

Student Handbook

Campus Demonstrations

The right of peaceful demonstration for protest is granted within the institutional community. The institution retains the right to assure the safety of individuals, the protection of property, and the continuity of the educational process.

Orderly demonstrations and other forms of peaceful protest are permitted on institutional premises under the following guidelines and procedures:

- Each campus organization participating in a demonstration must file a Student Activities Request form in the Office of the Dean of Student Services as well as send a copy to the Chief Academic Officer at the appropriate campus of the College for all demonstrations at least 96 hours in advance of the demonstration.
- Only organizations recognized by the College may sponsor demonstrations on College property.
- Demonstrations are not permitted inside buildings. Outside demonstrations shall not interfere with entrance traffic or the normal flow of pedestrian/vehicular traffic.
- Precise boundaries and number of those demonstrating will be set by agreement among College administration, organizations involved, and those in charge of any building specifically involved.
- Lack of substantial compliance with these rules and regulations or failure to register may result in withdrawal of the recognition of the organization by the College.
- All assemblies or demonstrations on the campus must have prior registration with the Office of the Dean of Student Services and of Campus Security and be authorized by the Office of the President.

To prevent misunderstandings, the State Board has issued the following clarification:

- When an assembly on campus of students and/or College employees not authorized by the College has been requested to disband by the President or other designated officer, those refusing to comply will be subject to immediate suspension and/or dismissal and legal action.
- In the event that an assembly appears to be a demonstration related to a grievance, those present should be advised that orderly procedures for the hearing of grievances are available and must be adhered to. College officials will not negotiate with such groups under conditions of duress such as unauthorized occupation of College property.
- Any unauthorized occupation of College buildings and/or property constitutes cause for dismissal of students or College employees who may be involved. Furthermore, legal action will be brought against any student or College employee involved in acts on community college property that are prohibited by law.

- Any person currently not a student or College employee is not allowed to participate in demonstrations on campus.

Non-Academic Complaint

A non-academic complaint is any difference of opinion or dispute between a student and an instructor, administrator, staff member or another GCC student pertaining to the interpretation and/or application of the policies and procedures of the College and the Virginia Community College System excluding issues of instruction and classroom management. Non-academic grievances shall also include those pertaining to student governance issues, student activities, arbitrary and capricious management decisions, advising, and other concerns that the students might present for redress.

A student who is experiencing dissatisfaction in a nonacademic matter at the College must first discuss the complaint with the College official involved.

Every reasonable effort must be made by both parties to resolve the matter through informal discussion. After this informal discussion, students who continue to feel they have a valid non-academic complaint must report this complaint to the Dean of Student Services.

The Dean will work with all parties involved to mediate the complaint in a timely manner. In order to mediate the complaint, the Dean may engage faculty or staff members relevant to the complaint in an informal discussion. The decision of the Dean regarding non-academic complaints is final.

Student Academic Grievance Procedure

The purpose of the student grievance procedure is to provide an equitable and orderly process to resolve grievances at Germanna Community College.

A student who is experiencing dis-satisfaction in an academic matter at the College must first discuss the complaint with the instructor involved. Every reasonable effort should be made by both parties to resolve the matter through informal discussion.

After this informal discussion, students who continue to feel they have a valid complaint of unfair treatment may resolve their complaints through the formal Student Academic Grievance procedure outlined herein. The procedure provides for an expeditious and fair resolution of the complaint while protecting the student and College from a prolonged and complicated process.

Germanna Community College endorses and complies with all federal and State laws and policies which maintain and promote equal employment and educational opportunities without regard to race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, political affiliation, veteran status, or disability.

Definitions:

Student: Any person enrolled full- or part-time in credit or noncredit courses at Germanna Community College.