ❖ Process B is applicable when the Title IX Coordinator determines Process A is inapplicable, or offenses subject to Process A have been dismissed.
- ❖ If Process A is applicable, Process A must be applied in lieu of Process B.

RESOLUTION PROCESS FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, HARASSMENT, AND NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Lackawanna College will act on any formal or informal allegation or notice of violation of the Equal Opportunity, Harassment and Nondiscrimination Policy that is received by the Title IX Coordinator or a member of the administration, faculty, or other employee, with the exception of confidential resources, as articulated in the Policy above.

The procedures described below apply to all allegations of harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation on the basis of protected characteristic status involving students, staff, faculty members,

or third parties with the exception of at-will employees. Unionized or other categorized employees will be subject to the terms of their respective collective bargaining agreements/employees' rights. Consult legal counsel on the effect of a conflict between federal regulations and collectively bargained-for employee rights/procedures.

These procedures may also be used to address collateral misconduct arising from the investigation of or occurring in conjunction with harassing, discriminatory, or retaliatory conduct (e.g., vandalism, physical abuse of another). All other allegations of misconduct unrelated to incidents covered by this Policy will be addressed through the procedures elaborated in the respective student, faculty, and staff handbooks.

1. Initial Assessment

Following intake, receipt of notice, or a complaint of an alleged violation of Lackawanna College's nondiscrimination policy, the Title IX Coordinator engages in an initial assessment, which is typically one to five (1-5) business days in duration. If circumstances require, the President or Title IX Coordinator will designate another person to oversee the process below should an allegation be made about the Coordinator or the Coordinator be otherwise unavailable or unable to fulfill their duties.

The steps in an initial assessment can include:

- ❖ The Title IX Coordinator reaches out to the Complainant to offer supportive measures.
- ❖ The Title IX Coordinator works with the Complainant to ensure they have an Advisor.
- ❖ The Title IX Coordinator works with the Complainant to determine which of three options to pursue: A Supportive Response, an Informal Resolution, or an Administrative Resolution.
 - If a Supportive Response is preferred, the Title IX Coordinator works with the Complainant to identify their wishes and then seeks to facilitate implementation. An Administrative Resolution process is not initiated, though the Complainant can elect to initiate it later, if desired.
 - If an Informal Resolution option is preferred, the Title IX Coordinator assesses whether the complaint is suitable for Informal Resolution and may seek to determine if the Respondent is also willing to engage in Informal Resolution.
 - If Administrative Resolution is preferred, the Title IX Coordinator initiates the investigation process and determines whether the scope of the investigation will address:

- Incident
 - A potential pattern of misconduct
 - A culture/climate issue
 - The Title IX Coordinator has the discretion to modify these procedures as necessary to address a culture/climate complaint, including the fact that a named complainant may not be available, or that specific respondents may not be identified. Where a program, department, or division is being investigated, administrators are typically named “respondents” on behalf of the program, and are responsible for implementing remedies, but may not be held responsible for misconduct unless there is evidence of intentional disparate treatment.
- ❖ In many cases, the Title IX Coordinator may determine that a Violence Risk Assessment (VRA) should be conducted by the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) as part of the initial assessment. A VRA can aid in ten critical and/or required determinations, including:
- Interim suspension of a Respondent who is a threat to health/safety
 - Whether the Title IX Coordinator should pursue Administrative Resolution absent a willing/able Complainant
 - Whether to put the investigation on the footing of incident and/or pattern and/or climate
 - To help identify potentially predatory conduct
 - To help assess/identify grooming behaviors
 - Whether a Complaint is amenable to Informal Resolution, and what modality may be most successful
 - Whether to permit a voluntary withdrawal by the Respondent
 - Whether to impose transcript notation or communicate with a transfer Lackawanna College about a Respondent
 - Assessment of appropriate pathways/remedies
 - Whether a Clery Act Timely Warning and/or Trespass order/Persona-non-grata is needed

More about Lackawanna College’s process for VRA can be found in [Appendix D](#).

Based on the initial assessment, Lackawanna College will initiate one of these responses:

- ❖ **Supportive Response** – measures to help restore the Complainant’s education access, as described in the Policy.

- ❖ **Informal Resolution** – typically used for less serious offenses and only when all parties agree to Informal Resolution, or when the Respondent is willing to accept responsibility for violating policy.
- ❖ **Administrative Resolution** – investigation of alleged policy violation(s) and recommended finding, subject to a determination by the Title IX Coordinator or Decision-maker(s) and the opportunity to appeal.

The investigation and the subsequent Administrative Resolution determine whether the Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy has been violated. If so, Lackawanna College will promptly implement effective remedies designed to end the discrimination, prevent recurrence, and address the effects.

The process followed considers the preference of the parties but is ultimately determined at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator. If at any point during the initial assessment or formal investigation the Title IX Coordinator determines that reasonable cause does not support the conclusion that policy has been violated, the process will end, and the parties will be notified.

The Complainant may request that the Title IX Coordinator review the reasonable cause determination and/or re-open the investigation. This decision lies in the sole discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, but the request is usually only granted in extraordinary circumstances.

2. Resolution Process Pool

The Resolution Process relies on a pool of officials (“Pool”) for implementation. Members of the Pool are announced in an annual distribution of this Policy to all students, employees, prospective students, and prospective employees.

The list of members and a description of the Pool can be found at <https://www.lackawanna.edu/student-resources/title-ix>. Members of the Pool are trained annually in all aspects of the Resolution Process and can serve in any of the following roles, at the direction of the Title IX Coordinator:

- ❖ To provide sensitive intake for and initial advice pertaining to the allegations
- ❖ To act as optional process Advisors to the parties
- ❖ To facilitate Informal Resolution
- ❖ To investigate allegations
- ❖ To serve as a Decision-maker
- ❖ To serve as an Appeal Decision-maker

The Title IX Coordinator carefully vets Pool members for potential conflicts of interest or disqualifying biases and appoints the Pool, which acts with independence and impartiality.

Pool members receive annual training organized by the Title IX Coordinator, including a review of Lackawanna College policies and procedures as well as applicable federal and state laws and regulations so that they are able to appropriately address allegations, provide accurate information to members of the community, protect safety, and promote accountability.

The Pool members receive annual training This training includes, but is not limited to:

- ❖ The scope of the Lackawanna College's Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy and Procedures
- ❖ How to conduct investigations and hearings that protect the safety of Complainants and Respondents and promote accountability
- ❖ Implicit bias
- ❖ Disparate treatment
- ❖ Reporting, confidentiality, and privacy requirements
- ❖ Applicable laws, regulations, and federal regulatory guidance
- ❖ How to implement appropriate and situation-specific remedies
- ❖ How to investigate in a thorough, reliable, timely, and impartial manner
- ❖ How to conduct a sexual harassment investigation
- ❖ Trauma-informed practices pertaining to investigations and Resolution Processes
- ❖ How to uphold fairness, equity, and due process
- ❖ How to weigh evidence
- ❖ How to conduct questioning
- ❖ How to assess credibility
- ❖ Impartiality and objectivity
- ❖ Types of evidence
- ❖ Deliberation

- ❖ How to render findings and generate clear, concise, evidence-based rationales
- ❖ The definitions of all offenses
- ❖ How to apply definitions used by the institution with respect to consent (or the absence or negation of consent) consistently, impartially, and in accordance with Policy
- ❖ How to conduct an investigation and grievance process including hearings, appeals, and Informal Resolution Processes
- ❖ How to serve impartially by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias against Respondents and/or for Complainants, and on the basis of sex, race, religion, and other protected characteristics
- ❖ Any technology to be used
- ❖ Issues of relevance of questions and evidence
- ❖ Issues of relevance to create an investigation report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence
- ❖ How to determine appropriate pathways in reference to all forms of harassment and discrimination allegations

Pool members are usually appointed to three-year terms. Individuals who are interested in serving in the Pool are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator.

3. Counterclaims

Counterclaims by the Respondent may be made in good faith or may instead be motivated by a retaliatory intent. Lackawanna College is obligated to ensure that any process is not abused for retaliatory purposes.

Lackawanna College permits the filing of counterclaims, but uses the initial assessment, described above, to assess whether the allegations are made in good faith. If they are, the allegations will be processed using the resolution procedures below, typically after resolution of the underlying allegation. Counterclaims made with retaliatory intent will not be permitted.

A delay in the processing of counterclaims is permitted, accordingly. Occasionally, allegations and counterclaims can be resolved through the same investigation, at the discretion of the Title

IX Coordinator. When counterclaims are not made in good faith, they will be considered retaliatory, and may constitute a violation of this Policy.

4. Advisors

A. Advisor Expectations

Lackawanna College generally expects an Advisor to adjust their schedule to allow them to attend Lackawanna College meetings when planned, but Lackawanna College may change scheduled meetings to accommodate an Advisor's inability to attend, if doing so does not cause an unreasonable delay.

Lackawanna College may also make reasonable provisions to allow an Advisor who cannot attend in person to attend a meeting by telephone, video conferencing, or other similar technologies as may be convenient and available.

Parties whose Advisors are disruptive or who do not abide by Lackawanna College policies and procedures may face the loss of that Advisor and/or possible Policy violations.

Advisors are expected to consult with their advisees without disrupting Lackawanna College meetings or interviews. Advisors do not represent parties in the process; their role is only to advise.

B. Expectations of the Parties with Respect to Advisors

Each party may choose an Advisor (this could include an attorney, advocate, or support person. Witnesses are not entitled to Advisors within the process, though they can be advised externally. If Lackawanna College allows more than one Advisor for one party, they should do so for all parties) who is eligible and available to accompany them throughout the process. The Advisor can be anyone, including an attorney, but should not be someone who is also a witness in the process. A party may elect to change Advisors during the process and is not obligated to use the same Advisor throughout. "Available" means the party cannot insist on an Advisor who simply doesn't have inclination, time, or availability. Also, the Advisor cannot have institutionally conflicting roles, such as being a Title IX administrator who has an active role in the matter, or a supervisor who must implement and monitor Pathways.

The parties are expected to inform the Investigators of the identity of their Advisor at least two (2) business days before the date of their first meeting with the Investigator(s) (or as soon as possible if a more expeditious meeting is necessary or desired).

The parties are expected to provide timely notice to the Investigator(s) and/or the Title IX Coordinator if they change Advisors at any time.

Upon written request of a party, Lackawanna College will copy the Advisor on all communications between Lackawanna College and the party. The Advisor may be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) regarding private, sensitive records.

For parties who are entitled to union representation, Lackawanna College will allow the unionized employee to have their union representative (if requested by the party) as well as an Advisor of their choice present for all resolution-related meetings and interviews. To uphold the principles of equity, the other party (regardless of union membership) will also be permitted to have two Advisors. Witnesses are/are not permitted to have union representation or Advisors in grievance process interviews or meetings.

At the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, more than one Advisor may be permitted to the parties, upon request. For equity purposes, if one party is allowed another Advisor, the other party must be allowed one to as well.

C. Assistance in Securing an Advisor

The Lackawanna College maintains a listing of local attorneys who may offer discounted or pro bono services here <https://www.pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Pro-Bono-Services/Map/Lackawanna>.

For representation, Respondents may wish to contact organizations such as:

- ❖ Families Advocating for Campus Equality (<http://www.facecampusequality.org>)
- ❖ Stop Abusive and Violent Environments (<http://www.saveservices.org>)

Complainants may wish to contact organizations such as:

- ❖ The Victim Rights Law Center (<http://www.victimrights.org>)
- ❖ The National Center for Victims of Crime (<http://www.victimsofcrime.org>), which maintains the Crime Victim's Bar Association
- ❖ The Time's Up Legal Defense Fund (<https://nwlc.org/times-up-legal-defense-fund/>)

5. Resolution Options

Proceedings are private. All persons present at any time during the Resolution Process are expected to maintain the privacy of the proceedings in accord with Lackawanna College Policy.

While there is an expectation of privacy around what is discussed during interviews, the parties have discretion to share their own experiences with others if they so choose but are encouraged to discuss with their Advisors first before doing so.

A. Informal Resolution

Informal Resolution is applicable when the parties voluntarily agree to resolve the matter through Alternative Resolution, mediation, restorative practices, facilitated dialogue, etc., when the Respondent accepts responsibility for violating Policy, or when the Title IX Coordinator can resolve the matter informally by providing remedies to resolve the situation. The Title IX Coordinator has discretion to determine if an investigation will be paused during Informal Resolution, or if it will be limited, or will continue during the Informal Resolution process.

It is not necessary to pursue Informal Resolution first in order to pursue Administrative Resolution, and any party participating in Informal Resolution can stop the process at any time and request the Administrative Resolution process. Further, if an Informal Resolution fails after the resolution is finalized, Administrative Resolution may be pursued.

i. Alternative Resolution

Alternative Resolution is an informal process, such as mediation or restorative practices, by which the parties mutually agree to resolve an allegation. It may be used for less serious, yet inappropriate, behaviors and is encouraged as an alternative to the Administrative Resolution process (described below) to resolve conflicts, as appropriate. The parties must consent to the use of Alternative Resolution.

The Title IX Coordinator determines if Alternative Resolution is appropriate, based on the willingness of the parties, the nature of the conduct at issue, and the susceptibility of the conduct to Alternative Resolution.

In an Alternative Resolution, a trained administrator or third party facilitates communication among with the parties to an effective resolution, if possible. Institutionally imposed pathways are not possible as the result of an Alternative Resolution process, though the parties may agree to accept pathways and/or appropriate remedies.

The Title IX Coordinator maintains records of any resolution that is reached, and failure to abide by the resolution can result in appropriate enforcement actions.

Alternative Resolution is not typically the primary resolution mechanism used to address reports of violent behavior of any kind or in other cases of serious violations of policy, though similarly structured conversations may be made

available after the Administrative Resolution process is completed should the parties and the Title IX Coordinator believe it could be beneficial. The results of Alternative Resolution are not appealable.

ii. Respondent Accepts Responsibility for Alleged Violations

The Respondent may accept responsibility for all or part of the alleged policy violations at any point during the Resolution Process. If the Respondent accepts responsibility, the Title IX Coordinator determines that the individual is in violation of Lackawanna College policy.

The Title IX Coordinator then determines appropriate sanction(s) or responsive actions, which are promptly implemented in order to effectively stop the harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation; prevent its recurrence; and remedy the effects of the conduct, both on the Complainant and the community.

If the Respondent accepts responsibility for all of the alleged policy violations and the Title IX Coordinator or designee has determined appropriate sanction(s) or responsive actions, to which the Respondent agrees, and which are promptly implemented, the process is over. The Complainant will be informed of this outcome.

If the Respondent accepts responsibility for some of the alleged policy violations and the Title IX Coordinator has determined appropriate sanction(s) or responsive actions, to which the Respondent agrees, and which are promptly implemented for those violations, then the remaining allegations will continue to be investigated and resolved through Administrative Resolution. The parties will be informed of this outcome. The parties are still able to seek Alternative Resolution on the remaining allegations, subject to the stipulations above.

B. Administrative Resolution via an Investigation and Hearing

Administrative Resolution can be pursued at any time during the process for any behavior for which the Respondent has not accepted responsibility that would constitute conduct covered by the Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy if proven. Administrative Resolution starts with a thorough, reliable, and impartial investigation.

If Administrative Resolution is initiated, the Title IX Coordinator will provide written notification of the investigation to the parties at an appropriate time during the investigation. Typically, notice is given at least 48 hours in advance of an interview. Advanced notice facilitates the parties' ability to identify and choose an Advisor, if any, to accompany them to the interview.

Notification will include a meaningful summary of the allegations, will be made in writing, and may be delivered by one or more of the following methods: in person, mailed to the local or permanent address of the parties as indicated in official Lackawanna College records, or emailed to the parties' Lackawanna College-issued or designated email account.

Once mailed, emailed, and/or received in-person, notice will be presumptively delivered.

The notification will include the policies allegedly violated, if known at the time.

Alternatively, the policies allegedly violated can be provided at a later date, in writing, as the investigation progresses, and details become clearer.

Lackawanna College aims to complete all investigations within a sixty (60) business-day time period, which can be extended as necessary for appropriate cause by the Title IX Coordinator, with notice to the parties as appropriate. Investigations can take weeks or even months, depending on the nature, extent, and complexity of the allegations, availability of witnesses, police involvement, etc.

Once the decision is made to commence an investigation, the Title IX Coordinator appoints Pool members to conduct the investigation (typically using a team of two Investigators), usually within two (2) business days of determining that an investigation should proceed.

The Title IX Coordinator will vet the assigned Investigator(s) to ensure impartiality by ensuring there are no conflicts of interest or disqualifying bias.

The parties may, at any time during the Resolution Process, raise a concern regarding bias or conflict of interest, and the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether the concern is reasonable and supportable. If so, another Investigator will be assigned and the impact of the bias or conflict, if any, will be remedied. If the bias or conflict relates to the Title IX Coordinator, concerns should be raised with the Provost.

Lackawanna College will make a good faith effort to complete the investigation as promptly as circumstances permit and will communicate regularly with the parties to update them on the progress and timing of the investigation.

Lackawanna College may undertake a short delay in its investigation (several days to weeks, to allow evidence collection) when criminal charges based on the same behaviors that invoke the Lackawanna College's Resolution Process are being investigated by law enforcement. Lackawanna College will promptly resume its investigation and Resolution Process once notified by law enforcement that the initial evidence collection process is complete.

Lackawanna College action(s) are not typically altered or precluded on the grounds that civil or criminal charges involving the underlying incident(s) have been filed or that criminal charges have been dismissed or reduced.

Investigations involve interviews with all relevant parties and witnesses, obtaining available, relevant evidence, and identifying sources of expert information, as necessary.

All parties have a full and fair opportunity, through the investigation process, to suggest witnesses and questions, to provide evidence, and to fully review and respond to all evidence on the record.

6. Investigation

The Investigators typically take the following steps, if not already completed (not necessarily in this order):

- ❖ Determine the identity and contact information of the Complainant
- ❖ In coordination with institutional partners (e.g., the Title IX Coordinator), initiate or assist with any necessary supportive measures
- ❖ Identify all policies implicated by the alleged misconduct
- ❖ Assist the Title IX Coordinator with conducting an initial assessment to determine if there is reasonable cause to believe the Respondent has violated policy
- ❖ If there is insufficient evidence to support reasonable cause, the process is closed with no further action
- ❖ Commence a thorough, reliable, and impartial investigation by developing a strategic investigation plan, including a witness list, evidence list, intended investigation timeframe, and order of interviews for all parties and witnesses
- ❖ Meet with the Complainant to finalize their statement, if necessary
- ❖ Prepare the initial Notice of Investigation and Allegations (NOIA) on the basis of the initial assessment. Notice may be one step or multiple steps, depending on how the investigation unfolds, and potential policy violations may be added or dropped as more is learned. Investigators will update the NOIA accordingly and provide it to the parties.
- ❖ Notice should inform the parties of their right to have the assistance of a Pool member as a process Advisor appointed by the College or an Advisor of their choosing present for all meetings attended by the advisee
- ❖ When formal notice is given, it should provide the parties with a written description of the alleged violation(s), a list of all policies allegedly violated, a description of the

- applicable procedures, and a statement of the potential pathways/responsive actions that could result
- ❖ Give an instruction to the parties to preserve any evidence that is directly related to the allegations
 - ❖ Provide the parties and witnesses with an opportunity to review and verify the Investigator's summary notes from interviews and meetings with that specific party or witness
 - ❖ Make good faith efforts to notify each party of any meeting or interview involving another party, in advance when possible
 - ❖ Interview all relevant individuals and conduct follow-up interviews as necessary
 - ❖ Allow each party the opportunity to suggest questions they wish for the Investigator(s) to ask the other party and witnesses
 - ❖ Complete the investigation promptly and without unreasonable deviation from the intended timeline
 - ❖ Provide regular status updates to the parties throughout the investigation
 - ❖ Prior to the conclusion of the investigation, summarize for the parties the list of witnesses whose information will be used to render a finding
 - ❖ Write a comprehensive investigation report fully summarizing the investigation and all evidence
 - ❖ Provide the parties with a copy of the draft investigation report when it is completed, including all relevant evidence, analysis, credibility assessments, and recommended finding(s)
 - ❖ Provide each party with a full and fair opportunity to respond to the report in writing within five (5) business days and incorporate that response, if any, into the report
 - ❖ Investigators may choose to respond in writing in the report to the responses of the parties, and/or to share the responses between the parties for their responses, while also ensuring that they do not create a never-ending feedback loop

- ❖ Share the report with the Title IX Coordinator or legal counsel for review and feedback. Provide the final report to the Title IX Coordinator with one of two options:
 - In the report, include a recommended determination, based on a preponderance of the evidence, whether a policy violation is more likely than not to have occurred,
OR
 - Gather, assess, and synthesize evidence without making a finding, conclusion, determination, or recommendation.

7. Determination

Within two to three (2-3) business days of receiving the Investigator's recommendation, the Title IX Coordinator or a trained, designated Decision-maker from the Pool reviews the report and all responses, and then makes the final determination on the basis of the preponderance of the evidence.

If the record is incomplete, the Title IX Coordinator/Decision-maker may direct a re-opening of the investigation, or may direct or conduct any additional inquiry necessary, including informally meeting with the parties or any witnesses, if needed.

The investigation recommendation, if any, should be strongly considered but is not binding on the Title IX Coordinator/Decision-Maker. The Title IX Coordinator or Decision-maker may invite and consider impact and/or mitigation statements from the parties if and when determining appropriate sanction(s), if any.

8. Additional Details of the Investigation Process

A. Witness Responsibilities

Witnesses (as distinguished from the parties) who are Lackawanna College faculty or staff are required to cooperate with and participate in Lackawanna College's investigation and Resolution Process. Failure of a witness to cooperate with and/or participate in the investigation or Resolution Process constitutes a violation of Policy and may be subject to discipline.

B. Remote Processes

Parties and witnesses may be interviewed remotely by phone, video conferencing, or similar technologies if the Investigator(s) and/or Decision-maker determine that timeliness,

efficiency, or other causes dictate a need for remote interviewing. Witnesses may also provide written statements in lieu of interviews, or respond to questions in writing, if deemed appropriate by the Investigator(s), though this approach is not ideal. When remote technologies are used, Lackawanna College makes reasonable efforts to ensure privacy and ensures that any technology does not work to the detriment of any party or subject them to unfairness.

C. Recording

No unauthorized audio or video recording of any kind is permitted during the Resolution Process including investigation interviews. If Investigator(s) elect to audio and/or video record interviews, all involved parties must be made aware of and consent to audio and/or video recording.

D. Evidence

Any evidence that is relevant and credible may be considered, including an individual's prior misconduct history as well as evidence indicating a pattern of misconduct, subject to the limitation in (E) below. The process should exclude irrelevant or immaterial evidence and may disregard evidence lacking in credibility or that is improperly prejudicial.

E. Prior Sexual History/Patterns

Unless the Title IX Coordinator/Decision-maker determines it is appropriate, the investigation and the finding do not consider: (1) incidents not directly related to the possible violation(s), unless they evidence a pattern; (2) the irrelevant sexual history of the parties (though there may be a limited exception made with regard to the sexual history between the parties); (3) irrelevant character evidence.

F. Previous Allegations/Violations

While previous conduct violations by the Respondent are not generally admissible as information supporting the current allegation, the Investigator(s) may supply the Title IX Coordinator/Decision-maker with information about previous good faith allegations and/or findings, when that information suggests potential pattern and/or predatory conduct.

If Lackawanna College uses a progressive discipline system, previous disciplinary action of any kind involving the Respondent may be considered in determining the appropriate sanction(s).

Character witnesses or evidence may be offered. The investigation and hearing will determine if the character evidence is relevant. If so, it may be considered. If not, it will be excluded.

G. Notification of Outcome

If the Respondent admits to the violation(s), or is found in violation, the Title IX Coordinator determines sanction(s) and/or responsive actions, which are promptly implemented in order to effectively to stop the harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation; prevent its recurrence; and remedy the effects of the discriminatory conduct, both on the Complainant and the community.

The Title IX Coordinator informs the parties of the determination within two to three (2-3) business days of the resolution, ideally simultaneously, but without significant time delay between notifications. Notifications are made in writing and may be delivered by one or more of the following methods: in person, mailed to the local or permanent address of the parties as indicated in official Lackawanna College records, or emailed to the parties' Lackawanna College-issued or designated email account. Once mailed, emailed, and/or received in-person, notice is presumptively delivered.

The Notification of Outcome specifies the finding for each alleged policy violation, any sanction(s) that may result which Lackawanna College is permitted to share pursuant to state or federal law, and the rationale supporting the findings to the extent Lackawanna College is permitted to share under state or federal law.

The notice will detail when the determination is considered final (See Section 11) and will detail any changes that are made prior to finalization.

Unless based on an acceptance of violation by the Respondent, the determination may be appealed by either party. The Notification of Outcome also includes the grounds on which the parties may appeal and the steps the parties may take to request an appeal of the findings. More information about the appeal procedures can be found in Section 11.

9. Pathways

Factors considered when determining any sanction(s)/responsive action(s) may include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ The nature, severity of, and circumstances surrounding the violation(s)
- ❖ An individual's disciplinary history
- ❖ Previous allegations or allegations involving similar conduct

- ❖ The need for pathways/responsive actions to bring an end to the discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation
- ❖ The need for pathways/responsive actions to prevent the future recurrence of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation
- ❖ The need to remedy the effects of the discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation on the Complainant and the community
- ❖ The impact on the parties
- ❖ Any other information deemed relevant by the Title IX Coordinator/Decision-maker

The pathway(s) will be implemented as soon as is feasible. The pathways described in this Policy are not exclusive of, and may be in addition to, other actions taken, or pathways imposed by outside authorities.

A. Student Pathways

The following are the common pathways that may be imposed upon students singly or in combination:

- ❖ ***Warning:*** A formal statement that the conduct was unacceptable and a warning that further violation of any Lackawanna College Policy, procedure, or directive will result in more severe pathways / responsive actions.
- ❖ ***Required Counseling:*** Student Wellness Program (SWP): This is a mandated assessment session with our wellness professionals. The sessions are a response to the incident and may include alcohol and drug counseling, life skills building, and emotional support. These sessions are private. Any information discussed in private will remain with the student and wellness professional in accordance with the confidentiality policies.
- ❖ ***Suspension from Activities:*** All students (including student-athletes) may be suspended from any Lackawanna College extracurricular activities until the student is actively participating in the pathways given. All student-athletes are suspended for a minimum of one game and remain suspended until the student is actively participating in the pathways given.
- ❖ ***Probation:*** Includes a period during which the student must demonstrate the ability to comply with the College's rules and regulations, as well as any imposed pathways. The length of the probationary period can vary from one (1) semester to the balance of the students' tenure at LC, depending on the severity of the offense(s). While on probation, any further violation of College policy may result in disciplinary suspension or dismissal from the College.

- ❖ ***Deferred Suspension:*** This is the highest level of probation, in which any continued misconduct or non-compliance with pathways and provisions on the student's part will result in Dismissal with Appeal. In the case of an overturned disciplinary suspension or dismissal, the student will remain on Deferred Suspension. If a disciplinary suspension or dismissal occurs with a student who was not previously placed on Deferred Suspension and it is overturned, they will then be placed on Deferred Suspension. In the case of a second disciplinary suspension or dismissal, it will be without appeal. Students who are permitted to return to the College following a period of Disciplinary Suspension will be automatically placed on Deferred Suspension if found responsible for violation of College policy.
- ❖ ***Disciplinary Suspension:*** Separation of the student from the College for a specified period of time. While suspended, a student loses all rights and privileges and may not represent the College in any way. A student who is suspended is not in good standing with the College. Disciplinary Suspension may entail provisions added to a student's reentry into the College.
- ❖ ***Fines:*** Penalty fees paid to the College. The amount is dependent upon the degree of policy infraction and is set by the College administration. Fines are not subject to negotiation and can be levied in addition to other pathways and/or restitution. Fines can be substituted by community restoration under the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator.
- ❖ ***Housing Suspension:*** This pathway indicates that a student has been excluded from resident housing and the general grounds or parking lots surrounding the resident housing, including activities sponsored or supervised by the Residence Life and Housing staff.
- ❖ ***College Dismissal:*** This indicates permanent separation from LC. Students will be withdrawn from all enrolled courses by the College. The student will not be allowed to re-enroll at a future time. In accordance with federal and state regulations, all payments will be forfeited.
- ❖ ***Restitution:*** Reimbursement to the College for damage, destruction, or misappropriation of property on College premises. When imposed, restitution will be made in addition to any previously defined pathways. Restitution to other students can also be imposed.
- ❖ ***Withholding Diploma:*** The College may withhold a student's diploma for a specified period of time and/or deny a student participation in commencement activities as a sanction if the student is found responsible for violating Policy.

- ❖ ***Revocation of Degree:*** While very rarely employed, Lackawanna College reserves the right to revoke a degree previously awarded from Lackawanna College for fraud, misrepresentation, and/or other violation of Lackawanna College policies, procedures, or directives in obtaining the degree, or for other serious violations committed by a student prior to graduation.
- ❖ ***Other Actions:*** In addition to, or in place of, the above pathways, the College may assign any other pathways as deemed appropriate.

B. Student Organization Pathways

The following are the common pathways that may be imposed upon student organizations singly or in combination:

- ❖ ***Warning:*** A formal statement that the conduct was unacceptable and a warning that further violation of any Lackawanna College Policy, procedure, or directive will result in more severe pathways/responsive actions.
- ❖ ***Probation:*** An official sanction for violation of institutional Policy, providing for more severe disciplinary pathways in the event that the group or organization is found in violation of any institutional Policy, procedure, or directive within a specified period of time. Terms of the probation will be articulated and may include denial of specified social and event privileges, denial of Lackawanna College funds, ineligibility for honors and awards, restrictions on new member recruitment, no-contact orders, and/or other measures deemed appropriate.
- ❖ ***Suspension:*** Termination of student group or organization recognition and/or institutional support for a definite period of time not to exceed two years and/or until specific criteria are met. During the suspension period, a student group or organization may not conduct any formal or informal business or participate in Lackawanna College-related activities, whether they occur on- or off-campus. Re-recognition is possible but not guaranteed and will only be considered after the end of the suspension period and based on meeting all re-recognition criteria and obtaining clearance from Lackawanna College.
- ❖ ***Expulsion:*** Permanent termination of student group organization recognition and revocation of the privilege to congregate and conduct business on campus as an organization for any reason.

- ❖ ***Loss of Privileges:*** Restricted from accessing specific Lackawanna College privileges for a specified period of time.
- ❖ ***Other Actions:*** In addition to or in place of the above pathways, the College may assign any other pathways as deemed appropriate.

C. Employee Pathways/Responsive/Corrective Actions

Responsive actions for an employee who has engaged in harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation include:

- ❖ Verbal or Written Warning
- ❖ Performance Improvement Plan/Management Process
- ❖ Enhanced Supervision, Observation, or Review
- ❖ Required Counseling
- ❖ Required Training or Education
- ❖ Probation
- ❖ Denial of Pay Increase/Pay Grade
- ❖ Loss of Oversight or Supervisory Responsibility
- ❖ Demotion
- ❖ Transfer
- ❖ Shift or schedule adjustments.
- ❖ Reassignment
- ❖ Delay of (or referral for delay of) Tenure Track Progress
- ❖ Assignment to New Supervisor
- ❖ Restriction of Stipends, Research, and/or Professional Development Resources
- ❖ Suspension/Administrative Leave with Pay
- ❖ Suspension/Administrative Leave without Pay
- ❖ Termination
- ❖ Other Actions: In addition to or in place of the above pathways/responsive actions, the College may assign any other responsive actions as deemed appropriate.

10. Withdrawal or Resignation while Charges are Pending

A. Students

Lackawanna College does not permit a student to withdraw if that student has an allegation pending for violation of the Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy. Lackawanna College may place a hold, bar access to an official transcript, and/or prohibit graduation as necessary to permit the Resolution Process to be completed.

B. Employees

Should an employee resign with unresolved allegations pending, the records of the Title IX Coordinator will reflect that status, and any Lackawanna College responses to future inquiries regarding employment references for that individual will include the former employee's unresolved status and whether the employee is eligible for rehire.

11. Appeals

All requests for appeal consideration must be submitted in writing to the Title IX Coordinator within five (5) business days of the delivery of the written finding of the Title IX Coordinator or Decision-maker.

An Appeal Decision-maker] chosen from the Pool will be designated by the Title IX Coordinator from those who have not previously been involved in the process. Any party may appeal, but appeals are limited to the following grounds:

- 1) A procedural error or omission occurred that significantly impacted the outcome (e.g., substantiated bias, material deviation from established procedures, failure to correctly apply the evidentiary standard).
- 2) To consider new evidence, unknown or unavailable during the investigation, that could substantially impact the original finding or sanction. A summary of this new evidence and its potential impact must be included in the appeal.
- 3) The pathways imposed fall outside the range of pathways Lackawanna College has designated for the violation(s) and the cumulative disciplinary record of the Respondent.

When any party requests an appeal, the Title IX Coordinator will share the appeal request with all other parties or other appropriate persons such as the Investigator(s), who may file a response within three (3) business days. Another party may also bring their own appeal on separate grounds

If new grounds are raised, the original appealing party will be permitted to submit a written response to these new grounds within five (5) business days. These responses or appeal requests will be shared with each party. The Appeal Chair will review the appeal request(s) within five (5) business days of completing the pre-appeal exchange of materials. If grounds are not sufficient for an appeal, or the appeal is not timely, the Appeal Chair dismisses the appeal.

When the Appeal Chair finds that at least one of the grounds is met by at least one party, additional principles governing the review of appeals include the following:

- ❖ Decisions by the Appeal Chair to be deferential to the original decision, making changes to the finding only when there is clear error and to the sanction(s)/responsive action(s) only if there is compelling justification to do so.
- ❖ Appeals are not intended to be full re-hearings (de novo) of the allegation(s). In most cases, appeals are confined to a review of the written documentation or record of the investigation and pertinent documentation regarding the grounds for appeal.
- ❖ An appeal is not an opportunity for the Appeal Chair to substitute their judgment for that of the original Investigator(s) or Title IX Coordinator/Decision-maker merely because they disagree with the finding and/or sanction(s).
- ❖ Appeals granted based on new evidence should normally be remanded to the Investigator(s) for reconsideration. Other appeals should be remanded at the discretion of the Appeal Chair.
- ❖ Pathways imposed as the result of the Administrative Resolution are implemented immediately unless the Title IX Coordinator stays their implementation in extraordinary circumstances, pending the outcome of the appeal.
 - For students: Graduation, study abroad, internships/externships, etc., do NOT in and of themselves constitute exigent circumstances, and students may not be able to participate in those activities during their appeal.
- ❖ All parties will be informed in writing within five (5) business days of the outcome of the appeal without significant time delay between notifications, and in accordance with the standards for Notice of Outcome as defined above.
- ❖ Once an appeal is decided, the outcome is final; further appeals are not permitted, even if a decision or sanction is changed on remand
- ❖ In rare cases when a procedural error cannot be cured by the original Investigator(s) and/or Decision-maker or the Title IX Coordinator (as in cases of bias), the Appeal Chair may recommend a new investigation and/or Administrative Resolution process, including a new Decision-maker.
- ❖ The results of a new Administrative Resolution process can be appealed once, on any of the three applicable grounds for appeals.
- ❖ In cases in which the appeal results in Respondent's reinstatement to Lackawanna College or resumption of privileges, all reasonable attempts will be made to restore the Respondent to their prior status, recognizing that some opportunities lost may be irreparable.

12. Long-Term Remedies/Actions

Following the conclusion of the Resolution Process, and in addition to any pathways implemented, the Title IX Coordinator may implement long-term remedies or actions with respect to the parties and/or the campus community to stop the harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation; remedy its effects; and prevent its reoccurrence.

These remedies/actions may include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Referral to counseling and health services
- ❖ Referral to the Employee Assistance Program
- ❖ Education to the community
- ❖ Permanent alteration of housing assignments
- ❖ Permanent alteration of work arrangements for employees
- ❖ Provision of campus safety escorts
- ❖ Climate surveys
- ❖ Policy modification
- ❖ Provision of transportation assistance
- ❖ Implementation of long-term contact limitations between the parties
- ❖ Implementation of adjustments to academic deadlines, course schedules, etc.

At the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, long-term remedies may also be provided to the Complainant even if no policy violation is found.

When no policy violation is found, the Title IX Coordinator will address any remedial requirements owed by the College to the Respondent.

13. Failure to Complete Pathways/Comply with Interim and Long-Term Remedies/Responsive Actions

All Respondents are expected to comply with assigned pathways, responsive actions, and corrective actions within the timeframe specified by the Title IX Coordinator.

Failure to abide by the sanction(s)/action(s) imposed by the date specified, whether by refusal, neglect, or any other reason, may result in additional sanction(s) and responsive/corrective action(s), including suspension, expulsion, and/or termination from Lackawanna College and may be noted on a student's official transcript. Supervisors are expected to enforce completion of pathways/responsive actions for their employees.

A suspension will only be lifted when compliance is achieved to the satisfaction of the Title IX Coordinator.

14. Recordkeeping

In implementing this Policy, records of all allegations, investigations, resolutions, and hearings will be kept by the Title IX Coordinator in the Title IX complaint database indefinitely, or as required by state or federal law or institutional policy.

15. Statement of the Rights of the Parties ([See Appendix C](#))

16. Disability Accommodation in the Resolution Process

Lackawanna College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and support to qualified students, employees, or others with disabilities to ensure equal access to Lackawanna College's Resolution Process. Anyone needing such accommodations or support should contact the Director of Disability Services, who will review the request and, in consultation with the person requesting the accommodation and the Title IX Coordinator, determine which accommodations are appropriate and necessary for full participation in the process.

17. Revision

These policies and procedures will be reviewed and updated annually by the Title IX Coordinator. Lackawanna College reserves the right to make changes to this document as necessary and once those changes are posted online, they are in effect.

The Title IX Coordinator may make minor modifications to these procedures that do not materially jeopardize the fairness owed to any party, such as to accommodate summer schedules.

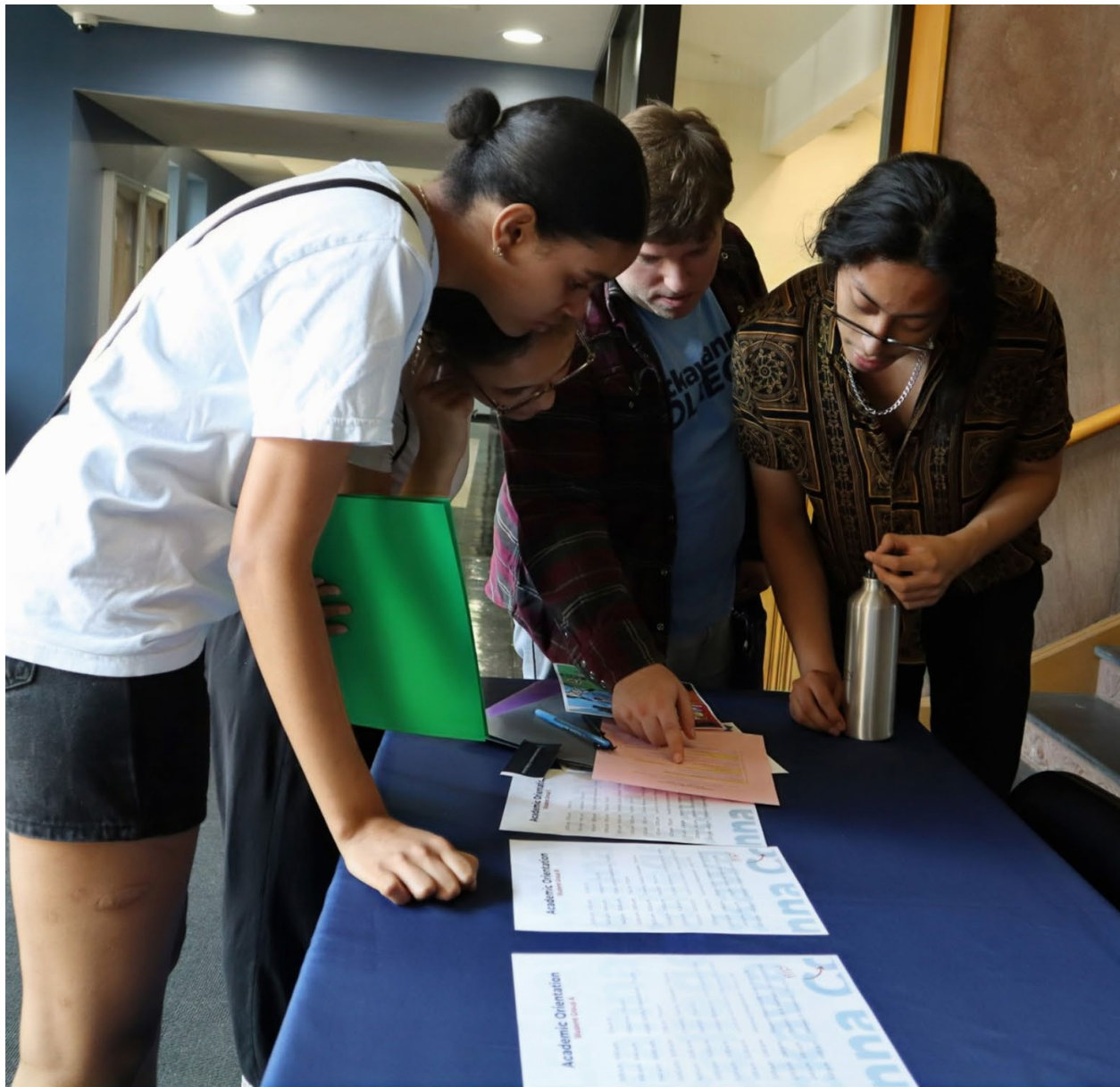
The Title IX Coordinator may also vary procedures materially with notice (on the Lackawanna College website, with the appropriate effective date identified) upon determining that changes to law or regulation require policy or procedural alterations not reflected in this policy and procedure.

Procedures in effect at the time of the resolution will apply to resolution of incidents, regardless of when the incident occurred.

Policy in effect at the time of the offense will apply even if the policy is changed subsequently but prior to resolution unless the parties consent to be bound by the current policy.

If government regulations change in a way that impacts this document, this document will be construed to comply with the most recent government regulations.

This document does not create legally enforceable protections beyond the protection of the background state and federal laws which frame such policies and codes, generally. This Policy and procedure was implemented on August 14, 2020. Revised on April 15, 2026.



Student Conduct and College Policies

Student Accountability and Restorative Practices

Mission

The Lackawanna College Student Accountability and Restorative Practices (SARP) Office promotes student development and enhances the Lackawanna College Student experience through programs that focus on prevention and intervention that leads to a student's successful navigation to graduation.

Our goal is to create a culture of care for students, faculty, and staff by providing exemplary programs, campus partnerships, community connections, direct support and policy development designed to enhance students' academic and personal success.

The SARP Office is dedicated to encouraging responsible community conduct, educating the Lackawanna College community, and implementing disciplinary action in situations where violations of the Student Code of Conduct have occurred.

Where Can I Find the College's Student Code of Conduct?

For more information, please reach out to sarp@lackawanna.edu The Student Code of Conduct shall be reviewed every year in consultation with appropriate College official(s).

Kris Liebegott

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I. Student Code of Conduct

The Lackawanna College (herein referred to as “LC”) Student Code of Conduct was revised on May 1, 2026. The Code, presented in its entirety, is subject to amendment by the Dean of Students (or designee) with the approval of the appropriate college official(s). LC reaffirms the principle of student freedom coupled with an acceptance of full responsibility for individual action and the consequences of such action. Therefore, this Student Code of Conduct was written to set forth the terms of the relationship between the student and LC regarding disciplinary matters. It is the express duty of LC to protect their educational purposes by setting standards of both scholarship and behavior. To this end, Student Accountability and Restorative Practices (SARP) is responsible for enforcing the Student Code of Conduct and for assessing all offenses in non-academic matters. This is not a contract and may be changed at any time.

II. Student Rights and Responsibilities

Participation in LC’s community necessitates compliance with regulations and procedures established by LC governing bodies, including the Student Code of Conduct. These regulations and procedures are essential for the maintenance of an atmosphere of learning in which the community’s academic and social standards can be upheld. Students, faculty, and administration share, according to LC governance, the responsibility for the legislation, implementation, and enforcement of these LC guidelines. All members of the LC community are expected to uphold this individual and community responsibility and act to uphold these regulations. All individuals in LC’s community are expected to maintain integrity in all endeavors, respect the rights of others, and adhere to all published rules, regulations, and policies. Additionally, on-campus resident students should be familiar with the [Residence Life and Housing regulations](#).

Disciplinary records are confidential and are not released to anyone outside the college without written approval of the student involved. No information regarding disciplinary action is included on a student’s academic transcript; however, copies of suspension and dismissal letters will be included in the student’s academic file. SARP may, at their discretion, release information on a student’s status to other college administrators when necessary for discharge of their duties.

III. Civility Statement

LC's mission is to provide a quality education to all persons who seek to improve their lives and better the communities in which they live. LC strives to foster an open and diverse community where the rights of all community members are respected. While no statement can guarantee considerate or ethical conduct, SARP and the institution remain committed to the ideals of civility and courteous discourse. Civility requires a coordinated and conscious demonstration of

mutual respect. As an educational institution, LC promotes a safe and supportive campus environment. This environment should enable students to engage as full and active participants where the free expression of views is encouraged. With that said, a campus of civility requires inclusiveness, kindness, and patience - treat others how you would like to be treated, utilize campus and regional support resources, and exemplify and promote civility both on and off campus.

Civility is not only expressed in words, but in a person's tone, demeanor, and action. All campus community members can use assistance from time to time in understanding or empathizing with another person. SARP encourages community members to communicate with Student Success and Student Wellness, excellent resources for faculty, staff, and students. Acknowledge differences, prioritize treating others with dignity and respect, and welcome feedback. LC students deserve to live in a world and attend an institution free from incivility, harassment, or bullying. LC values students and the college community.

IV. Student Amnesty & Good Samaritan Policy

At LC, our priority is the health and safety of the students. As a part of the LC community, all students are expected to alert appropriate officials in the event of any health or safety emergency.

When a student needs medical attention, fellow students are expected to (1) contact appropriate officials to report the incident and request assistance, (2) provide their names and contact information to the appropriate officials, and (3) demonstrate cooperation and compassion by remaining with the student in need of medical attention.

Accordingly, a reporting student, acting in a good faith effort during a life-threatening or dangerous situation, can report the incident without fear of disciplinary consequences. The reporting student will generally not be subject to formal disciplinary action for violations related to the incident. Similarly, an impaired student who receives medical attention because another student (other than a student-staff member) followed the appropriate steps will generally not be subject to formal college disciplinary action relative to the incident. While no college disciplinary action may be taken, students may be required to meet with SARP to discuss the incident and adhere to appropriate Student Wellness and/or educational recommendations.

The Student Amnesty and Good Samaritan Policy refers only to isolated incidents and does not protect students from repeated, flagrant, or serious violations of the Student Code of Conduct. In general, the Student Amnesty and Good Samaritan Policy only applies to initial Alcohol or Illegal Drugs violations. Therefore, if a student was previously given pathways for an Alcohol or Illegal Drugs violation or previously was covered by the Student Amnesty and Good Samaritan Policy, the applicability of these policies for subsequent incidents is at the discretion of the Associate Vice President of Student Success (or designee).

V. Jurisdiction of Lackawanna College

LC's jurisdiction in disciplinary matters extends to conduct that occurs on the LC premises, conduct that occurs as part of LC sponsored or sanctioned off-premises activities, or to any conduct that adversely affects the college community or reputation **regardless of where it occurs**. LC reserves the right to alert civil authorities to issues on or off campus. Further, students are responsible for the actions of their guest(s) and may be held accountable for their guest's violations of the Student Code of Conduct while on campus.

VI. Prohibited Conduct

A violation of college policy occurs when a student commits actual misconduct, intends to commit misconduct but does not complete the violation (i.e. offering to sell illegal substances to an individual who does not buy them), and/or assists or convinces another person to commit misconduct. A student is also responsible for the misconduct or attempted misconduct by the student's guest. Any LC student found to have committed misconduct including, but not limited to, the following, is subject to the disciplinary pathways set forth in this document.

Individual Academic and Athletic Programs may have their own code of conduct policies in addition to those found in this handbook. Please refer to your Academic Program Handbook or Athletic Code of Conduct for their code of conduct policies. The program policies may have stricter guidelines that must be followed, and those pathways may be enforced on their own or in addition to the policies in this handbook. If there is a discrepancy between policies, the stricter code of conduct will take precedence and shall be enforced first.

1. Acts of Complicity

Acts of complicity; aiding, abetting, attempting, conspiring, hiring, willfully encouraging or being an accessory to any violation of the LC Student Code of Conduct. Acts of complicity include situations in which a student condones and/or accepts the violations of college policy by others (e.g., a student remaining in a residence hall room where alcohol is being consumed in violation of college policies).

2. Acts of Dishonesty

Acts of dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Furnishing false information to any college official, faculty member or office.
- b. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any college document or official record.
- c. Knowingly providing false statements or testimony during an investigation or LC proceeding.

- d. Impersonating or falsely representing oneself as a college official or acting on behalf of LC.
- e. Tampering with the election of any college recognized student organization.
- f. Misuse of LC stationery.
- g. Unauthorized use of computers or accounts or allowing others access to an account.
- h. Illegal or improper use of the LC phone system.

3. Acts of Incivility

Acts of incivility include engaging in ill-mannered, repetitive, disruptive, or offensive behavior, either through language or actions, which disrespects another individual, including but not limited to:

- a. A fellow LC student, visitor, and/or vendor.
- b. A LC official (including, but not limited to, faculty, staff, Public Safety) and/or law enforcement officers.

4. Alcohol

LC does not condone the use of alcohol and prohibits the use or possession of alcohol on campus (unless otherwise specified) or at off-campus sponsored functions (unless otherwise specified). Refer to [Appendix A: Lackawanna College Alcohol Policy](#) and [Appendix C: Mandatory Minimum Athletic Suspension](#) for additional information.

Alcohol violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Use, possession, manufacture, illegal purchase, or distribution of alcoholic beverages except as expressly permitted by the law and LC regulations.
- b. Conduct which demonstrates public intoxication or signs that indicate the use of alcohol.
- c. Being in the presence of alcohol within a LC residence hall, even for those of legal drinking age.
- d. Open containers apply and will be treated as alcohol violations.

5. Arson

Any attempt to start a fire intentionally or recklessly or cause an explosion and/or contribute to an unauthorized fire.

6. Creating Safety Hazards

Creating Safety Hazards violations include, but are not limited to:

- a. Covering or tampering with fire equipment/smoke detectors, exit lights, guard rails, elevators or fire alarms.
- b. Initiating false alarms.
- c. Reckless or negligent behavior.

7. Disruptive and Disorderly Conduct

Intentional disruption or obstruction of any academic or administrative proceedings or officials that hinder the ability of participants to engage in services. Disruptive and disorderly conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Disruption of services.
- b. Disruption of teaching, learning, research, programs, and/or classroom activities.
- c. Disruption of administration or disciplinary proceedings.
- d. Participation in a campus demonstration which disrupts the normal operations of LC and infringes on the rights of other members of the LC community, leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled and/or normal activities within any campus building or area; intentional obstruction which unreasonably interferes with freedom of movement, either pedestrian or vehicle, on campus.
- e. Creating unreasonable noise; and vulgar conduct, including public profanity.
- f. Aiding, assisting, or encouraging another person to breach the peace on LC premises or at functions sponsored by LC.

8. Failure to Comply

Failure to comply includes, but is not limited to, failure to comply with the authorized directives of any LC official (including, but not limited to, faculty, staff, Public Safety) and/or law enforcement officers acting in the performance of their duties, or failure to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so.

9. Filing a False Report

Falsely reporting an emergency, such as falsely reporting a bomb, fire, or other emergency in any building, structure, or facility on LC premises or at any LC related function. Falsely reporting a conduct violation to any LC official (including, but not limited to, faculty, staff, Public Safety).

10. Harassment and Discrimination

Any means of communication verbal and/or non-verbal including, but not limited to, in-person, text message, email, or any form of social media that displays any actions, statements, expressions, threats, gestures, and/or words directed toward another person that incite a breach of the peace, create a hostile environment, or cause emotional distress because of the humiliating, degrading, intimidating, insulting, and/or alarming nature of the conduct. This includes discrimination against pregnant and parenting students.

This also applies to any action intended to intimidate another person because of age, race, color, ancestry, religious or national origin, disability, creed, veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, physical or mental ability, gender identity, political ideas, or sexual orientation.

Furthermore, this includes deliberately creating, on the part of an individual student or group of students, a hostile or potentially hostile environment, bullying or other aggressive and/or hostile acts against others with the intent to humiliate, mentally or physically injure, or control.

Any action that includes following a person without proper authority (stalking) that may cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others or to suffer emotional distress, harassment/stalking may fall under Title IX. Additional information regarding Title IX can be found on the [Title IX webpage](#). More information regarding discrimination can be found by contacting the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Officers.

11. Hazing

Hazing, defined as any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a person or persons, or involves the forced consumption of alcohol, drugs, or other substances, or which destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition of continued membership in, a group, team, or organization. The express or

implied consent of the victim will not be a defense. Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing is also considered misconduct. For more information regarding Hazing, visit the LC [Hazing Awareness and Prevention](#) site.

12. Illegal Drugs

- A. Use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of marijuana, heroin, narcotics, illicit drugs or other intoxicating drugs and controlled substances except as expressly permitted by law. This includes prescription drugs being used or possessed by an individual without a valid prescription for that drug.
- B. Use, possession, manufacture, illegal purchase, or distribution of drug paraphernalia (such as, but not limited to, pipes, bongs, hookahs, and scales), including, but not limited to, all items used for the purpose of preparing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise using illegal drugs, or in the illicit use of legal drugs.
- C. Refer to [Appendix B: Lackawanna College Illegal Drugs Policy](#) and [Appendix C: Mandatory Minimum Athletic Suspension](#) for additional information.

13. Obscene & Lewd Conduct

Students are expected to refrain from conduct that would be considered lewd or indecent by a reasonable person in any public place or in any place where there are other persons present whom the person knows this conduct is likely to offend, affront, or alarm. Obscene and lewd conduct includes, but is not limited to, public urination/defecation, public exposure of private body parts, public indecency, public sexual intercourse and showing inappropriate sexual materials. Obscene and lewd conduct violations may have Title IX implications.

14. Physical Violence

Physical violence includes, but is not limited to, actual or threatened violence, intimidation, or coercion, creating conditions that endanger the health and safety of self or others, all forms of retaliation, and other forms of physical abuse. Refer to [Appendix D: Lackawanna College Anti-Violence Policy](#) for additional information.

15. Retaliation

No member of the campus community shall retaliate or take adverse action against any individual based on a good faith report made by anyone participating in an investigation, hearing, or inquiry by any LC official (including, but not limited to, faculty, staff, Public Safety) and/or law enforcement officers. Acts of retaliation violate college policy and may be unlawful.

16. Smoking

Smoking and the use of any smokeless tobacco products are prohibited inside all LC facilities/buildings or vehicles owned, leased, or operated by LC. Smoking is defined as the burning, lighting, or use of a tobacco product and any other smoking device or equipment that includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), vape pens, hookahs, pipes, or any other electronic smoking device. “Electronic Smoking Device” is defined as any electronic product containing or delivering nicotine or any other substance. Smoking is permitted only in outside designated smoking areas. The designated smoking areas are building specific and marked with signs. Pathways for violations of this policy will be in addition to any other related violation(s) of college policy, including Athletic and Residence Life & Housing requirements.

17. Theft

Attempted or actual theft, unlawful possession of and/or damage to property or services of LC or any other individual or entity, regardless of intent.

18. Title IX Offenses

Sexual harassment and sexual misconduct including, but not limited to, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and other forms of sexual harassment as set forth in the LC Title IX policy. Additional information regarding Title IX can be found on the LC [Title IX website](#).

19. Unauthorized Entry or Use

Unauthorized entry into or use of all LC property including, but not limited to, residence halls, recreation facilities, classrooms, unauthorized possession of college keys, college

files, individual passwords, and computing work of another student, staff, or faculty member. Refer to [Appendix K: Digital Copyright Policy](#) for additional information.

20. Unauthorized Surveillance

Unauthorized surveillance includes, but is not limited to, any unauthorized use of electronic or other devices to make an audio, written, or video record of any person while on LC premises without their prior knowledge, or without their effective consent when such a recording is likely to cause injury or distress. This includes, but is not limited to, surreptitiously taking pictures, or recording of another person in a gym, locker room, or restroom or any other location where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Policies related to educational spaces (e.g., classrooms/labs) are available in the Student Handbook.

21. Vandalism

Any acts of abuse, defacement, damage, or destruction of college or private property by any means.

22. Violations of Federal, State, or Local Law

Violation of federal, state, or local laws on or off campus while enrolled as a student. These violations include, but are not limited to, trespassing, gambling, and other federal and state violations.

23. Violations of Other College Regulations

Violation of LC policies, rules or regulations contained in any official publications, published in hard copy or available electronically including, but not limited to, residence hall regulations, athletics regulations, administrative announcements, student success policies, library regulations, and admissions agreements, contracts, and postings (e.g., failure to disclose prior or current felony or misdemeanor convictions to the appropriate LC officials).

24. Weapons, Explosives, and Other Dangerous Items

The on-campus (licensed or illegal) possession, storing, carrying, or use of any weapon (or replicas), implements used as weapons, or other dangerous items is prohibited

including, but not limited to, firearms, ammunition, explosives, fireworks, martial arts paraphernalia, knives (except for academic and kitchen use), box cutters, air guns, pellet/BB guns, paintball guns, stun guns, potato guns, NERF guns, splat guns, slingshots, balloon launchers, or tattoo needles/equipment.

VII. Reporting and SARP Actions Steps for Student Code of Conduct Violations

1. Any member of the LC staff or administration may file a report against any student, student group, or student organization for alleged violation of the Student Code of Conduct, residence hall regulations, Athletic Code of Conduct, or any other written LC policy or behavior. Both on- and off-campus reports should be filed with Public Safety.
2. The person making the charge(s) will provide the following: date of the incident, specific college policy or regulation the student(s) allegedly violated, a statement of the circumstances, and name(s) of witnesses.
3. SARP will respond and coordinate an investigation promptly into any report filed. Again, SARP is responsible for enforcing the Student Code of Conduct and for assessing all offenses in non-academic matters.
4. Upon conclusion of the investigation, SARP will determine: (a) whether the alleged misconduct is within the purview of the Student Code of Conduct; (b) whether to issue pathways to the student(s) for alleged misconduct; and (c) if pathways are filed, which pathways will be utilized.
5. All pathways shall be presented in written form to the student.

VIII. Rules Applicable to All SARP Proceedings

1. The standard of evidence used to evaluate a report or suspected violation is a “preponderance of the evidence.” Under this standard, a determination must be made based on whether it is more likely than not that the accused violated the Code of Conduct. Formal rules of process, procedure, and/or technical rules of evidence, such as those applied in criminal or civil court, are not used in Student Code of Conduct proceedings.
2. If any disciplinary action is pending against a student, degrees, grade reports, and transcripts will not be issued until the matter is resolved.

3. If the student withdraws from LC while SARP proceedings are in process, any charges against the student will be considered 'pending.' The college reserves the right to adjudicate those charges when/if the student returns to LC.
4. Proceedings shall normally be conducted in private and are considered confidential.

IX. Pathways

The college will respond to violations of the Student Code of Conduct through a variety of pathways, informally and/or formally, with the goal of educating all parties involved. The following pathways may be imposed upon any student found to have committed any violation of the Student Code of Conduct:

1. Informal Resolution: An informal resolution may be conducted for certain incidents with minimal impact on the campus community. Informal resolutions are not reflected on a student's conduct record. In an informal resolution, SARP will notify the student by email of the incident and corresponding outcome. If the student wishes to challenge that outcome, the student can request a meeting with SARP.
2. Warning: A written notice that the student has violated the Student Code of Conduct.
3. Probation: Includes a period during which the student must demonstrate the ability to comply with the college's rules and regulations, as well as any imposed pathways. The length of the probationary period can vary from one (1) semester to the balance of the students' tenure at LC, depending on the severity of the offense(s). While on probation, any further violation of college policy may result in deferred suspension, disciplinary suspension, or college dismissal.
4. Deferred Suspension: This is the highest level of probation, in which any continued misconduct or non-compliance with pathways and provisions on the student's part will result in college dismissal. In the case of an overturned disciplinary suspension or college dismissal, the student will remain on Deferred Suspension. If a disciplinary suspension or college dismissal occurs with a student who was not previously placed on Deferred Suspension and it is overturned, they will then be placed on Deferred Suspension. In the case of a second disciplinary suspension or dismissal, it will be without appeal. Students who are permitted to return to the college following a period of Disciplinary Suspension will be automatically placed on Deferred Suspension if found responsible for violation of college policy. Additionally, students provided with a Deferred Suspension receive an automatic referral to the Lackawanna College Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT).

5. Suspension from Activities: All students (including student-athletes) may be suspended from any LC extracurricular activities until the student is actively participating in the pathways given. All student-athletes can be suspended for a minimum of one game and remain suspended until the student is actively participating in the pathways given.
6. Housing Suspension: This pathway indicates that a student has been excluded from resident housing and the general grounds or parking lots surrounding the resident housing, including activities sponsored or supervised by Residence Life and Housing staff. Refer to Appendix E: Housing Suspension, Disciplinary Suspension, and College Dismissal Process for additional information.
7. Housing Relocation: Reassignment of a student from one living space to another. Housing relocation may be accompanied by loss of privileges to specified residential areas and is imposed for a specified period.
8. Disciplinary Suspension: Separation of the student from the college for a specified period. While suspended, a student loses all rights and privileges and may not represent the college in any way. A student who is suspended is not in good standing with the college. Disciplinary Suspension may entail provisions added to a student's reentry into the college. Refer to Appendix E: Housing Suspension, Disciplinary Suspension, and College Dismissal Process, Appendix F: Disciplinary Suspension and College Dismissal Appeal Process, and Appendix G: Post-Disciplinary Suspension for additional information.
9. Removal from Class: A student will be removed from class without the privilege of withdrawal from the course.
10. Restitution: Reimbursement to the college for damage, destruction, or misappropriation of property on college premises. When imposed, restitution will be made in addition to any previously defined pathways. Restitution to other students can also be imposed.
11. No Contact Order (NCO): NCOs mandate that in no circumstance may students contact one another in person, via email, through friends, or on any method of social media. Public Safety, coordinating with SARP, may issue this order at any time to protect all students.
 - a. If a student would like to reverse an NCO, the student will:
 - i. Contact SARP to have a meeting. SARP will meet with the student who wants to reverse the order, then contact the other party via email. SARP will notify the other party that a student would like to

reverse an NCO that is in place. If that student does not wish to reverse the order or does not respond, the NCO will remain in place.

- ii. If both parties are agreeable to a reversal, SARP will then contact Student Wellness. Student Wellness will then hold individual sessions with each party involved to assess whether reversing the NCO should occur. In some cases, Student Wellness staff may also meet with both parties at the same time, but this will be on a case-by-case basis. Student Wellness will share their findings with SARP. Both offices will determine if the NCO will be reversed or remain in place. Communication may involve and include additional offices as needed.
- iii. After completing the Student Wellness meeting(s), SARP will then notify all parties involved that the NCO would remain in place, or that the NCO will be reversed. If it is reversed, each party will complete an NCO reversal form.

- 12. Community Restoration: Service to the college or local community. Students will be assigned the number of hours needed for completion and help establish where and when the service will take place. The student is responsible for completion of all hours assigned. A minimum of one hour of Community Restoration will be assigned.
- 13. Educational Projects: Work assignments, written apology, papers/letters, activities, visiting an on-campus office, attending an LC-sponsored event, or other related discretionary assignments.
- 14. Fines: Penalty fees paid to the college. The amount is dependent upon the degree of policy infraction and is set by the college administration. Fines are not subject to negotiation and can be levied in addition to other pathways and/or restitution. Fines can be substituted by community restoration under the discretion of SARP.
- 15. Student Wellness Program (SWP): This is a mandated assessment session with our wellness professionals. The sessions are a response to the incident and may include alcohol and drug counseling, life skills building, and emotional support. These sessions are private. Any information discussed in private will remain with the student and wellness professional in accordance with their confidentiality policies.

16. Academic Success Coach: A strategic partnership between a coach and a student for the purpose of fostering growth and building skills in an educational environment. A coach individualizes their approach with every student by engaging in the process of reflection, goal setting, and planning.
17. Student Mentor: Provides a student mentor to an active SARP case to assist in supporting that student through the process.
18. College Dismissal: This indicates permanent separation from LC. Students will be withdrawn from all enrolled courses by the college. The student will not be allowed to re-enroll at a future time. In accordance with federal and state regulations, all payments will be forfeited. Refer to Appendix E: Housing Suspension, Disciplinary Suspension, and College Dismissal Process and Appendix F: Disciplinary Suspension and College Dismissal Appeal Process for additional information.
19. Parent/Guardian Notification: In certain circumstances the college reserves the right to notify, or require the student to notify, parents/guardians of dependent students when college policies have been violated. Refer to Appendix H: Parent/Guardian Notification Policy for additional information.
20. Loss of Privileges: Denial of specified privileges for a designated period.
21. Interim Measures: Refer to Appendix I: Interim Measures for additional information.

More than one of the pathways listed above may be imposed for a single violation. Refer to Appendix J: Student Pathway Matrix for additional information.

If a student is found responsible for repeat violations of the same or similar charges, pathways issued will be escalated due to the repeat nature of the offense.

The following pathways may be imposed upon groups or organizations:

- ❖ All pathways listed above.
- ❖ Deactivation: Loss of all privileges, including LC recognition, for a specified period.

X. Escalation of Pathways

Student pathways are expected to be completed in a timely manner (10 business days from the time of the written SARP notification). Students that do not complete pathways within the defined period may receive additional pathways including, but not limited to, the next level of probation, disciplinary suspension with appeal, or dismissal with appeal. Refusal to attend or participate in the process constitutes refusal and will result in dismissal with appeal.

XI. Notification of Criminal Records

To ensure a safe and secure college environment, all Lackawanna College students are required to report all criminal/traffic arrests to SARP (sarp@lackawanna.edu) within five (5) business days of the incident. The term “arrest” includes, but is not limited to, the issuance of a citation, summons and warrant of arrest, physical arrest/custody, and incarceration both within and outside of Pennsylvania. As per current policy, LC conducts background checks on all resident students.

All applicants for admission to this college must disclose arrest information as part of their Enrollment process. Lackawanna College reserves the right to verify any statements made on this application and pull criminal history to determine admission decision and/or any limitations to college enrollment. Failure to disclose arrest(s) or pending criminal court actions, or providing any false statements on required application forms, will result in disciplinary pathways up to and including denial of college admission or college dismissal.

All students are encouraged to disclose to Public Safety (PublicSafetySupervisors@lackawanna.edu) the existence of any pertinent court actions, including but not limited to, Protection from Abuse Orders (PFA) and child custody orders.

XII. Records Retention and Storage

The existence of all disciplinary records and the contents of such records are kept and maintained by SARP in accordance with the guidelines, policies, and procedures outlined by FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and LC records retention policies. At the close of each academic year, SARP will review all student disciplinary records and eliminate appropriate records in accordance with this policy. Records may be eliminated if the student has not been registered for classes at LC at any time during the prior seven academic years, seven full academic years have passed since the student fully satisfied the terms of all pathways imposed, or the student has graduated, and seven full academic years have passed since the date of the incident.

XIII. Interpretation and Revision

Any question of interpretation regarding the Student Code of Conduct shall be referred to the Associate Vice President of Student Success for final determination.

The Student Code of Conduct shall be reviewed each academic year in consultation with appropriate LC official(s).

Student Code of Conduct - Appendices

APPENDIX A: LACKAWANNA COLLEGE ALCOHOL POLICY

LC does not condone the use of alcohol and prohibits the use or possession of alcohol on campus or at off-campus sponsored functions, including athletic events. College policy is aligned with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding alcohol and includes regulations above and beyond the law to promote a healthy college community.

The laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and ordinances of the City of Scranton are applicable to all members and guests of the LC community. Below is a list of prominent laws and ordinances. However, this list is not comprehensive. Community members are encouraged to ensure they are familiar with relevant laws and ordinances. Failure to abide by them may result in disciplinary action.

1. It is illegal for any person under twenty-one (21) years of age to attempt to purchase, consume, possess, or transport any alcoholic beverage. Note that Pennsylvania applies the concept of constructive possession under which guilt can be construed for possession of alcohol by determining that alcohol was readily available to a minor who apparently made no good faith attempt to distance themselves from it. Also note that individuals who violate this law do not have the right to a breath test or blood test.
2. It is illegal for any person to sell, furnish or give away any alcoholic beverage to a person under twenty-one (21) years of age or to any person who is visibly intoxicated.
3. It is illegal to operate or control a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. “Under the influence” is currently defined in Pennsylvania as .08% blood alcohol content for individuals who are twenty-one (21) years of age or older and .02% blood alcohol content for individuals who are less than twenty-one (21) years of age.

4. It is a violation of a City of Scranton ordinance to possess and/or consume alcoholic beverages from open containers in public streets, sidewalks, highways, buildings, lanes, parking lots, recreation or park areas, or other public property within the City limits.

Alcohol violations that warrant dismissal without appeal from the college include: (1) a third violation of the LC Alcohol Policy.

APPENDIX B: LACKAWANNA COLLEGE ILLEGAL DRUGS POLICY

LC does not condone the use, possession, or distribution of any type of illegal drugs. The behavior and attitudes associated with the use of illegal drugs are detrimental to the individual student and the student body, and contrary to the mission and philosophy of the college. If a student is found, charged, or arrested for possession of any illegal substance, or drug paraphernalia, use, or intent to distribute illegal drugs, the student is subject to college disciplinary action, independent of any external legal actions.

In addition, eligibility for federal financial aid may be subject to suspension or termination. Loss of Title IV eligibility will result if a student is convicted of a state or federal offense involving the possession or sale of an illegal drug that occurred while the student was enrolled in school and receiving Title IV aid. It must be understood that the college cannot protect an offender against any penalties of law. Law enforcement officers, with proper documents, have a legal right to search all buildings and personal space on campus without prior notice.

Federal laws, including those governing marijuana and cannabis, preempt state law and, therefore, apply on LC's campus. Marijuana (cannabis) is a controlled substance under federal law, and its possession and use, even for medical reasons, is prohibited on property owned or operated by the college. This also applies to college-sponsored or affiliated programs and events. The use of vaping devices (including but not limited to, mods, pens, hookahs, JUULs, and e-cigarettes) to consume cannabis products (including edibles) is prohibited anywhere on college premises. LC students who disregard the various drug laws are responsible for their actions and are not immune from the legal process by virtue of their educational status.

While in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, all students are subject to Commonwealth law regarding possession and/or use of illegal drugs:

1. Possession of any amount of marijuana is a misdemeanor subject to a fine, imprisonment, and a permanent arrest record.
2. Possession of any other illegal substance including crack, LSD, cocaine, heroin, hashish, etc. are subject to one (1) year imprisonment, and/or a \$5,000 fine, and a permanent arrest record.

3. Possession with intent to sell is subject to three (3) to five (5) years' imprisonment, a \$10,000 to \$1,000,000 fine, and a permanent arrest record.

LC expects its students to comply with all the requirements of federal and Pennsylvania state law. As such, the possession, trafficking, or use of illegal drugs, including the illegal distribution of prescription drugs, and/or drug paraphernalia, as defined in Pennsylvania and federal statutes are prohibited and subject the violator to disciplinary action by the college as well as prosecution by local, state, and/or federal authorities.

Illegal Drug violations that warrant dismissal without appeal from the college include: (1) use, positive testing for, or possession of Phencyclidine (PCP), Bath Salts (man-made cathinone), or any substance that can contribute to violent behavior and threaten the safety of others; (2) possession of “date rape” drugs, including, but not limited to ecstasy/XTC, Rohypnol, ketamine, or GHB; (3) selling or distributing illegal or prescription drugs; (4) placing illegal or prescription drugs in the beverages or food of others; and (5) possession or use of medication that is not a student’s own prescription.

APPENDIX C: MANDATORY MINIMUM ATHLETIC SUSPENSION

Traditionally, first-time violations of LC Illegal Drug and Alcohol policy will not result in athletic game suspension(s). Student-Athletes will still be subject to appropriate SARP pathways based on the violation. The process will include a formal meeting between the student-athlete and SARP.

Second violations will result in immediate suspension for 10 percent (rounded up) of regularly scheduled and/or resultant contests (including playoffs and championship contests) which the student-athlete is otherwise eligible and able to participate in on an annual cycle. If the suspension is not completed in the current academic year, the suspension will carry on to the subsequent academic year. Student-Athletes will still be subject to appropriate SARP pathways based on the violation.

Additional violations will result in appropriate SARP pathways, up to and including disciplinary suspension, loss of scholarship, and/or college dismissal.

The penalty for missing a scheduled drug test is the same as the penalty for testing positive.

APPENDIX D: LACKAWANNA COLLEGE ANTI-VIOLENCE POLICY

LC is committed to providing an environment in which community members can feel personally safe and emotionally secure. Violent behaviors or activities are diametrically opposed to LC institutional values.

Physical violence is defined as harming or threatening to harm any person; intentionally or recklessly causing harm to any person or causing a reasonable threat of such harm; or displaying hostile conduct or behavior that may incite immediate violence; or creating a condition that endangers the health and safety of self or others, as well as all forms of retaliation. In consideration of the broad range of behaviors that could qualify as ‘violence,’ it is impossible to construct a set of specific pathways to cover every possibility. Instances of violence will be considered on an individual basis.

However, community and student safety are a principal concern for LC. If a student is deemed to be responsible for such a violation, appropriate pathways will be based on the specific facts of the case, the student’s intent, and any aggravating or mitigating factors. Decisions will be affected by the amount of harm done to others and the degree to which the behavior was intentional or irresponsible. Pathways will reflect the severity of the behavior.

Additionally, students are held accountable for their behavior while intoxicated and for any violations of the Alcohol or Illegal Drugs policies. Pathways for violence may be escalated if alcohol or drugs are involved.

Behavior	Potential Pathways
Physical Contact; Threat and/or Verbal Abuse	- Probation - Educational Projects - No Contact Order (NCO), if appropriate - Housing Relocation, if appropriate - Loss of Privileges
Substantial Threats of Violence including, but not limited to oral or written statements, non-verbal gestures and expressions, and/or physical acts (including but not limited to, open hand slap, etc.).	- Deferred Suspension or Disciplinary Suspension - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program

	- No Contact Order (NCO), if appropriate - Housing Relocation/Suspension, if appropriate - Loss of Privileges
Physical altercation including, but not limited to, assaulting, striking, fighting (regardless of who started the fight) or in any way causing physical harm to another with minor or no injuries (i.e. no medical treatment is required).	-Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal
Physical altercation including, but not limited to, assaulting, striking, slapping, kicking, fighting (regardless of who started the fight) or in any way causing physical harm to another with injuries (i.e., medical treatment required) or involving a weapon.	- Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal (No Appeal)

Aggravating Factors: In cases of physical violence or threatening harm to another member of the community, aggravating factors may include (1) whether or not the student responsible was substantially motivated by the victim's race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, disability, or military/veteran status; (2) the student's disciplinary history; (3) intent to harm; and (4) point of entrance into physical violence or threatening harm (i.e. the third person that enters into a physical altercation).

Anti-Violence violations that warrant dismissal without appeal from the college include: (1) students involved in a physical altercation that refuse to stop when instructed to do so by any LC official (including, but not limited to, faculty, staff, Public Safety); (2) any assault on a LC official; or (3) Physical altercation including, but not limited to, assaulting, striking, slapping, kicking, fighting (regardless of who started the fight) or in any way causing physical harm to another with injuries (i.e. medical treatment required) or involving a weapon.

Criminal prosecution may be brought by either party, LC, or local and state law enforcement agencies.

APPENDIX E: HOUSING SUSPENSION, DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSION, AND COLLEGE DISMISSAL PROCESS

For offenses involving potential Housing Suspension, Disciplinary Suspension, or College Dismissal, the following will apply:

1. Upon receipt of completed investigation report, SARP will review the results of the investigation with the Associate Vice President of Student Success, the Director of Public Safety, and Residence Life and Housing staff.
2. A written notice of Housing Suspension, Disciplinary Suspension, or College Dismissal action by SARP will be issued to the student in the presence of a Public Safety officer. A member of the Residence Life and Housing staff may also be present at the event of resident student suspension. Housing Suspension, Disciplinary Suspension, and College Dismissal are effective immediately upon receipt of written notice.
3. If applicable, Public Safety will escort the students to the appropriate residence hall to gather their belongings. Residence Life and Housing will meet Public Safety and the students in the residence hall and provide an appropriate check-out from the residence hall room. Students will have 90 minutes to secure their belongings and vacate the residence hall. All belongings must be removed from campus or packed appropriately to be stored in Public Safety.
4. Public Safety, where reasonable transportation off-campus is not available to the students, will assist in coordinating transportation for the students.
5. Appropriate LC personnel including, but not limited to, the student's faculty members and academic advisors, academic deans, Public Safety, Residence Life and Housing and/or coaches, will be notified of this action.
6. If the suspension is overturned through the appeal process, the student will be allowed to return to the residence hall. If the Appeal Board upholds the suspension, the student is required to coordinate with Public Safety to remove any remaining belongings from campus.

APPENDIX F: DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSION AND COLLEGE DISMISSAL APPEAL PROCESS

Students may have the right to appeal a Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal pathway. In the case when a student is dismissed without appeal, no further recourse is available. Students may waive this right when guilt is admitted or when they choose to accept disciplinary suspension or dismissal as determined by SARP.

1. Students wishing to appeal the Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal determination must submit a completed Advisor Information & Waiver Form to SARP and a completed LC Appeal Request Form to the Associate Vice President of Student Success (AVPSS) within two (2) business days of the notice of suspension/dismissal.
2. Upon receipt of the Appeal Request Form, the Appeal Review Panel (the AVPSS and two (2) designees) will have two (2) business days to grant an appeal hearing. Criteria for granting an appeal is outlined in the Appeal Request Form.
3. If an appeal is granted, SARP will notify the members of the LC Appeal Board that a formal hearing must be convened within two (2) business days. Advisors will have access to the institutional case file in advance of the hearing and can review this file with students. No pictures, recordings, etc. may be used to copy the institutional case file. These documents are considered confidential.
4. The student will be notified of the date, time, and location of the hearing at least 24 hours in advance unless SARP and the student decide that an earlier date/time is conducive to both.
5. The membership of the LC Appeal Board will be as follows:
 - a. Member from the Student Government Association, Resident Assistant, or student designee.
 - b. Director of Residence Life and Housing or designee.
 - c. Director of Student Success or designee.
 - d. Director of Student Wellness or designee.
 - e. Associate Dean of HIPs and Faculty Success, or designee.
6. Two-thirds of the LC Appeal Board must be present at the hearing for a hearing to occur, and a simple majority must be present at the hearing for the Board to render a determination. In the absence of Student Government or Resident Assistants, other student leaders may be called upon.
7. The Dean of Students (or their designee) will serve as Chair but will not participate in its determination. The Dean will present the charges and evidence on behalf of the college or the individual making the charges. The Public Safety representative (or designee) will likewise present the case but will not be a voting member of the Board. Both the student and Advisor will be present for the institutional case.
8. The accused is entitled to be accompanied by a college faculty member, administrator, or fellow student whose role will be advisory in nature. Advisors assist students in preparation for the hearing and provide support and guidance during the Conduct process. Advisors are not permitted to speak for the student during the proceedings. This includes asking and answering questions. Advisors are free to confer with the student during the proceedings as

needed. No one outside of the LC community may represent a student at an LC Appeal Board hearing.

9. Legal counsel shall not be permitted to attend the hearing to provide representation to the student regarding the appeal. However, in cases where the student faces pending criminal charges based on similar facts, the accused student may have legal counsel present as an advisor. If present, the counsel may not participate in the hearing in any way except in advising the accused student regarding their pending criminal charges. In these cases, LC Appeal Board may request that LC counsel be present in a non-participatory role.
10. A formal hearing includes opening and closing statements from the accused. Neither cell phones nor other electronic devices may be brought to the hearing. A student who attempts to utilize such phones or devices surreptitiously during an appeal hearing immediately forfeits their appeal rights.
11. Any party may present witnesses subject to the determination of the witness' relevance to the case. The members of the Board may ask questions of anyone involved in the proceedings.
12. If an accused student fails to appear at the hearing, the Chair may conduct the hearing without the accused. If the absence is unexcused, the accused forfeits any right to appeal. No recommendation or imposition of pathways will be based solely on the failure of the accused to appear.
13. If a Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal is upheld, the accused will be notified of the decision immediately. If a suspension/dismissal determination is upheld, resident students must remove all their remaining belongings from college property within 30 calendar days of the appeal hearing. After that time, everything will be discarded. Arrangements must be made with Public Safety for pick-up during normal business hours.
14. If a Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal is overturned, and the student is allowed to return, the student resumes responsibility for attendance and other academic obligations immediately once the decision is rendered. All class absences incurred during the dismissal process will be counted as excused absences. Exceptions for immediate return to classes can be granted by the AVP of Academic Operations (or their designee) in cases of long-distance travel.
15. When an overturned Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal occurs, the student may be placed on SARP pathways, as determined by the LC Appeal Board in consultation with the Dean of Students. Also, the student may receive disciplinary status, ranging from a warning to deferred suspension.
16. The Chair will submit a written record of the Board's decision to administration via email.

17. Any affirmative action issues or appeals will be handled outside of the appeal process by one of the LC Affirmative Action Officers.
18. *The decision of the LC Appeal Board is final and not subject to additional appeal.*

APPENDIX G: POST-DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSION

Disciplinary Suspension may be for the remainder of a semester or for no more than four semesters. Students must meet with SARP following the term of their Disciplinary Suspension. SARP will determine whether the student may resume studies after considering whether all conditions of the suspension have been met. Any student misconduct during the suspension period will be reviewed by SARP before the student can resume studies. SARP will strongly consider college dismissal as a pathway for misconduct during a suspension period.

During the time of Disciplinary Suspension, a student will be required to complete the following two steps:

1. **Written Petition to Return:** Once a student has served their suspension, the student may petition for readmission. To be considered for readmission the student will be required to submit a written petition to return to the college to SARP at LC no later than three (3) weeks prior to the start of the semester in which the student wishes to matriculate. After receiving the petition, the student must meet with SARP to review the petition and support documentation and discuss the possibility of re-admission. Readmission is not guaranteed and is at the sole discretion of SARP. *Failure to provide these materials before your meeting and/or failure to meet with SARP may prevent your return to the college.*

Depending on the violation, a student may also be required to complete the following step:

2. **Mandatory Counseling:** The student must seek an assessment from a licensed counselor/mental health professional and follow any recommendations for assistance in resolving any personal issues impacting academic performance and behavior related to this incident and any previous related incidents. If the student cannot meet with a licensed counselor/mental health professional due to extenuating circumstances, such as a financial constraint, the student should notify SARP and Director of Student Wellness to make alternate arrangements. As part of the evaluation, students are required to discuss this incident and any previous related incidents. Finally, when the student meets with SARP regarding their desire to return to college, the student should have a letter from their counselor that includes a commentary on their participation in all counseling activities, a recommendation to return to school and a follow-up plan for returning to LC. The students may also need to meet with the Director of Student Wellness or their designee to discuss their progress and resources that may be helpful upon returning to LC. Prior to these meetings, the student is required to sign any necessary releases so their counselor can call to

speak with SARP and the Director of Student Wellness, or their designees, about attendance, engagement, and progress in counseling.

Post-Suspension Probation: Students who are permitted to return to the college following a period of suspension will be automatically placed on Post-Suspension Probation. While on Post-Suspension Probation, students must abide by all terms and conditions placed on their return, as well as all college policies. SARP, who may escalate suspension up to dismissal, will review any misconduct or non-compliance on a student's part during post-suspension

***Transfer Policy:** If a student takes classes at another institution during a suspension, the student is subject to the LC transfer policy. All students that have previously attended another college or university must submit an official transcript to the Registrar for evaluation. LC will review transcripts from all colleges and universities to determine the number of transferable credits. The policy allows for transfer of up to 50% of the required credits (if applicable) for any particular associate degree program, and up to 75% (90 credits) of bachelor's degree programs.

Additionally, if a student requests a transfer to another college or university and a request is made by the institution to which a student may wish to transfer, LC will disclose the student's disciplinary record to the requesting institution in compliance with the laws and regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

APPENDIX H: PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION POLICY

The college encourages students to communicate regularly with their parents or guardians. There are specific instances where SARP reserves the option to notify a student's parent or guardian for the benefit of the student's well-being or educational progress. They are:

1. The student, due to an illness or injury, is unable to render a determination regarding contacting their parents.
2. The student is a potential threat to self or others.
3. The student is transported to or admitted to a hospital or treatment center.
4. The student receives a Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal determination from the college.

5. The student is arrested by local, state, or federal authorities.
6. The student is found in violation of the Alcohol or Illegal Drugs policies.

The decision to notify a parent or guardian will be at the discretion of the AVPSS, Dean of Students, or the Director of Residence Life and Housing (or their designees).

APPENDIX I: INTERIM MEASURES

Emergency Removal: In certain circumstances, the AVPSS, Dean of Students, or a designee, may impose an emergency removal.

1. Emergency Removal may be imposed to ensure the immediate safety and well-being of members of the LC community or preservation of LC property; or if the student poses an immediate threat of disruption of, or interference with, the normal operations of LC. Any arrest, active law enforcement investigation, or government action can be a reason for an Emergency Removal.
2. The student should be notified in writing of the emergency removal and the reasons for the removal. The notice should include the time, date, and place of a subsequent hearing, that should be held within five (5) business days, at which point the student may show cause that their continued presence on the campus does not constitute a threat, and at which time the student may contest whether a Code of Conduct violation occurred. This hearing will review the reasons for the emergency removal and determine whether the removal should stand, be modified, or rescinded.
3. A student who is under an emergency removal may not attend classes, live in the residence halls, or represent the college in any fashion and is not permitted on campus without the express written permission of the Associate Vice President of Student Success, Dean of Students, or their designee. During emergency removal, the student may explore opportunities for continued academic progress remotely. It is the student's responsibility to contact their faculty members for consideration. Decisions regarding continued academic progress are made at the sole discretion of the faculty members and may differ by course depending upon the nature of the course and point of the semester. Emergency removal may also entail provisions and requirements that must be met as conditions for a student's reentry into the college.

APPENDIX J: STUDENT PATHWAYS MATRIX

VIOLATION	MINIMUM Pathway	MAXIMUM Pathway	COMMON Pathways
Acts of Complicity	(1) Warning (2) Probation (3) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects
Acts of Dishonesty	(1) Probation (2) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program
Alcohol	(1) Probation (2) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Suspension from Activities - Parent/Guardian Notification
Arson	College Dismissal		
Creating Safety Hazards	(1) Probation (2) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Housing Suspension

	(3) Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal		
Disruptive and Disorderly Conduct	(1) Probation (2) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program
Failure to Comply	(1) Probation (2) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects
Filing a False Report	Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program
Harassment and Discrimination	(1) Probation (2) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Housing Suspension
Hazing	(1) Deferred Suspension (2) Disciplinary Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Suspension from Activities

Illegal Drugs	(1) Probation (2) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Suspension from Activities - Parent/Guardian Notification
Obscene and Lewd Conduct	(1) Probation (2) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Suspension from Activities
Physical Violence	(1) Probation (2) Disciplinary Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Suspension from Activities - Housing Suspension
Retaliation	(1) Probation (2) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	-Community Restoration -Educational Projects -Student Wellness Program

			-Suspension from Activities
Smoking	(1) Warning (2) Probation	Deferred Suspension Disciplinary Suspension	- Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Housing Suspension
Theft	(1) Probation (2) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Suspension from Activities - Housing Suspension
Unauthorized Entry or Use	(1) Warning (2) Probation (3) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Suspension from Activities - Housing Suspension
Unauthorized Surveillance	(1) Probation (2) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Loss of Privileges

Vandalism	(1) Warning (2) Probation (3) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Suspension from Activities
Violations of Federal, State, or Local Law	(1) Probation (2) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Suspension from Activities
Violations of Other College Regulations	(1) Warning (2) Probation (3) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Suspension from Activities
Weapons, Explosives, and Other Dangerous Items	(1) Probation (2) Deferred Suspension	Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal	- Community Restoration - Educational Projects - Student Wellness Program - Suspension from Activities - Housing Suspension

APPENDIX K: DIGITAL COPYRIGHT POLICY

By using any of LC's electronic and technology resources, users consent to assume personal responsibility for their appropriate use and agree to adhere to all applicable college policies, and local, state, federal, and international laws and regulations.

LC respects the protections provided under copyright law and takes any violations of these protections seriously. Those who illegally share copyrighted files may face charges and additional penalties enforced by the college. In addition, violators may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).

If a user is suspected of violating any of the conditions of this policy, the appropriate department will initiate an investigation. During the investigation, files may be inspected, and all computing services may be suspended for the individual(s) in question. If a violation of the conditions is confirmed, the user may face disciplinary charges as defined in the Student Code of Conduct and/or legal action.

Any attempt to break the law may result in legal action by the proper authorities. If such an event should occur, the college will fully comply by providing any information necessary for the litigation process. While LC cannot be responsible for the actions of individual users, LC will make every effort to ensure compliance with established laws.



Residence Hall Policies

Welcome to the Community!

Mission Statement

At Lackawanna College, Residence Life and Housing is committed to fostering a supportive, engaging, and inclusive living environment where students can grow personally, academically, and professionally. We aim to create a community where students build lifelong friendships, achieve academic success, and create lasting memories. In alignment with the College's mission, we strive to provide a quality residential experience that empowers students to improve their lives and positively impact the communities they call home.

Statement of Our Community Values

At Lackawanna College, holistic student development is our priority within the residence hall program. In addition to providing a place to sleep, the goal of the residence halls is to foster community and supplement student learning through educational, social, and experiential activities. In becoming a member of the LC residential community, students are provided a special opportunity to live, learn, and grow together. This opportunity necessitates the creation of shared community standards and expectations to ensure a respectful, thoughtful, and engaging living environment. These community standards and expectations guide how students live together, learn from one another, and shape a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable experience rooted in mutual care and accountability.

As a member of the LC residential community, students must adopt an active understanding of the Student Handbook and Residence Life & Housing policies and procedures. LC policies are designed to create a safe, vibrant environment for all members of the community and those who visit. LC will publish and enforce appropriate rules, regulations, and policies and act accordingly when violations of such rules, regulations, and policies occur. Compliance with these rules, regulations, and policies contributes to the creation and maintenance of a productive living and learning residential experience. Infractions of these policies are documented and adjudicated to preserve and protect the safety and integrity of the LC community. This handbook is not exhaustive and may be amended as the College deems necessary.

Residence Hall Personnel

Director of Residence Life & Housing

The Director of Residence Life & Housing is responsible for overseeing the administration of the Residence Life program at Lackawanna College. The Director oversees the Residence Hall Director (RHD) staff.

Residence Hall Director (RHD)

Residence Hall Directors (RHD) are full-time professionals that traditionally live in the residence halls and are responsible for one building. RHDs report to the Director of Residence Life & Housing and supervise RAs. The RHDs implement policies and procedures, facilitate residence hall programming, advise the Residence Hall Association (RHA), and perform on-call responsibilities. RHDs have offices in each residence hall.

Resident Assistants (RAs)

Resident Assistants (RA) are selected because of their interest in people, proven maturity, and sense of responsibility. After training, the RAs clearly understand that they serve as agents of Lackawanna College and the Residence Life & Housing mission for their residents. RAs are students assigned to directly oversee residents of a particular floor in a residence hall, are knowledgeable about institutional policies, and assist students with problems or questions. In each residence hall, RAs are on duty daily to be a resource for residents, complete walking rounds of the building, monitor the residence hall environment, and perform on-call responsibilities. RAs are on-duty at the Visitor Check-In Desk in the residence halls from 7:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. daily.

To contact the Residence Life & Housing department, please email residencelife@lackawanna.edu. Contact information for the Residence Life & Housing professional staff can be found on the [Residence Life & Housing webpage](#).

Residence Hall Association (RHA)

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) is a student run organization which represents and protects the views, concerns, and rights of the residential community of LC, and strives to improve the quality of life on campus. The purpose of this organization shall be to provide a representative voice for all residents, act as liaisons between the residential community and the administration, organize initiatives to enhance the campus environment, and assist in determinations on current issues regarding on-campus living.

RHA opportunities are available throughout the year. If you are interested in joining the RHA, please contact your RHD or email residencelife@lackawanna.edu.

Residency Requirements

At the start of the semester, all resident students must be enrolled in full-time classes (12 credits minimum).

Any full-time student attending the Scranton campus whose permanent residence is located outside the approved commuting range listed below must reside in campus housing while actively enrolled.

A student will be allowed an exception for the following reasons:

- ❖ Commuting from their permanent address (home of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
 - Commuting distance is defined as either 30 miles or less (student-athletes) or 45 miles or less (all other residents).
- ❖ Being married.
- ❖ Being a primary caretaker of dependent children.
- ❖ Having earned 60 or more credits.
- ❖ Having reached the age of 21 prior to the start of the referenced semester.

A request for an exception for any of the above reasons should be submitted to the Housing committee for review with final determination made by the Associate Vice President of Student Success prior to enrollment by completing a Housing Policy Appeal Form. Appeals forms must be submitted by August 1st for the Fall semester and January 2nd for the spring semester.

If the College is able to verify that a student is violating the policy as stated or the conditions set forth in an approved exception, the student is subject to dismissal from the College and/or full charges for residence hall costs. Students who are granted a Housing Appeal to live on-campus with less than 12 credit hours are responsible for all housing and meal plan charges for the entirety of each semester once their Appeal is granted. If these students decide to move off-campus after the date on which their Appeal was granted, they are not eligible for a refund for housing or meal plan charges.

I. Required Health Records

Students must have a completed health record on file at MedProctor.com to qualify for on-campus housing. This health record must include a recent physical exam (less than one year old) and a full immunization record. Students must submit these records to MedProctor before being permitted to move into the residence halls. At the discretion of Residence Life Staff, students may be granted an extension of up to 2 weeks. Any students without the necessary documents on file after the first 2 weeks of any semester may be removed from housing.

Physical: Students must submit documentation of a physical examination dated no older than one year prior to the student's move-in date.

Immunizations: All resident students must submit a full immunization record that shows proof of the required immunizations in the table below:

Required	Highly Recommended
Two Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) immunizations	Tetanus-diphtheria (within past 10 years)
Polio Vaccine	Hepatitis B (a three-shot series)
Tuberculosis Assessment	Varicella (if you have not contracted Chicken Pox)
Meningitis	Flu Vaccine

II. Meal Plan

A Resident Meal Plan is an essential part of the residence life experience at Lackawanna College. Its implementation alleviates one of the concerns most students face while living away from home. This allows the student to concentrate solely on their studies and other activities associated with college life. Therefore, it is necessary to integrate this service into the requirements for all students living in our residence halls.

A Resident Meal Plan provides 19 meals a week. The meal plans allow students to eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner each weekday and brunch and dinner on Saturdays and Sundays. To utilize the meal plan in the Dining Commons or the Falcon's Nest, the student must present their Lackawanna College photo ID each time a purchase is made. For more information on the Dining Commons and Falcon's Nest, visit metzlackawanna.com.

The Resident Meal Plan's 19 meals are disbursed each Sunday and expire the following Saturday. All meals not used by the end of each week will not be refunded and will not be carried over.

III. Background Check

In order to provide a safe living environment for all resident students, LC has established a policy that requires a background check to be conducted on all resident student applicants. These background checks will provide LC with valuable information that will enable our administration to identify previous and/or pending criminal charges that were filed against prospective students. Certain charges may restrict a student from becoming part of our residential community.

If the background check reports that the applicant has a criminal history and/or pending charges, the information will then be evaluated by the Enrollment and Housing Review Committee (EHRC). The EHRC is comprised of the Director of Enrollment, the Dean of Students, the Director of Public Safety, and the Director of Residence Life and Housing (or their designees). The EHRC will notify an applicant of their determination within five (5) business days of receipt of their completed background check. EHRC determinations can include EHRC Clear, EHRC Commuter Only, EHRC Online Only, EHRC Online Certificate Only, or EHRC Enrollment Hold. The procedures for the appeal process will be explained in EHRC communications with the student.

Any applicant that has been arrested, convicted, or is on parole or probation for the following offenses will not be considered for residency at LC:

- ❖ Felonies and Aggravated Felonies (F1, F2, and F3)
- ❖ First-Degree Misdemeanors (M1)
- ❖ Second-Degree Misdemeanors (M2)

The EHRC has discretion to approve or disapprove applicants in accordance with these guidelines and to make determinations as to whether the criminal history of an individual will be used to decline a housing application. The EHRC also has discretion to deny the application of an individual arrested for a crime if these charges are still pending. Additionally, criminal history findings may also be used to modify the status of a student within the institutional disciplinary system and may result in the applicant being accepted but being placed on a Probation status. EHRC reserves the right to determine the equivalency of the arrest/conviction(s) above if it occurred outside the state of Pennsylvania.

IV. Housing Packet

All residential students must complete and sign the Housing Packet, including the Housing Contract located in the packet, before being placed into a room. **The Housing Contract remains in effect for the duration of the student's tenure at the college unless:**

- ❖ The agreement is terminated by LC.
- ❖ The student graduates.
- ❖ The student withdraws from housing for more than one semester.

The Housing Contract and application dates shall be in concurrence with the academic calendar. Please refer to the official [Academic Calendar](#) for additional information.

Requesting Reasonable Housing Accommodations

In accordance with applicable laws, LC will make every effort to provide reasonable housing accommodation for students who have a qualifying physical or psychological disability. All accommodation is determined on a case-by-case basis according to the documented need and prevailing standards for reasonable accommodation. The Disability Services offices reviews requests and approvals are sent to the Residence Life and Housing department, which then offers assignments based on current availability.

For a physical disability and/or mental health diagnosis, students must submit a doctor's letter stating that your requested accommodation is "medically necessary," or it cannot be granted. To apply for reasonable housing accommodation, the following items must be completed:

- ❖ Submit the [Housing Accommodation Request Form](#). This form is available on the LC Portal.
 - You will be asked to upload documentation, which must be current (within the last 12 months) and in writing, from your doctor and must include ALL the following:
 - Date of Evaluation(s).
 - Method of evaluation/examination(s).
 - Diagnosis-specific with International Classification of Diseases (ICD) classification.
 - Specific accommodation being requested and the disability's current impact on you and the college residential environment, with verbiage of medical necessity.
 - A description of any functional or cognitive effects resulting from prescribed medication.

To apply for an assistance animal, the following items must be completed:

- ❖ Read the [Animal Assistance Policy](#)
- ❖ Submit the [Housing Accommodation Request Form](#). This form is available on the LC Portal.

NOTE: You will be asked to provide additional documentation.

Documentation may be submitted at any time; however, it is recommended to complete the [Housing Accommodation Request Form](#) on or before the dates below for the appropriate semester the student will be attending. Once all the above information is received, LC will review and respond within ten (10) business days. If a student were to receive a single room as accommodation, they

would receive the single room for the cost of a double room. If the accommodation is denied, the student could still apply for a single room at the single room cost. After the submittal deadline date, the college may not be able to consider housing preferences and will assign the student to any available room.

Semester	Deadline
Fall Semester	June 15
Spring Semester	December 1
Summer Session	May 15

Resident Student Parking

Lackawanna College does not offer resident students parking. For more information, please refer to the Residence Life section of the portal

Residence Hall Network Access

All resident students are provided with a wired and wireless internet connection at no additional charge. Connection to this network is done at the students' own risk. The College is not responsible for material viewed or downloaded by users.

Attempts by individuals to reconfigure the network infrastructure can result in damage to the infrastructure or severe network problems. The connection and use of individual access points, routers, repeaters, etc. is strictly prohibited. Violation may result in the user being removed from the network. Repair costs will be billed accordingly if it is found that an individual caused damage.

Lackawanna College is responsible for securing its network and computing systems in a reasonable and economically feasible way against unauthorized access or abuse while making it accessible for authorized and legitimate users. By using any of Lackawanna College's electronic and technology resources, users consent to assume personal responsibility for their appropriate use and agree to adhere to all applicable College policies, and local, state, federal, and international laws, and regulations

Campus and Residence Hall Amenities

Lackawanna College offers a variety of amenities across campus and within the residence halls to enhance your student experience. Please refer to our [Campus Amenities](#) for more information

Residence Life & Housing Policies

General Provision

The Student Code of Conduct is designed to resolve instances of alleged, non-academic violations of LC policies. This process is applicable to all LC students. Students are responsible for their actions as well as the actions of their guests and pathways may be imposed when a guest violates the Student Code of Conduct and/or the Residence Life Handbook. Residence Life and Housing encourages all residential students to review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Alcohol Policy

The possession and consumption of alcohol is not permitted within LC residence halls, regardless of age. Please review the [Student Code of Conduct, Appendix A: Lackawanna College Alcohol Policy](#) for additional information.

Check-In

Before moving into their assigned room, students must be cleared through Student Financial Services (SFS), obtain a student ID card, and have all Residence Life and Housing paperwork completed and on file.

Upon receipt of all necessary clearances and documentation, students will receive a room key and a Room Condition Report (RCR). The RCR will have been initially completed by a member of the Residence Life and Housing team, but students are responsible for reviewing the condition of the assigned room. Students must complete their RCR and inform the staff of any issues found within 48 hours of check-in. Failure to complete and return the RCR will result in a resident being responsible for all damages and cleaning assessed at check-out.

Early Departure from Residence Halls

Students who vacate the residence halls prior to the conclusion of the semester (for any reason) are required to check out with their Residence Hall Director prior to leaving and must also meet with the Student Financial Services office to understand any remaining financial responsibilities.

Check-Out

At the end of each semester, students are required to check out with a staff member from Residence Life and Housing and remove all belongings from their room. Students must vacate their rooms within 24 hours of completing their last final, or by 3pm on the Friday of finals week, whichever comes first. Residence Life and Housing will hold mandatory floor meetings prior to the completion of each semester to review check-out procedures and address student questions. Residential students checking out following the end of the semester must complete the following:

- ❖ Schedule a check-out time with their RA and be on time for that appointment. Appointments must be scheduled between 9am-11pm and 24 hours in advance.
- ❖ All personal belongings must be removed, the room should be cleaned, the room key must be returned, and the RCR must be completed and signed.
- ❖ Express check-out envelopes are available upon request. In opting for express check-out, students waive the right to dispute damage or cleaning charges.

Students who fail to check out appropriately with Residence Life and Housing will be charged \$150 for an improper check out. This charge is in addition to any other charges for keys, damages, and/or cleaning. Additionally, students that do not follow check-out procedures immediately waive their right to dispute any damage or cleaning charges.

Specific Procedures for Semester-End Check-Outs

Any residential student who leaves following the end of the fall semester, with the intention to return for the spring semester, has the option to leave their belongings in their assigned room if the following stipulations are met:

- ❖ The student is registered for spring semester classes.
- ❖ The student has been cleared through SFS:
 - Fall and previous balances paid in full
 - First payment for Spring semester made
- ❖ The student is in good standing with SARP.
- ❖ The student is in good academic standing with the institution.

Students who leave belongings in their room without meeting the above stipulations will be subject to a \$150 charge. Additionally, these belongings are considered abandoned and can be discarded by LC.

Damage, Cleaning, and Improper Check-Out Charges

After the residence halls close, the RHD and a member of Facilities will use the RCR and inspect all rooms, floors, and bathrooms. They will verify the conditions, as stated on the RCR and may record additional damages that are not stated on the RCR. Room damages will be assessed appropriately to occupants of that room. Floor damages (including hallways and lounge areas) and bathroom damages will be assessed appropriately to occupants of that floor. Charges will be assessed for cleaning rooms and bathrooms. Unreturned keys and lock changes will be assessed individually. Improper check-outs will result in a \$150 charge.

I. Billing Procedures Regarding Damages, Cleaning, and Improper Check-Out Charges

Damage and cleaning charges will result for those deemed responsible. As a result, the person(s) will be held financially accountable for the labor, repairs, cleaning, and/or replacement of any item(s). If responsibility cannot be determined, all those assigned to that living space (room, floor, or building) will be charged. A statement of charges will be sent to your Falcon's email detailing received charges. All charges will be placed on your student account through SFS.

Residence Hall Closures during Break Periods

The residence halls are closed to all residential students during Thanksgiving break, winter break, and spring break. During these break periods, all residential students are expected to vacate the campus. Please refer to the official [Academic Calendar](#) for the exact dates for these break periods.

Building Access and ID Cards

The entrance doors to the residence halls are electronically locked for the security and safety of residential students. Each residence hall entrance has one set of exterior doors, one set of interior doors, and an interior vestibule between them. The exterior set of doors is locked 24/7, but residents can scan their ID at the proximity reader to gain access at any time. Between 7am-11pm, the interior doors operate similarly to the exterior doors and will open when a valid LC ID is scanned at the reader.

Between 11pm-7am, the interior entrance doors will be fully locked, even to residential students assigned to that building. Residents must press the call button on the videophone next to the interior entrance door, and Public Safety will answer, verify ID, and unlock the door. Upon entry, students may be asked to provide LC ID to Public Safety serving in the residence halls. Ignoring or refusing a request to provide an LC ID to any LC official is considered a violation of the Student

Code of Conduct and will result in pathways provided by SARP. Please review the [Student Code of Conduct, Failure to Comply](#) for additional information.

Students are only permitted to access the residence halls through the front door. All other doors are locked from the outside and equipped with exit alarms that sound when the door is opened. These alarmed doors are to be utilized only for egress in case of emergencies.

Students should never share or loan their LC ID to another student or guest. Any violation of this policy will result in pathways provided by SARP.

Lost LC IDs should be reported to Public Safety and Residence Life and Housing immediately. [LC ID replacements](#) are provided by Public Safety.

LC reserves the right to deny admittance to any person(s) to the residence halls.

Keys

Residential students are not permitted to share, loan, duplicate, or transfer any key(s). Any key(s) issued to residents is the property of the College and is issued to that resident for their exclusive use. Residential students are expected to carry their room keys at all times. Students are not allowed to tamper with existing locks, door mechanisms or to add any locks to their doors.

Keys must be returned when a student vacates their residence hall assignment. Unreturned keys will result in a charge of \$85. Broken keys should be reported to Residence Life and Housing for replacement. Lost keys should be reported to Public Safety and Residence Life and Housing immediately to protect yourself and the safety of your belongings.

Fire Safety and Emergency Evacuation Plans

All students should consider the ringing of the fire alarm as a real, life or death emergency signal and react accordingly. Upon the ringing of the fire alarm, all rooms and buildings must be vacated in an orderly fashion and as quickly as possible. No one is allowed to remain in the building (with the exception of first responders).

Fire drills are conducted periodically during the academic year. Please review the [Residence Life and Housing: Fire Safety and Emergency Evacuation Plans](#) and [Residence Life and Housing: False Alarms](#) for additional instruction and information.

Creating Safety Hazards

Any room found to be creating safety hazards in any manner will result in a formal accountability process through the Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices. All residents present

at the time of the violation will be held responsible. Please review [Creating Safety Hazards](#) for additional information.

Smoking Policy

Smoking or vaping of any kind is strictly prohibited in all campus buildings, including residence hall rooms. If a student is found smoking or if there is evidence (including but not limited to; odor, ash, residue, or tampered/covered smoke detectors) that smoking occurred in a room, a fine of \$350 will be assessed to the responsible individual(s).

Please review the [Student Code of Conduct: Smoking](#) for additional information.

Illegal Drugs

Please review the [Student Code of Conduct: LC Illegal Drugs Policy](#) for additional information.

Prohibited Items and Confiscation of Prohibited Items

Please review the [Residence Life and Housing: Prohibited Items List](#). Any item(s) in violation of this provision, found in possession of a student or within their assigned room, shall be confiscated and held by LC until the end of the current semester and may be subject to pathways provided by Residence Life and Housing. The item(s) shall be returned to the student at the end of the semester and on the condition that the item(s) are immediately removed from campus.

Restricted Access Areas

Students accessing any restricted area, including roof tops or any other architectural feature not designed for recreational or functional use, will be subject to pathways provided by SARP.

Exceptions to this policy will be made in cases of a valid emergency during which student access was necessary. The College assumes no financial or legal responsibility for any student injured because of such actions.

Visitation Restriction During College Break Closures

Students who receive special permission to remain on campus during official College breaks when the campus is closed (e.g., Thanksgiving, Winter, or Spring Break) are not permitted to have any guests or visitors at any time. This includes both daytime and overnight guests. Visitation privileges are suspended for the duration of the break period for all residents approved to stay. Any violation

of this restriction will result in immediate disciplinary action, which may include revocation of housing privileges, loss of future break housing consideration, and/or additional SARP pathways.

Posting

Advertising posted in the residence halls must be approved by Residence Life and Housing and is limited to residence hall and LC events only. Any advertisement not approved by Residence Life and Housing or appearing in non-approved areas will be removed. Clubs and organizations found to be in non-compliance with this procedure will forfeit their right to post any future events in the residence halls.

Solicitation

Residential students are prohibited from operating a business within their residence hall. The exchange of goods and services for cash is expressly prohibited. Students may not reserve inventory, distribute goods, or advertise services for sale within a residence hall. No person(s), organization, department, or office may enter the residence halls to distribute or collect information or feedback from students without advanced, written permission from the Director of Residence Life and Housing. No deliveries may be made to individual rooms. No advertisements are permitted on or under residence hall doors unless distributed by Residence Life and Housing.

Video Recording

LC values the privacy of all parties in personal spaces. The use of surveillance and/or Wi-Fi-enabled security cameras in, on, or outside LC residence halls by students is prohibited. Furthermore, any professional video shoots must be approved in advance and in writing by Residence Life and Housing.

Pets

Students may not, at any time, be in possession of animals (including fish) in campus buildings. Service, emotional support, or assistance animals are the only exception and must be registered with Disability Services. Please review the [Assistance Animal Policy](#) for additional information.

E-Mobility Devices and Micromobility Vehicles

Due to safety concerns associated with the use, storage, and charging of e-mobility devices including, but not limited to, electric scooters, hoverboards, electric bikes, and other similar powered

devices, LC has imposed prohibitions on their use and operation on campus and in the residence halls. Electric mobility aids for individuals with disabilities or that are medically required by a physician may be permitted on campus with approval by Disability Services.

Additionally, human powered micromobility vehicles, including but not limited to bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades, are not allowed to be used within campus buildings due to safety concerns.

Any violation of this policy will result in confiscation of the device/vehicle and pathways provided by Residence Life and Housing or SARP.

Micro-Fridge Policy

Micro-Fridge Policy Students are prohibited from removing the Micro-Fridge from their assigned rooms. Any Micro-Fridge damage must be immediately reported to a Residence Life staff member. Students are responsible for any damage to the Micro-Fridge and cleaning all areas of the Micro-Fridge; if a single person does not claim ownership for the damage or cleaning, the cost of the damage will be divided amongst all room occupants. A price list for the individual parts can be obtained through any Residence Life staff member. Micro-Fridge must be cleaned at checkout and will be inspected at the end of each semester. The following fees and charges may apply to all students upon checkout depending on the condition of their Micro-Fridge:

Cleaning/Damage Description	Charge/Fee Amount
Unclean Microwave Section	\$25
Unclean Freezer Section	\$25
Unclean Refrigerator Section	\$25
3.1 Model Replacement (smaller model)	\$550
4.3 Model Replacement (larger model)	\$650

Roommates and Roommate Contracts

Residents are expected to take primary responsibility for ensuring the development and maintenance of positive roommate relationships. Students are strongly encouraged to invest themselves fully in working together with roommates to resolve differences by speaking directly to one another, sharing concerns, expressing feelings in an honest manner, and jointly negotiating resolutions to conflict. Residents who feel like their roommate is unresponsive to communication, or who are otherwise

uncomfortable approaching their roommate about a conflict, should seek the help of their RHD. RHDs can assist students in communicating and mediating with roommates or in negotiating an official Roommate Contract.

Room Changes

Room assignment changes may be requested during the first three weeks of each semester, and between the fall and spring semesters. These requests should be made via email to ResidenceLife@Lackawanna.edu RHDs must grant final approval on all room changes.

After the room change period ends, all room change requests will be taken on a case-by-case basis. A room change is generally not considered an effective solution to roommate conflicts, and room changes will be considered by the RHD only after residents have made a genuine attempt to resolve the conflict through an official Roommate Contract.

Resident students are only permitted to live in the room assigned to them by Residence

Life and Housing. Again, RHDs must grant final approval on all room changes. Due to the importance of safety and security within the residence halls, any student found to have changed rooms without approval, will be required to move back to their assigned room and may be fined up to \$150 per occurrence.

Room Vacancies/Consolidations

In an effort to create more housing options for incoming and existing residents, ensure equity, and maximize use of available space, LC will actively seek to consolidate vacancies within the residence halls. Students that are assigned to partially vacant rooms may be reassigned prior to check-in. This means that the assigned hall or room may be changed if necessary for consolidation purposes. Consolidation may also occur during the academic year and students may be reassigned to other rooms, floors, or residence halls where necessary.

Room Entry

LC reserves the right to have authorized personnel enter student rooms at any time for health, safety, and maintenance purposes. Room entry may be authorized under the following circumstances: Emergency repair or maintenance work, apparent danger to the room occupants or other residents exists, probable cause to believe that residents and/or guests are violating the law and/or College policies, occupant(s) cannot be located for an extended period of time, Residence Life and Housing room inspection in order to prepare for occupancy, clear indications that routine health or safety regulations are being violated, and periodic Residence Life and Housing and Public

Safety health, safety, and fire inspections. Plain-view violations of LC policies are subject to SARP disciplinary action. A search of a resident's room pursuant to an investigation intended to result in a legal and/or disciplinary action may be performed only with the authorization of the Director of Public Safety (or designee). Students may be asked to leave the room while Public Safety conducts the search. Every effort will be made to have this search done in the presence of a Residence Life and Housing professional staff member.

Students are encouraged to lock their doors at all times and report any suspicious person(s) or unusual activities to Public Safety immediately. Additionally, students should not enter another resident's room without their express knowledge and consent, regardless of whether the door is closed or locked.

On-Campus Lockouts

In the event a residential student is locked out of their room, they should contact Public Safety. Any student who is locked out must verify who they are, using their LC ID, before entering a room or immediately after. Repeated lock out calls may result in pathways provided by Residence Life and Housing.

Room Care

Everyone is responsible for the upkeep of the residence hall. Common areas of the building will be maintained by LC staff. The maintenance of an individual's room is the resident's responsibility. Limited cleaning supplies are available, and access can be requested through both RHDs or RAs. LC staff does routine repairs and maintenance to items as needed, and any issues or concerns should be reported to Residence Life and Housing immediately.

Any violation of LC policies, including health and safety regulations, must be immediately corrected or pathways will be provided by Residence Life and Housing. Additionally, students are expected to exercise extreme caution when completing class or personal projects. Proper ventilation must be maintained, and floors, walls, and furniture must be protected. The use of spray paint or aerosol sprays within the residence halls is prohibited.

Residents found responsible for causing unnecessary garbage and debris in the hallway may be billed accordingly.

Room Furnishings and Decorations

All supplied furniture must stay in its designated room. Furniture cannot be removed from the assigned room and must be used for intended purposes. Students are not permitted to leave room

furnishings in other spaces or areas outside their assigned room. Furniture found in other areas or spaces will be returned to the student's room, and a fine will be assessed to the student for each incident.

Residential students are prohibited from removing the Micro-Fridge from their assigned rooms. Please review the [Micro-Fridge Policy](#) for additional information

Any objects including, but not limited to decals, pictures, and stickers that are fastened to the walls, doors, woodwork, or ceilings of rooms or hallways must be removable without damage to paint or furnished surfaces of the room. No items visible from outside shall be attached to or placed next to windows. Contact paper is forbidden, as are cellophane, tape, and heavy packaging tape. Writing instruments must not be used on any building surfaces. Students must not decorate their rooms with combustible materials or be in possession of incense, candles, or other flammable items.

Additionally, hanging any items that limit or prevent visibility within residence halls is prohibited. Please review the [Residence Life and Housing: Prohibited Items List](#) for additional information.

Privacy

All residents are encouraged to clearly communicate their needs regarding privacy matters with roommates and floor mates and/or through utilizing an official Roommate Contract. All residents should expect to maintain personal privacy within their assigned room and community bathroom facilities. Students who violate an individual's privacy by entering their room without permission or invade their privacy within bathroom facilities may be subject to disciplinary action.

Cohabitation is prohibited.

When having guests, each resident should be conscious of the privacy of their roommate. Residents should exercise their right to privacy responsibly and conduct themselves appropriately, being mindful of the extra responsibilities and social obligations of having guests.

The right to privacy does not imply the right to violate applicable LC policies and/or laws.

Courtesy and Quiet Hours

All residential students have the right to live in an environment that provides reasonable conditions for study and sleep. Mandatory courtesy and quiet hours have been established and are posted in each residence hall. Courtesy hours are in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During courtesy hours, students are expected to be always considerate of the needs of others and comply with requests for maintaining a reasonable level of quiet.

Quiet hours must be observed from **Sunday to Thursday, 11pm-9am** and from **Friday to Saturday, 12am-9am**. Quiet hours require that noise be reduced so that nothing can be heard

from within other rooms when the doors are closed. 24-hour quiet hours are in effect prior to and during final exams.

Excessive, disturbing, or repeated noise during courtesy and quiet hours will result in pathways provided by Residence Life and Housing or SARP.

Safety of Self and Others

Any student action that may lead to physical harm to oneself or others is considered endangering behavior and will typically result in Housing Suspension, disciplinary action provided by SARP (including Disciplinary Suspension or College Dismissal), and/or criminal charges.

Personal Property

LC does not assume liability directly or indirectly for loss or damage to personal property by fire or smoke, theft, water damage, or any other cause except to the extent allowed by the law. Residents are encouraged to secure renters insurance to protect their belongings or be covered by their family's homeowner/renter's insurance.

Additionally, LC is not responsible for personal property left behind by students at the end of the year or subsequent to the date of their withdrawal, transfer, departure, suspension or dismissal from any room or LC. Items found in a student's room after departure will be considered abandoned property and discarded.

Violations and Pathways

Residence Life and Housing work in conjunction with and as agents of SARP. In this capacity, RHDs are able to provide pathways for violations of LC policies, including those delineated in this handbook. Please review the [Student Code of Conduct: Pathways](#) for additional information.

Visitation and Visitor Policy

Hosts are responsible for their visitors as outlined in the [Host Eligibility and Responsibilities](#) section of this policy.

All visitors are expected to comply with Residence Life policies, the Student Code of Conduct, and all other applicable College policies while on campus.

Host Eligibility and Responsibilities

Hosts are responsible for their visitors from the time they arrive on campus until they depart. Hosts may be held accountable for policy violations committed by their visitors as outlined in the Enforcement and Administrative Authority section of this policy.

Hosts who knowingly permit an unauthorized or underage visitor into a residence hall may be subject to sanctions as outlined in the Enforcement and Administrative Authority section of this policy.

Hosts must:

1. Be currently enrolled at Lackawanna College.
2. Reside in College-operated housing.

Hosts are responsible for ensuring their visitors:

1. Remain with the host at all times.
2. Comply with all applicable College policies.
3. Access only the host's residence hall and room.

Visitor Eligibility and Responsibilities

Visitors may not be issued residence hall keys, College identification cards, or electronic access credentials.

Visitors must:

1. Be at least 18 years old. Visitors under the age of 18 are not permitted inside the residence halls.
 - a. Immediate family members under the age of 18 may visit only the residence hall lobby or other approved common areas, and are not permitted inside student rooms or for overnight stays.
2. Comply with all requirements of this policy and all applicable College policies.
3. Overnight visitors are also subject to all identification requirements outlined in the Visitor Registration and Check-In section of this policy.

Background Checks

Hosts and visitors may be subject to a background check at the discretion of the College. In addition, the College reserves the right to conduct a background check on any visitor or current

Lackawanna College student when necessary to investigate alleged policy violations or when there are reasonable concerns regarding the safety or security of the residential community.

General Visitation Hours

Sunday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Friday and Saturday: 24-hour visitation (or 2 a.m. for non-overnight visits)

On evenings before a College-closed holiday, visitation hours will follow the weekend schedule.

Restrictions

Students approved to remain in College housing during official College break closures are not permitted to host daytime or overnight visitors for the duration of the break.

Overnight Visitor Eligibility and Requirements

Overnight visitors are permitted:

1. On Friday and Saturday nights.
2. On evenings before a College-closed holiday, when classes are not scheduled the following day.

Overnight visitors and their hosts must follow all requirements listed below in the [Overnight Visitor Approval Requirements](#) section.

Overnight visitors are not permitted:

1. On evenings before classes resume following any College-closed holiday.
2. During residence hall move-in or move-out periods.
3. During final examination week.
4. During Thanksgiving break, Winter Break, Spring Break, or Summer Recess.
5. During any period in which Residence Life and Housing suspends visitation due to operational, safety, or security concerns.

Hosts may only host one overnight visitor at a time.

Visitors may stay for a maximum of two consecutive nights per visit, and a maximum of four nights per calendar month.

Overnight Visitor Approval Requirements

All current Lackawanna College students may sign in for overnight visits without obtaining advance approval.

Visitors who are not current Lackawanna College students must complete the Overnight Visitor Registration Form located on the Lackawanna College Portal a minimum of one (1) week prior to the requested overnight visit. Approval is granted by Residence Life and is not guaranteed.

The host is responsible for ensuring that all required visitor documentation has been completed and approved prior to the visitor's arrival.

Upon arrival, overnight visitors must comply with all check-in procedures outlined in the [Visitor Registration and Check-In](#) section before entering the residence hall.

Roommate consent is required for all overnight visitors. Consent may be withdrawn at any time. If consent is withdrawn, the visitor must leave the residence hall immediately.

Visitor Registration and Check-In

All visitors must be registered by their host upon entering the residence hall. Visitors must report to the check-in desk located in the residence hall's lobby. If no Residence Life staff member is available, the host must contact Public Safety at (570) 241-2022 prior to allowing the visitor to enter the building.

All visitors must:

1. Present a valid government-issued photo identification upon request.
2. Sign in when entering the residence hall and sign out when leaving.
3. Complete any required visitor documentation upon arrival.
4. Remain with their host while inside the residence hall unless otherwise authorized by Residence Life or Public Safety.

Violations of visitor check-in procedures may result in sanctions as outlined in the [Enforcement and Administrative Authority](#) section of this policy.

Removal of Visitors and Revocation of Visitation Privileges

Residence Life and/or Public Safety reserve the right to deny entry, require a visitor to leave campus immediately, or revoke visitation privileges when a visitor:

1. Commits a policy violation.

2. Fails to comply with Residence Life or Public Safety staff directives.
3. Provides false or misleading information.
4. Creates a disruption within the residence halls.
5. Poses a threat to the safety, security, or well-being of the campus community.

Visitors whose visitation privileges have been revoked or who have been issued a trespass notice are prohibited from entering any Lackawanna College residence hall unless prior written approval has been granted by Residence Life.

Prospective Student Exception

The overnight guest policy outlined in this handbook applies to student-hosted guests. The College may authorize overnight stays for prospective students participating in official campus visits or recruitment programs, including but not limited to athletic recruitment, under separate institutional procedures. These visits must be approved in advance by the appropriate college department and comply with all applicable supervision and risk management requirements.

Enforcement and Administrative Authority

Violations of this policy may result in removal of a visitor from campus, revocation of visitation privileges, referral through the Student Accountability and Restorative Practices (SARP) process, or other sanctions deemed appropriate by the College.

Residence Life reserves the right to modify visitation hours, limit visitation, suspend visitation privileges, or revoke visitation privileges at any time due to operational, safety, security, or community welfare concerns.

Students who host visitors in violation of this policy may be referred through the Student Accountability and Restorative Practices (SARP) process and may lose future visitation privileges.

Peer Mentor Award

Residence Life and Housing presents the Peer Mentor Award to a student from each residence hall who demonstrates dedication and commitment to being a model resident student, excelling in and out of the classroom. This recognition is awarded annually at Lackawanna Colleges Honors Convocation.



Lackawanna COLLEGE

