

# *Student Rights and Responsibilities*

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## **To Take Stands on Issues**

Students have the right to take stands on issues, examine and discuss questions of interest to them, and support causes by orderly means which maintain the regular and essential campus operation.

## **To Invite and Hear Speakers**

Recognized student organizations can invite and hear any persons of their choice to listen to their ideas and opinions. Scheduling such events is done through the Office of the Institutional Dean of Students or the Campus Director at least ten days before the speaker appears. The Office of the Institutional Dean of Students or Campus Director approves the time, location, place, and manner of presentation. However, the college President has final responsibility for campus events and activities, and he, or his authorized designee, may affirm or cancel a speaker's presentation or appearance when it can be shown that the proposed speaker will constitute a clear and present danger to the continued operation of the College.

## **To Have Their Records Kept Confidential**

Georgia Military College, in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of the 1974 "Buckley Amendment," releases no personal information restricted by that Act without the student's written consent. This Act prohibits college officials from disclosing any records, or any other grade reports, academic standings, transcripts of records, or any other records, files, documents, and materials in whatever medium, which contain information directly related to the student and from which the student can be individually identified. Authorization requests for access by anyone to student records covered by this Act must be written and addressed to the GMC Senior Vice President, Chief Academic Officer and Dean of Faculty, or Campus Director.

## **To Participate in Institutional Decision-Making**

Students have a collective right to participate in the making of institutional policy that generally affects their well-being. However, this right is subject to the supervening responsibility of the Administration to ensure adequate protection for the vital interests and policies of the institution.

## **To Due Process**

Students have the right to due process when accused of violating any campus rule, regulation, or the Student Code of Conduct. The jurisdiction of disciplinary bodies, the disciplinary responsibilities of institutional officials, and disciplinary procedures shall be clearly formulated and published. In all cases, the student is informed of the nature of the charges against him and guaranteed the right of appeal in cases of suspension or expulsion. There may be circumstances that could result in involuntary separation from the college but not be the result of violations of campus regulations or breaches of the Code of Conduct. The student shall have the same rights to due process as those described for violations of campus regulations.

## **Against Prejudiced Academic Evaluation**

Students have the right to protection against prejudiced academic evaluation. At the same time, students are responsible for maintaining the standards of academic performance established by the faculty for each course in which they are enrolled. Professors are responsible for advising students on course expectations and criteria for

grades. They should be available for conferences with individual students who seek counsel and advice regarding their progress in the course. Any student who believes that their academic rights have been violated may seek redress by the following procedures, in the order stated:

1. If at all possible, the student should first consult and work with the particular instructor involved;
2. If the student cannot obtain satisfactory results from such a conference, they should then file a complaint in writing with the chairperson of the department in which the alleged violation occurred. If the department chairperson and the instructor are the same, the complaint shall be directed to the campus Senior Department Chair;
3. If the student is dissatisfied with these results and has not done so, he or she may write a complaint to the Vice President for Faculty Affairs & Academic Success. At the discretion of the Vice President for Faculty Affairs & Academic Success, the student may petition, in writing, that the Academic Standards Committee review their complaint.

## **To Publish Student Publications**

Individual students and recognized campus organizations have the right to publish and distribute written material, provided the student's name and organization identify the material. In addition, the printed material must meet college regulations and not present a clear and present danger to the educational process or orderly operation of the college. Student publications are guaranteed the rights inherent in the freedom of the press.

The faculty Graduation Coach responsible for each publication is charged with protecting those rights and establishing and enforcing responsible journalism standards, including the avoidance of libel, indecency, undocumented allegations, attacks on personal integrity, and the techniques of harassment and innuendo.

## **To Serve as a Juror without Penalty**

It is a student's civic responsibility to serve as a juror. It is a legal obligation to serve as a juror when summoned. Georgia Military College encourages students to exercise their civic responsibilities. The college cooperates with its students who have legal commitments. When a student receives a summons to serve as a juror, they should inform their instructors and begin to plan for making up work missed while serving as a juror.

The instructors will not penalize the student for jury service absences and will assist the student in making up missed class work. It is the student's responsibility to initiate action to make up the class work missed.

**Student Medical Withdrawals** – See the College Catalog.