



Consumer Information Handbook 2025-2026

Northwest State Community College

22600 State Route 34

Archbold, OH 43502

(Phone) 419-267-1333

(Fax) 419-267-5587

finaid@northweststate.edu

The Higher Education Opportunity Act requires institutions participating in federally funded financial aid programs to make information about the institution available to the public, current and prospective students, current and prospective student loan borrowers, and current employees. Northwest State Community College is committed to the principle of promoting access to information that will allow consumers to make informed decisions about post-secondary education.

You are entitled to a paper copy of any of the information contained in this handbook. Please contact the Financial Aid Office by calling 419-267-1333 or email finaid@northweststate.edu to request a paper copy.

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WELCOME! The Northwest State Community College (NSCC) faculty and staff are pleased to have you as a student and will do our best to help make your college experience here as enjoyable and successful as you wish to make it. To help provide a safe and productive learning environment for all, we publish this handbook annually to explain students' rights, responsibilities, and consequences for misbehavior. Our staff is committed to helping you meet the challenges of today and to better prepare you for the workforce tomorrow. This handbook is meant to be a helpful guide for you. The rules and regulations outlines are not intended as means of restricting your rights and freedoms, but to make you aware that rights and freedoms have responsibilities and must be used with good sense and reason. All students are expected to become knowledgeable of the contents of this handbook. By doing so, you will assure yourself of an excellent chance of success.



ABOUT NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Northwest State Community College was founded when the Ohio Board of Regents approved the formation of Four County Technical Institute in 1968. The College offered its first classes one year later. In 1972, the College moved to its current location and was renamed Northwest Technical College.

In 1994, Northwest State officially became a community college. This enabled the College to offer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science programs that could easily transfer into a four-year degree program at partnering colleges.

Since that time, the Northwest State campus has continued to grow. Today, the College offers classes at the main campus in Archbold, Ohio, as well as various satellite locations.

GEOGRAPHY OF NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Northwest State is located in a rural section of Henry County, Ohio.

The full campus is situated in six buildings that are all connected. There are four main parking areas. The faculty and staff parking areas are located to the east side of Building A. All of the parking areas are unfenced.

A floor plan map of the Archbold campus buildings is annotated with fire alarm pull stations, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, hazardous materials storage, AED, evacu trac and utility shutoffs. The floor plan

is available in the Campus Police Department Office (located in A191). Maintenance and custodial staff are required to know these locations as well as how to operate the utility shutoffs.

Northwest State offers classes at various satellite locations that include the following:

Van Wert:

NSCC is excited to be renovating space at 520 E. Sycamore Street in Van Wert, Ohio where a second campus will offer select 2-year Associate Degrees and Short Term Certificates. To learn more visit <https://northweststate.edu/vanwert>

IBEW/ IRO Sites

NSCC is a proud partner of the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC), offering apprenticeship training in the electrical fields at locations throughout Ohio. Students must be accepted into the program and can apply apprenticeship credits toward completion of an associate's degree.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| NSCC at Akron Area Electrical JATC 2650 S. Main St., Suite 100 Akron, OH 44319 | NSCC at Canton Electrical JATC 3855 Wales Ave. NW Massillon, OH 44646 | NSCC at Cincinnati Electrical JATC 5455 Glenway Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45238 |
| NSCC at Cleveland Electrical 9333 Sweet Valley Drive Valley View, OH 44125 | NSCC at Dayton Electrical JATC 6550 Poe Ave Dayton, OH 45414 | NSCC at Hamilton Electrical JATC 4300 Milikin Rd Hamilton, OH 45011 |
| NSCC at Lima Area Electrical JATC 2285 N. Cole St Lima, OH 45801 | NSCC at Lorain County Electrical JATC 2235 W. Park Drive Lorain, OH 44053 | NSCC at Marietta Electrical JATC 27754 State Route 7 Marietta, OH 45750 |
| NSCC at Newark JATC 450 S 22 nd St Heath, OH 43056 | NSCC at Portsmouth Electrical JATC 24 Gingersnap Rd Portsmouth, OH 45662 | NSCC at Toledo Electrical JATC 803 Lime City Rd Rossford, OH 43460 |
| NSCC Youngstown Electrical JATC 350 E. Western Reserve Rd Youngstown, OH 44514 | NSCC at Columbus Electrical Trade Center 947 Goodale BLVD Columbus OH 43212 | NSCC at Mansfield Area JATC 67 S Walnut St Mansfield, OH 44902 |
| NSCC Warren Electrical JATC 4550 Research Parkway Warren, OH 44483 | Canton Ironworkers 618 High Ave NW Canton OH 44703 | Cleveland Ironworkers 1544 E 23 rd ST Cleveland, OH 44114 |
| Dayton Ironworkers 4191 State Route 40 Tipp City, OH 45371 | Toledo Ironworkers Local 55 Training Center 1078 Atlantic Ave Toledo, OH 43609 | |

MISSION STATEMENT

To serve by providing access to excellent and affordable education, training, and services that will improve the lives of individuals and strengthen communities.

VISION STATEMENT

Northwest State Community College will be an innovative leader in education and training, a first-choice institution that empowers individuals and communities to achieve a sustainable quality of life.

VALUES

Integrity: We believe that honesty, respect, and accountability are the basis of building trust.

Learning: We believe that the acquisition and application of knowledge is the key to success, and to that end, we provide access to greater opportunities through education, training, and services.

People: We believe in the power of teamwork, bringing people of diverse backgrounds and communities together to excel.

ACCREDITATION, APPROVAL, and LICENSURE

Northwest State Community College takes pride in its accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission, and is a member of the North Central Association, 230 S. LaSalle Street., Suite 7-500, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 263-0456.

Professional approval and/or accreditations are given for quality programs. Many of the majors at Northwest State Community College have received this distinction.

The Human Services students who have successfully completed the major can apply for registration as a social worker assistant with the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage & Family Therapist Board, 77 South High Street, 24th Floor, Room 2468, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 466-0912.

The Ohio Department of Education has approved the Associate Educator Licensure Programs in Pre-Kindergarten and Educational Paraprofessional. Ohio Department of Education, 25 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4183, (877)-644-6338.

The Medical Assisting Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Medical Assisting Education Review Board of the American Association of Medical Assistants Endowment. CAAHEP 25400 U.S. Highway 19 North, Suite 158, Clearwater, FL 33763, (727) 210-2350.

The Associate Degree Nursing program is approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing, 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850 Atlanta, GA 30326, (404) 975-5000.

The Practical Nursing program is approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing, 17 S High St Suite 660, Columbus OH, 43215, (614) 466-3947.

The Business Technologies programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs, 11520 W. 119th Street, Overland Park, KS 66213, (913) 339-9356.

AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Northwest State Community College maintains memberships in national, regional, and local professional organizations including:

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing; Accreditation Council for Business Schools & Programs; American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers; American Association of Community Colleges; Association for Institutional Research; Association of Community College Trustees; Association of

Fundraising Professionals; Association of Title IX Administrators; Behavioral Health Professionals of Northwest Ohio; Black Swamp Safety Council; Council for Adult Experiential Learning; Center for Innovative Food Technology; College & University Professional Association for Human Resources; Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; Community Colleges for International Development, Inc.; Council for Advancement and Support of Education; Council for Higher Education; Council for Resource Development; Social Worker and Marriage Family Therapist Board; ECHHO, Inc.; Fulton County Economic Development Corporation; Higher Learning Commission; Kappa Beta Delta; League for Innovation in Community Colleges; Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education; National Association for Developmental Education; National Association of College and University Business Officers; National Association of Student Financial Aid Officers; National Council for Marketing and Public Relations; National League for Nursing; National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing; Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development Association; Ohio Association for College Admission Counseling; Ohio Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers; Ohio Association of Community Colleges; Ohio Coalition of Associate Degree Early Childhood Program; Ohio Coalition of Associate Degree Human Service Educators; Ohio Council of Associate Degree Nursing Education Administrators; Ohio Council of Chief Academic Officers; Ohio Council of Student Affairs Officers; Ohio League For Nursing; Ohio Two Year College Career Services Association; Paulding County Economic Development; Phi Theta Kappa; Sloan Consortium; Williams County Economic Development Corporation.

Chambers of Commerce Memberships:

Archbold, Bryan, Defiance, Delta, Montpelier, Napoleon/Henry County, Swanton, Van Wert, and Wauseon.

STUDENT COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

NSCC is committed to providing quality educational experiences for our learners. Should a problem or concern arise, students are encouraged to resolve the issue through proper channels or authority. Resolution of a problem, whether academic or administrative, including challenging a grade, may be resolved at any level of the institution's due process and grievance procedures located under Academic Policies and Procedures in the college catalog: <https://catalog.northweststate.edu/>

If you feel your grievance has not been resolved to your satisfaction, you may refer your complaint to the Ohio Department of Higher Education: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/students/complaints>. The ODHE complaint website offers information on how to file an Ohio complaint, what falls under the chancellor's jurisdiction, and more.

You may also file a complaint through our accreditation agency, the Higher Learning Commission. For more information on filing a complaint, please visit: <https://www.hlcommission.org/Student-Resources/complaints.html>

The Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle, Suite 7-500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1411
Telephone: 312.263.0456 or 800.621.7440
Fax: 312.263.7462
Email: complaints@hlcommission.org
Website: www.hlcommission.org

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FINANCIAL AID

Northwest State Community College Financial Aid Office Staff are committed to removing financial barriers for those who wish to pursue postsecondary education. Our contact information is as follows:

Northwest State Community College
Attn: Financial Aid Office
22600 State Route 34
Archbold, OH 43502
Phone: 419-267-1333
Fax: 419-267-5587
Email: finaid@northweststate.edu
Federal School Code: 008677

Financial Aid Staff:

Director of Financial Aid: Ashlynn Cox
Associate Director of Financial Aid: Melissa Durham
Financial Aid Counselor: Jessica Thome
Financial Aid Counselor: Adriana Lopez

INSTITUTIONAL AFFIRMATIVE ACTION / DISABILITY POLICIES

Northwest State Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, disability, religion or age in its programs or activities.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Kathryn McKelvey, Vice President of Human Resources
22600 State Route 34
Archbold, Ohio 43502
419.267.1327
kmckelvey@NorthwestState.edu

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the Office for Civil Rights website (<https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/index.html>). The Ohio OCR office is located at:

Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
233 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 240
Chicago, IL 60601
Customer Response Center: (800) 368-1019
Fax: (202) 619-3818
TDD: (800) 537-7697
Email: ocrmail@hhs.gov

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

If you like having options, you will fit right in at Northwest State. As you begin to explore your career options, you will have nearly 70 degree and certificate programs to choose from – and that number continues to grow.

| | | | | |
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| Arts and Sciences | Human Resource Management | Real Estate Certificate | CAD/CAM | Industrial Technologies |
| Associate of Arts | Human Services | Nursing & Allied Health | CAM Certificate | Industrial Welding Certificate |
| Associate of Science | Law Enforcement Academy Certificate | LPN to RN Advanced Standing Program | CNC Operations Certificate | IT Specialist Certificate |
| Ohio Transfer 36 | Law Enforcement | Medical Assisting | Computer Aided Design Certificate | Machining Certificate |
| Visual Communications – Graphic Design | Logistics & Supply Chain Management | Phlebotomy Technician Certificate | Computer Programming | Maintenance Technician/Mechatronics |
| Business & Public Services | Logistics & Supply Chain Management Certificate | Practical Nursing | Computer Science Engineering Technology | Manufacturing Foundations Certificate |
| Accounting | Marketing | Registered Nursing | Computer Technician Certificate | Mechanical Engineering Technology |
| Accounting Assistant Certificate | Marketing Certificate | Northwest Ohio Allied Health Education Consortiums | CyberSecurity Certificate | Millwright Certificate |
| Agribusiness | Medical Coding and Billing | Health Information Technician | CyberSecurity & Network Administration | Mechanical Engineering Technology - Plastics |
| Agronomy | Medical Support | Medical Laboratory Technician | Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology | Plastics Manufacturing Certificate |
| Banking & Finance | Office Administration | Occupational Therapy Assistant | Electrical Engineering Technology | Programmable Controller (PLC) Certificate |
| Business Management | Office Assistant Certificate | Radiographic Imaging | HVAC-R (Climate Control) Certificate | Project Management Technology |
| Criminal Justice | Office Management | Respiratory Care | Industrial Automation Maintenance Certificate | Technical Studies & Individualized Studies |
| Entrepreneurship | Paraprofessional Education | STEM & Industrial Technology | Industrial Electrical Certificate | Associate of Individualized Studies |
| Entrepreneurship Certificate | Pre-Kindergarten | Automation Certificate | Industrial Maintenance Certificate | Associate of Technical Studies |
| *program availability is subject to change, please see the college website for current program information | | | | |



As a college, we work closely with area businesses and industries to determine what programs will lead to long-term careers in Northwest Ohio. What does this mean for you? Degrees and certificate options that will lead to jobs after graduation.

Each academic division at NSCC offers its own specialized listing of degree and certificate programs. Students who are unsure which course to follow can choose to declare an undecided major within a specific academic division, or they can follow the guidelines for general undecided students.

Gainful Employment

Generally, in order to be eligible for financial aid funding, an educational program must lead to a degree at a non-profit or public institution or it must prepare students for “gainful employment in a recognized occupation.” NSCC offers numerous one-year and short-term certificate programs that are considered gainful employment programs.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Northwest State welcomes students from all backgrounds and understands that not everyone learns the same way. The NSCC Accessibility Services Office is here to help students who need special assistance to meet their educational goals.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504, a student with a disability may obtain assistance to help achieve educational goals. For those who are eligible, the office assists with:

- Extended time to complete tests
- Providing test readers
- Identifying note takers
- Procuring auditory books
- Other services as needed

Please explore these services and more by visiting: <https://northweststate.edu/accessibility-services>

JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE

The Career Services Office offers various services to help students with their career goals. Whether you are confident in the career path you have chosen, or you have some uncertainties about your major, we can help.

We specialize in career development, the process of helping you identify, plan for and achieve your career goals. This is achieved by offering information, advice, training, and resources to help you select an educational path leading to a financially rewarding and personally satisfying career. These services are available to currently enrolled students and alumni. Career Services assists students in finding jobs while pursuing their degrees or upon completion

of a program. This includes assistance in planning their job search, resume development, and improving



interviewing skills. Career Services also assists employers who wish to post job opportunities for students and hosts the annual NSCC Job and Career Fair. To look into what jobs are currently in demand, check out the online job board offered through College Central Network along with the state Ohio Means Jobs webpage.

Visit Career Services on Northwest State's website for more information!

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Northwest State offers a wide variety of student activities and events. Please visit our Academic Calendar for a full list of important dates and campus activities: <https://northweststate.edu/events>.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The campus does close for major holidays and may operate under a different schedule during the summer and/or class breaks (winter break, spring break, between semesters). It may be beneficial to call 419.267.5511 before making a trip to campus.

The main Archbold campus regular hours of operation:

Building Hours

Monday – Thursday: 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Friday: 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Learner Services Office Hours

Monday – Tuesday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Wednesday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Admission to Northwest State Community College is open to any high school graduate or holder of a high school equivalency statement (GED). A final, official high school transcript or GED should be presented at the time of application. Some programs may have additional admission requirements including an application and appropriate GPA.

Unofficial transcripts:

- Have been opened by the student;
- Is not an original copy of the document (photocopy;

Official transcripts:

- Are sent directly to Northwest State Community College in a sealed envelope
- Include an official signature of the appropriate official at your institution

All incoming students with no prior college experience are required to take the ACCUPLACER Assessment, or submit ACT or SAT scores, for course placement prior to enrolling in college-level courses.

Students are not required to meet with an admissions recruiter before enrolling at NSCC, but you may find it helpful. A recruiter can suggest opportunities at the College, explain entrance requirements and answer any questions you may have about reaching your career goals. Students are encouraged to apply at least one semester prior to their intended start date.

Recruiter Compensation

Northwest State Community College does not provide any commission, bonus, or other incentive payment based in any part, directly or indirectly, upon success of securing enrollment or awarding federal financial aid, to any person or entity in any student recruitment or admissions activity or in making decisions regarding the award of Title IV financial aid funds.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Before Northwest State can process an international student's application for admission and issue an I-20, the following documents are necessary:

1. A completed Northwest State Community College application for admission.
2. A certified true copy of a student's complete secondary school record, translated into English.
3. A certified true copy of any college or university studies the student may have completed, translated into English and course evaluation. If you would like to request transfer credit for courses completed overseas, you must have transcripts evaluated by a professional evaluation company like www.WES.org. Only original, unopened evaluations will be accepted.
4. A photocopy of the student's VISA/PASSPORT and/or residency card and the I-94.
5. All international students wishing to transfer to NSCC from another U.S. institution must prove to be in good standing and have maintained a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.00 at the previous institution before acceptance to NSCC will be granted.
6. Proof of competency in English language usage – The student must have TOEFL PBT scores of 550 or higher, or TOEFL computer-based score of 173 or higher, or TOEFL iBT of 70 or higher. TOEFL scores should be submitted directly to the Admissions Office. ACCUPLACER and computer assessments are required once the student arrives at Northwest State.
7. A certified statement of financial stability by a banking institution official which gives proof of the student's assets from parents, relatives, guardians or the student. Proof of personal responsibility for the student must accompany the banking institution statement of financial stability. All financial statements must be converted into American dollars before submission to the College.
8. After the above has been completed, and if the student has been accepted by Northwest State Community College, a deposit of one year's tuition plus book allowance (\$13,610) must be sent to the college before an I-20 will be issued. An additional \$3,000 should be brought for spending money upon entering the United States.

The complete international student policy and required forms can be found online at <https://northweststate.edu/apply-now/> or in the Admissions Office.

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION

Federal law requires that males having reached the eligible age of eighteen years old must register with the Selective Service System. Failure to provide proof of Selective Service registration will result in an additional out-of-state surcharge for all future terms. This surcharge will be waived only if proof of a Selective Service registration is received prior to the beginning of the semester. Financial aid eligibility may be affected.

Registration for a Selective Service number can be completed in one of two ways:

1. Applications are available at any post office. Complete the necessary forms and follow the procedures as outlined on the application.
2. Register online at www.sss.gov. In many cases, the selective service number will be received instantly, instead of the 90 days it takes to complete the mail-in application procedure.

After applying for a number, eligible students should fill out a verification form in the Registrar's Office, and as soon as they receive their selective service number, submit it to the Registrar's Office for final documentation.

COURSE PLACEMENT (ACCUPLACER/ ACT/SAT)

Prior to registration, all degree or certificate seeking students should be evaluated or show evidence of successful completion of college-level coursework in math, reading and English through ACT/SAT scores or the ACCUPLACER Assessment. An appointment is required for the ACCUPLACER Assessment. Contact the Admissions Office at (419) 267-1320 or go online to <https://northweststate.edu/accuplacer> to schedule an assessment.

Students who receive a score of 8 or higher on the WritePlacer portion of the ACCUPLACER Assessment may choose to submit a writing sample to qualify for placement into ENG112- Composition II. The writing sample will be reviewed by full-time faculty members in the English department. If approved, the testing coordinator will notify the student of the following placement options available to them:

- Take ENG111 and ENG112, or
- Take ENG112 and another writing intensive ENG course. The second writing course will be substituted for ENG111, but cannot be used to meet a Humanities requirement. The approved list of writing courses is maintained by the Dean of Arts & Sciences.

ACCUPLACER ASSESSMENT RETESTING

1. Students may have one retest using either an alternate form of the ACCUPLACER Assessment or a Departmental Proficiency Test (but not both). College Credit Plus students may have one free retest per year.
2. Placement test results are valid for three years. After three years, retesting is recommended and the fee is waived.
3. Students may choose to retake the entire ACCUPLACER Assessment or choose specific sub-tests for retesting.

COLLEGE MATH PROFICIENCY POLICY

All associate degree programs offered at Northwest State Community College require completion of a college-level mathematics course (i.e., not developmental or remedial). All one-year certificate programs offered at Northwest State Community College require graduates to demonstrate a minimum math proficiency at the level of MTH080 - Review of Beginning Algebra. Proficiency can be demonstrated on the placement test at the time of entry, by passing a proficiency test, by successfully passing the course MTH080 or MTH085, or by being a recent high school graduate (within the last six years) and have taken two (2) or more high school algebra courses (not including any pre-algebra or geometry courses) with grades of "C" or better in each semester.

STUDENT ORIENTATION ADVISING AND REGISTRATION

Orientation is a required program for new certificate or degree seeking students at Northwest State Community College. Orientation is an online program that is completed prior to registering for classes the

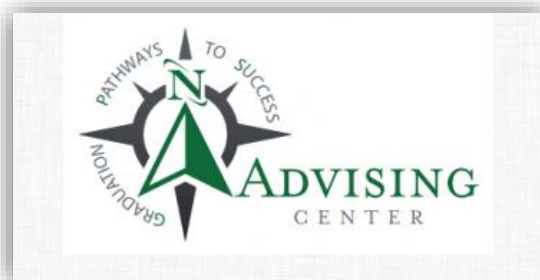
first semester. For questions about orientation please call (419) 267-1320 or email admissions@NorthwestState.edu.

ADVISING CENTER

Academic and faculty advisors are here to help you navigate academic programs and resources at NSCC.

Advisors specialize in serving students by:

- ✓ Develop a pathway to graduation that fits with your lifestyle and work schedule
- ✓ Review program requirements and course recommendations
- ✓ Listen to student concerns and provide direction to resources
- ✓ Provide a connection to transfer & career options



There are two types of advisors:

Academic advisors

Academic advisors assist students in the first 15 credit hours of the degree or certificate program. An academic plan will be developed using DegreeWorks. DegreeWorks is a web-based planning tool to help students and advisors monitor student's progress toward degree completion. DegreeWorks provides a more accessible way for students to know where they are academically and how they can plan the rest of their college careers. The academic advisor will also walk the student through myNSCC to register for classes. myNSCC is a campus web portal that provides students with centralized access to campus resources.

Faculty advisors

Faculty advisors assist students that are beyond 15 credit hours in the degree or certificate program. Faculty advisors provide advice and support for program specific topics, such as transfer options and career paths within the discipline.

CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

Applicants for admission to the College may elect one of the following student classifications:

Certificate Seeking Student

A student who has indicated, at the time of application, the intent to study toward a short-term or one-year certificate program and who has fulfilled all admission requirements.

Degree Seeking Student

A student who has indicated, at the time of application, the intent to study toward an associate degree and who has fulfilled all admission requirements.

Early Admit Student

A high school student who has been recommended by his/her guidance counselor or principal to take college courses for credit.

College Credit Plus Student

The State of Ohio allows area students attending public school (must reside in Ohio) to enroll in college-level coursework prior to graduation from high school under the College Credit Plus Program. Students in grades 7-12 who test into college level coursework with their ACT or ACCUPLACER scores may enroll in college classes concurrently with secondary school enrollment. This program allows qualified students to earn college credit, or both high school and college credit. Secondary grade students in a nonpublic school or home-instructed may participate in the College Credit Plus program if the chief administrator of such the non-public school or the parent notifies the Ohio Department of Education by the first day of April prior to the school year in which the school's students will participate.

The student enrolling in College Credit Plus is not responsible for paying tuition, fees or textbook charges. Students may enroll in any semester including summer, for a maximum of 30 credits per academic year. Students exceeding the 30 credit hour limit will have the option to self-pay.

Guest/Transient Student

A student who is attending another institution of higher education and enters NSCC for specific courses which have been approved in writing by the other institution's vice president or registrar.

International Student

A student from another country who has met the requirements of the Student & Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) as well as the requirements of NSCC. An international student must meet with an admissions representative before being admitted.

Non-Degree Student

A student who has indicated, at the time of application, the intent to pursue selected courses (i.e. personal enrichment).

Transfer Student

Either a "degree" or "non-degree" student who has indicated, at the time of application, the interest to transfer selected general studies courses or a full degree program to a four-year bachelor's degree program.

TRANSFER OF CREDITS

State of Ohio Policy for Institutional Transfer

The Ohio Board of Regents, following the directive of the Ohio General Assembly, developed a statewide policy to facilitate students' ability to transfer credits from one Ohio public college or university to another in order to avoid duplication of course requirements. Since independent colleges or universities in Ohio may or may not be participating in the transfer policy, students interested in transferring to independent institutions are encouraged to check with the college or university of their choice regarding transfer agreements. For additional information, please visit www.transferology.com.

The University Center hosts several four-year institutions every month. Representatives are available for one-on-one advising for students interested in transferring to their institution. The schedule is available on the plasma screen near C150C

Transfer to NSCC

- You are not required to meet with an admissions recruiter before you enroll at NSCC, but you may find it helpful. An admissions recruiter can suggest opportunities at the College you may not know about, can explain entrance requirements of the various programs, and can answer questions about how NSCC will help you reach your career goals. NSCC Admissions can be reached at 419.267.1320.
- Complete the NSCC admissions application and select a major.
- Send official transcripts from institution(s) you have attended previously to: Northwest State Community College, Attention: Registrar's Office, 22600 State Route 34, Archbold, OH 43502
*Any transcripts that are not sent officially from the previous institution directly to NSCC will not be accepted.
- Once the NSCC Registrar's office receives your official transcript(s), it will be evaluated and any applicable credit will be recorded on your NSCC transcript. You will receive an e-mail notification stating that an update to your transcript has been made.
- Once this process has been completed, you will be able to schedule an advising appointment with the academic advisor for your program.

Additional Information for Students Transferring Credits to NSCC:

Transfer credit will be allowed for any previous courses in which a "D" or better grade was earned from a U.S. or Canadian regionally accredited institution of higher learning, unless NSCC has a specific requirement for a "C" in a specific course. International students may receive credit for coursework taken at foreign institutions of higher learning by:

1. Providing a credential evaluation report from a credential evaluation service of the student's choice (i.e. Educational Credential Evaluation, Inc. – 414.289.3400, World Education Services – (312) 222-0882, Josef Silney & Associates – (305) 273-1616. etc), or
2. A student may choose in lieu of providing a credential evaluation report (officially translated transcript), to take proficiency examinations for any applicable coursework according to the College's proficiency examinations (credit by examination) policy.

Credits transferred to NSCC will apply toward graduation only if they satisfy requirements for a particular major. Transfer credit not required by a particular major may be counted as additional hours completed. Transfer credit may be awarded for courses in which a student received credit through a proficiency exam taken at another regionally accredited institution. Such credit will be given only if the transcript clearly indicates that credit was granted for the course at another institution. If the transcript simply indicates that a proficiency exam was taken but credit was not given for the course, Northwest State will not accept the proficiency as transfer credit. Students may receive credit for courses taken at non-accredited institutions by successfully passing a proficiency examination, if one is available. In order to be eligible for the associate degree at the College, at least thirty percent of the credits must have been earned at Northwest State Community College.

Transfer Module, Transfer Assurance Guides, and Military Transfer Assurance Guides

The Ohio Department of Education's Transfer and Articulation Policy established the Transfer Module, which is a subset or entire set of a college or university's general education program. The Transfer Module consists of 54 to 60 quarter hours or 36 to 40 semester hours of courses in the following areas: English, Mathematics, Arts and Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Natural and Physical Sciences, and Interdisciplinary Study.

A Transfer Module completed at one college or university will automatically meet the requirements of the Transfer Module at another college or university once the student is admitted. Students may be required, however, to meet additional general education requirements at the institution to which they transfer. For example, a student who completes the Transfer Module at Institution S (sending institution) and then transfers to Institution R (receiving institution) is said to have completed the Transfer Module portion of Institution R's general education program. Institution R, however, may require additional general education courses beyond the Transfer Module.

Since many receiving institutions require general education courses within or beyond the Transfer Module, students are encouraged early in their academic careers to meet with an academic advisor at the institution to which they plan to transfer. The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) has also approved Transfer Assurance Guides (TAGs) for several academic majors. Each TAG identifies courses that are required for particular areas of study (for example, Biology, Education, and History four-year degrees). Students completing TAG-approved coursework will receive transfer credit at Ohio institutions that fulfill partial degree requirements for these majors. For more information on TAGs for specific fields of study, see the ODHE website at www.ohiohighered.org.

Military Transfer Assurance Guide (MTAGs)

The University System of Ohio is committed to the acceptance and awarding of college credit for training and experience in the United States Armed Forces or National Guard, as long as it has been approved by the American Council on Education or a regional accrediting body, such as the Higher Learning Commission. More information can be found on the University System of Ohio website.

Acceptance of Transfer Credit

Students who have completed the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science Degree with a cumulative grade point of 2.0 or better will receive transfer credit for all college-level courses in which a grade of "D" or better has been earned. Students who have not earned an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science Degree will receive transfer credit only for those college-level courses in which a grade of "C" or better has been earned.

Admission to a given institution, however, does not guarantee that a transfer student will automatically be admitted to all majors, minors or fields of concentration at the institution. Once admitted, transfer students shall be subject to the same regulations governing applicability of catalog requirements as all other students. Furthermore, transfer students shall be accorded the same class standing and other privileges as all students on the basis of the number of credits earned. All residency requirements must be successfully completed at the receiving institution prior to the granting of a degree.

Transfer Degrees

Through articulation agreements with four-year colleges and universities in the area, Northwest State Community College has developed transfer degrees/programs to provide students the opportunity to complete the first two years at Northwest State and then transfer to another college or university to complete the last two years of a baccalaureate degree. Bluffton College; Bowling Green State University; Defiance College; Franklin University; Lourdes College; and The University of Toledo are a few of the many options available to Northwest State Community College students. NSCC offers the Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science Degrees for undecided transfer students.

Many students have found that tuition and fees at Northwest State are less than those of four-year institutions. This, coupled with small classes and a low student-to-instructor ratio, makes NSCC an attractive

alternative for students wishing to obtain the first two years of a bachelor's degree.

MISREPRESENTATION

Academic Honesty

Students and faculty are expected to engage in their academic work with integrity and respect for others. Students are expected to submit academic work that reflects their own original thought and is their own. Any misrepresentation in academic work, including plagiarism, is a form of academic dishonesty.

Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- Plagiarism – representing the words or ideas of another person as your own without identifying the source.
- Using the exact words from a source, including cutting and pasting from a website, without both quotation marks to indicate the extent of the material borrowed and a citation of the original source.
- Paraphrasing or summarizing ideas from a source without proper citation. Submitting work written or created by another, whether such work is written by a friend, an author, or is downloaded from the internet.
- Quoting from an unacknowledged source during an oral presentation.
- Patching together a work using phrases and ideas borrowed from a number of different sources.
- Accepting assistance or collaborating with other students beyond what is explicitly permitted by the faculty.
- Cheating - The use of unauthorized or prohibited materials. Students, who intentionally use or attempt to use unauthorized information in any academic exercise, including computers or exams, are cheating.
- Cooperating with another person in academic dishonesty, such as, taking an exam for another student, having another student take an exam for you, or exchanging information with another student during or after an exam.
- Copying from or looking at another person's exam or allowing another student to copy your exam.
- Obtaining unauthorized copies of an exam prior to exam time.
- Intentionally falsifying information in an academic exercise or clinical/laboratory record.
- Unauthorized resubmission of coursework for more than one course.

Disciplinary Penalties for Academic Dishonesty

1. The faculty member who detects academic dishonesty and the Division Dean will handle the discipline. In the event the faculty member is the dean, the Vice President for Academics handles the discipline. Each action will be documented in writing and the faculty member will be notified.
2. For a first-time offense, a grade of "F" will be issued for the project, paper, test or whatever assignment in which academic dishonesty has occurred. A faculty member may have other penalties specified in the course syllabus. The faculty member will impose the grade.
3. For a second offense, not necessarily in the same course, a grade of "F" will be issued for the course in which academic dishonesty has occurred. The Vice President for Academics will inform the faculty member of the second offense, and the faculty member will impose the grade. The Vice President for Academics will inform the student.

4. For a third offense, not necessarily in the same course, a grade of “F” will be issued for the course in which academic dishonesty has occurred. Additionally, any student who has been involved in three (3) offenses, not necessarily in the same course or semester, will be dismissed from the College immediately for one (1) semester (excluding summer). Upon readmission to the College, any future offense will cause the student to be dismissed immediately with no right to readmission. The Vice President for Academics will be responsible for imposing dismissal.
5. The student may appeal any disciplinary action by following the steps of the grievance procedure.

Computer and Network Use Policy

Northwest State’s Computer and Network Use Policy can be found at: <http://northweststate.edu/wp-content/uploads/files/Chapter-13.-Information-Technology.pdf>

Copyright Infringement Policies and Sanctions

For more information, please see Academic Honesty policy

<https://catalog.northweststate.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=117&hl=grievance&returnto=search#academic-honesty>

COST OF ATTENDANCE

The cost of attendance (COA) is an estimate of what it costs the typical student to attend Northwest State Community College and is used to determine how much Financial Aid a student is eligible for. Your cost of attendance (COA) doesn’t just cover your college tuition; it considers your basic living expenses too. It is important for you to budget and make wise decisions regarding how to utilize the financial aid funds you receive. Students are not allowed to receive aid that exceeds their cost of attendance.

| 2025-2026 NSCC Financial Aid Cost of Attendance | | |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| | Full-Time In-State | Full-Time Out-of-State |
| Tuition | \$ 6,155 | \$ 11,957 |
| Fees | \$ 975 | \$ 975 |
| Books & Supplies | \$ 1,763 | \$ 1,763 |
| Transportation | \$ 2,400 | \$ 2,400 |
| Room & Board | \$ 9,548 | \$ 9,548 |
| Personal Expense | \$ 6,118 | \$ 6,118 |
| Total | \$ 26,959 | \$ 32,761 |

Tuition and Fees: The amount for tuition and fees is based on an average of tuition and fees for a full-time student (12-20 credit hours).

Room and Board: This includes a reasonable estimate of costs for rent, phone, and food. These amounts were based from the results of the College Boards 2023-2024 Low Budgets for Housing Expenses survey.

Books and Supplies: This is the average cost of books and supplies for a typical student for an entire academic year. Typically, this includes books, educational supplies, and course materials. The average costs were rounded in order to achieve the figures.

Transportation/Online: This represents the cost of travel to and from the college campus. Northwest State students travel, on average, 30 miles a day to come to school. We base the travel rate in accordance to the Ohio Mileage Rate each year.

Other Expenses: This is the estimate of costs for clothing, haircuts, entertainment and other miscellaneous expenses. These amounts were based from the results of the College Boards 2023-2024 Low Budget for Living Expenses survey.

STUDENT BODY DIVERSITY

Northwest State Community College Enrollment Breakdown by Gender and Ethnicity*

Total Enrollment

4,030

Ethnicity

US non Resident 0%

Race/ethnicity unknown 39%

Two or more races 1%

White 51%

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 0%

Hispanic 7%

Black or African American 2%

Asian 0%

American Indian or Alaska Native 0%

Gender

Male 35%

Female 65 %

Student Financial Aid of full-time, first-time, degree-seeking students**

Pell grants = 30%

Any student financial aid = 87%

*Based on Fall 2022 Enrollment IPEDS data

**Based on 2022-2023 Student Financial Aid IPEDS data

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The associate degree is awarded upon successful completion of any one of the two-year programs. A certificate is awarded upon the successful completion of any of the one-year certificate programs.

Students must:

- Successfully complete all required courses in their program. Certain majors require a “C” grade or better in certain courses to meet



graduation requirements. Each required course in which an “F” grade is received must be repeated.

- Attain a 2.0 grade point average in their technical courses. The cumulative technical point average (cumulative technical GPA) is obtained at the conclusion of each semester by dividing the number of credit points earned by the number of credit hours the student has attempted in technical courses only. Technical courses are designated by a “+” in front of the course number under each technology in this catalog.
- Maintain an accumulative grade point average of 2.0 in all courses.
- Completion of 30 percent of the credits from Northwest State Community College
- In addition, all associates degree graduates may be required to:
 - ✓ Complete a national normed test
 - ✓ Submit the required elements of a portfolio

Students are eligible to receive only one degree within a technology but may have more than one major. All majors listed on the student’s transcript. Diplomas are issued for each degree within a technology. Students applying for a certificate and associates degree within the same technology at the same time will be awarded the higher degree only. Students wishing to receive dual degree/ dual technologies must meet with their academic advisor to fulfill their program of study.

The graduation application is available in the Registrar’s Office and online. The petition is due by June 15 for fall graduates, and October 1 for spring and summer graduates. This ensures evaluation prior to the beginning of the respective term to better assist students in scheduling any remaining courses that are needed. Students who file for graduation are required to complete their academic requirements for graduation within the next subsequent academic year or the graduation process is deemed incomplete. Re-application would then be required once requirements for a certificate or degree are achieved.

Each graduate is expected to attend the graduation ceremony after the application for graduation has been approved. Students who are unable to attend the graduation ceremony should notify the College by contacting the Registrar’s Office at least two weeks prior to commencement.

Graduation with Honors

Any student graduating with a cumulative point average of 3.50 or higher will graduate with honors as follows:

3.50 – 3.74 Cum Laude
3.75 – 3.89 Magna Cum Laude
3.90 – 4.00 Summa Cum Laude

A notation of this honor will be placed on the student’s diploma and transcript. Graduates’ honors designations printed in the commencement program are based on fall semester calculations of all grades.

Completing a Second Major

When a student completes a second major at any time within the same technology area, the second major will be added to the transcript. Students must complete a graduation application if the second major is completed after the initial degree was awarded. A graduation petition is available on the registrar’s office webpage and in the office.

CAMPUS INFORMATION

College Navigator

The College Navigator is a free consumer information tool designed to help students, parents, high school counselors, and others get information about the costs associated with attending colleges and universities.

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=northwest+state+community+college&s=all&id=204440>

College Scorecard

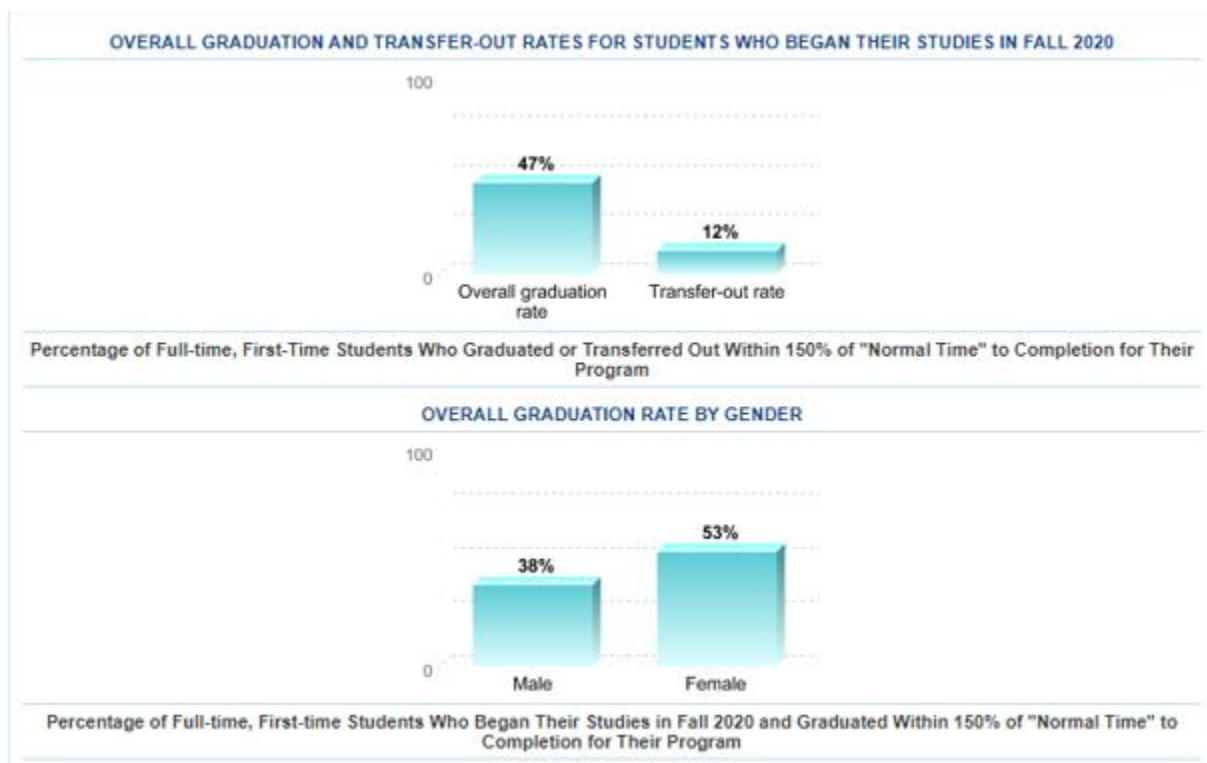
The College Scorecard (<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>) provides students and families with clear information through an interactive tool that lets them choose among any number options based on their individual needs – including location, size, campus setting, and degree/major programs.

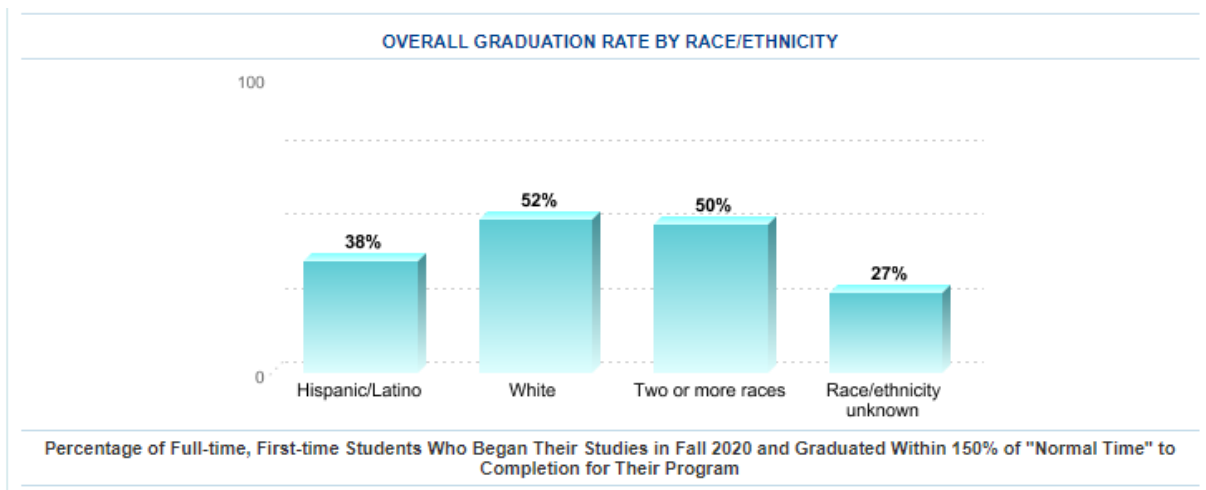
Graduation and Transfer Rates

According to College Navigator, the overall graduation rate is also known as the “Student Right to Know” or IPEDS graduation rate. It tracks the progress of students who began their studies as full-time, first-time degree or certificate seeking students to see if they complete a degree or other award such as a certificate within 150% of “normal time” for completing the program in which they are enrolled.

Some institutions also report a transfer-out rate, which is the percentage of the full-time, first-time students who transferred to another institution.

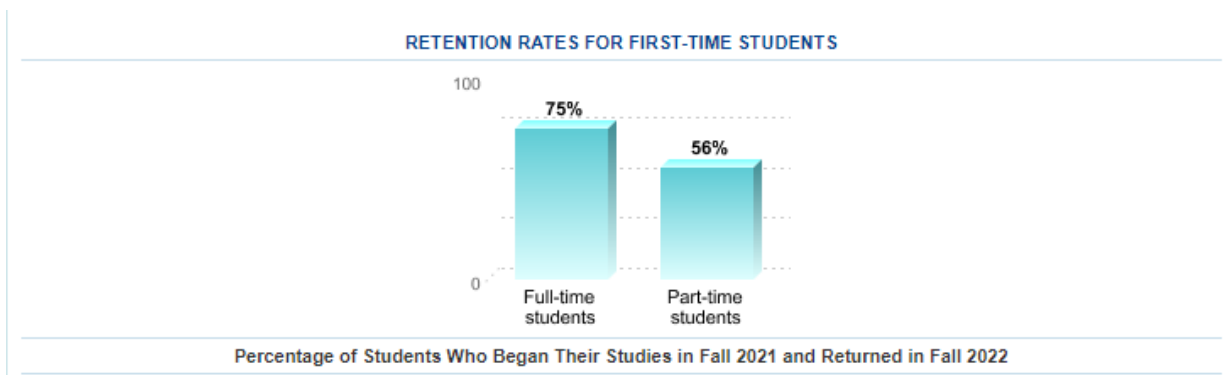
Note that not all students at the institution are tracked for these rates. Students who have already attended another postsecondary institution, or who began their studies on a part-time basis, are not tracked for this rate. **At this institution, 10 percent of entering students were counted as “full-time, first-time” in 2022.**





First-To-Second Year Retention Rates

Retention rates measure the percentage of first-time students who return to the institution to continue their studies the following fall:



* All the information from the Graduation and Retention Rates section came directly from the College Navigator website: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Northwest+State+Community+College&s=all&id=204440#retgrad>

Net Price Calculator

The Net Price Calculator is a tool to see an estimate of how much student's similar to you paid to attend Northwest State Community College. To calculate the estimated price, please visit <https://northweststate.edu/wp-content/uploads/calc/>.

Tuition and Fees

The value of a college education is priceless in today's world. At Northwest State, you can earn that college degree at a significantly lower cost than you would pay at a four-year college or university. For a full list of our tuition and fees, please visit: <https://northweststate.edu/tuition-fees>

Placement in Employment

Northwest State Community College Career Services Office provides programs and services that support the mission and the strategic plan of the College. We focus on career development needs to students as well as alumni.

Six months following graduation, a Graduate Survey is mailed to all graduates completing their program of study in August 2018, December 2018 and May 2019. To view the full report, visit <https://northweststate.edu/career-services>.

The purpose of the Graduate Survey is to gain information from each graduate regarding his or her post-graduation plans as related to employment, furthering education, and employment salaries.

Job Placement Rates

NSCC is not required to disclose because we do not advertise job placement rates for student recruitment.

Types of Graduate and Professional Education in which the College's Graduates Enroll

NSCC is not required to disclose because we do not have 4-year degree programs.

STUDENT LIFE & WELL-BEING

TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

TRIO-Student Support Services is a federally funded grant program through the Department of Education designed to help students stay connected on campus, find resources, cultivate skills for success, explore transfer opportunities, assist with applying for financial aid and scholarships, and more. Applicants must be a current NSCC student, a US citizen, or permanent resident, demonstrate an academic need, and have at least one of the following:



- You are a first-generation college student (neither parent/guardian has a bachelor's degree)
- You are income-eligible according to federal guidelines
- You utilize accessibility services on campus

Students can contact the TRIO-SSS office at 419-267-1339, email trioss@northweststate.edu, or stop in the office located inside the library.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Nothing rounds out a college education like getting involved in campus activities and events. Take advantage of networking opportunities and resume builders offered by numerous student groups on campus.

Hungry? Stop by the Café for a hot breakfast, hearty lunch, or a healthy salad.

Need a break from studying or homework? All current students and staff have access to fully-equipped fitness center. The fitness center is equipped with:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| • Peloton | • Shoulder/chest press |
| • Lat pull | • Leg curl |
| • Quad press | • Leg extension |
| • Hip station | • Ab crunch |
| • Trunk curl | • Free weights |
| • Cross trainer | • Smith machine |
| • Life cycles | • Stair master |
| • Treadmill | |

For more information about student activities at Northwest State Community College, contact Mike Jacobs at mjacobs@northweststate.edu.

Student Groups

There are many opportunities to get involved in a student group on campus. We currently have the following active student groups:

- Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society
- Active Minds
- Cru
- Dean's Leadership Group
- evMotorsports
- Kappa Beta Delta Honor Society
- Northwest State Cryptic Cyborgs
- NSCC Thunder
- Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
- SBO (Student Body Organization)



FACULTY

Northwest State's faculty and staff are committed to helping students attain skills that will advance them in their career or toward a four-year degree. For a full list of NSCC faculty, please visit:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kPSNKePt6fIQfLs4Xi2QklbmM_DpOABYhp0TDivszTQ/edit#gid=0.

TEXTBOOK INFORMATION

Detailed textbook and course material information is readily available for students to determine the cost for their course materials. Follow the steps below to find the International Standard Book Number (ISBN), retail price information, required and recommended textbooks, and supplemental materials for each course.

- Visit <https://northweststate.edu/events>
- Scroll down to the Course Schedule section
- Click on 'Online Schedule' located under the Course Schedule heading
- Select the appropriate term that you plan to enroll (summer, fall, or spring) and click 'Submit'
- Select the course subject matter then click 'Class Search'
- A full class schedule listing will display. You can view the course materials and textbook information by clicking on the '**Syllabus Available**' link under each course.

CONSTITUTION DAY

Constitution Day commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Visit our Constitution Day website: <https://northweststate.edu/constitution-day> to learn about more about annual Constitution Day events at NSCC, facts about the Constitution, and more.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Northwest Community College encourages all students to exercise their right to vote. Click on the state links below to access state election websites, which include voter guides, registration information and deadlines, absentee and early voting dates, provisional voting information, and polling place hours and locations.



| | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <u>Alabama</u> | <u>Georgia</u> | <u>Maryland</u> | <u>New Mexico</u> | <u>South Dakota</u> |
| <u>Alaska</u> | <u>Guam</u> | <u>Massachusetts</u> | <u>New York</u> | <u>Tennessee</u> |
| <u>American Samoa</u> | <u>Hawaii</u> | <u>Michigan</u> | <u>North Carolina</u> | <u>Texas</u> |
| <u>Arizona</u> | <u>Idaho</u> | <u>Minnesota</u> | <u>North Dakota</u> | <u>Utah</u> |
| <u>Arkansas</u> | <u>Illinois</u> | <u>Mississippi</u> | <u>Ohio</u> | <u>Vermont</u> |
| <u>California</u> | <u>Indiana</u> | <u>Missouri</u> | <u>Oklahoma</u> | <u>U.S. Virgin Islands</u> |
| <u>Colorado</u> | <u>Iowa</u> | <u>Montana</u> | <u>Oregon</u> | <u>Virginia</u> |
| <u>Connecticut</u> | <u>Kansas</u> | <u>Nebraska</u> | <u>Pennsylvania</u> | <u>Washington</u> |
| <u>Delaware</u> | <u>Kentucky</u> | <u>Nevada</u> | <u>Puerto Rico</u> | <u>West Virginia</u> |
| <u>District of Columbia</u> | <u>Louisiana</u> | <u>New Hampshire</u> | <u>Rhode Island</u> | <u>Wisconsin</u> |
| <u>Florida</u> | <u>Maine</u> | <u>New Jersey</u> | <u>South Carolina</u> | <u>Wyoming</u> |

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The code of student conduct exists to advance the core mission of the college, promote a safe and secure educational environment, foster the academic and social development of students, and protect the persons, property, processes and academic integrity of the college community. Although the code is intended to be as comprehensive as possible, it makes no attempt to list all activities, behavior or conduct which may adversely affect the college community.

In order to maintain an orderly process for learning, the instructor/supervisor/administrator has the authority to exclude any student who is considered to be detrimental to an ongoing learning experience. This may include dismissing a student from a particular course, workshop, or learning event. As a result of disruptive or detrimental behavior, a student may be subject to additional discipline under this policy including, but is not limited to disciplinary probation, suspension, dismissal, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, or other appropriate action.

The code applies to the on-campus conduct of all students and registered student organizations. The code also applies to the off-campus conduct of students and student organizations in direct connection with:

- a. A class assignment;

- b. Academic course requirements or any credit-bearing experiences, such as clinical experiences, externships, internships, field trips, study abroad or student teaching;
- c. Any activity supporting pursuit of a degree;
- d. Activities sanctioned, sponsored, conducted or authorized by the College or by registered student organizations;
- e. Any activity that causes substantial destruction of property belonging to the college or members of the college community or causes serious harm to the health or safety of members of the College community; or
- f. Any activity in which a police report has been filed, a summons or indictment has been issued or an arrest has occurred for a crime of violence.

All persons are encouraged to report code violations to a College official as soon as possible. Charges must be filed within sixty days of the incident or of the identification of the person having allegedly committed the violation. Students continue to be subject to city, state and federal laws while at the college. Violations of city county, state and/or federal laws may also constitute violations of the code. The college reserves the right to proceed with disciplinary action under the code, independently of any criminal proceedings and impose sanctions for code violation, whether or not the criminal proceedings are resolved or is resolved in the student's favor.

Any student found to have engaged, or attempted to engage, in any of the following conduct while within the College's jurisdiction will be subject to disciplinary action by the college. Prohibited Conduct may include but is not limited to academic misconduct, endangering health or safety of others, sexual misconduct, destruction of property, possession of dangerous weapons, dishonest conduct, theft, failure to comply with College authority, use or possession of drugs or alcohol, unauthorized presence, disorderly or disruptive conduct, hazing, abuse of discipline proceedings, misuse of computing resources, violation of college rules, and riotous behavior.

Prohibited conduct - any student found to have engaged, or attempted to engage, in any of the following conduct while within the college's jurisdiction will be subject to disciplinary action by the college.

A complete copy of the policy with definitions and procedural guidelines can be obtained from the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FINANCIAL AID PROFESSIONALS

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) requires educational institutions to develop and comply with a code of conduct that prohibits conflicts of interest for financial aid personnel [HEOA –487(z)(25)]. The Northwest State Community College (NSCC) Staff is committed to helping students reach their educational potential by providing appropriate financial aid resources. The staff at NSCC is committed to the highest standards of professional conduct and believes that by educating our students and parents we are making them more knowledgeable individuals regarding personal financial management. We are members of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and follow their code of conduct. Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct are listed below, directed from NASFAA.

Ethical Principles

The primary goal of the financial aid professional is to help students achieve their educational potential by providing appropriate financial resources. To this end, this statement provides the Financial Aid Professional with a set of principles that serves as a common foundation for accepted standards of conduct.

The Financial Aid Professional shall:

The primary goal of the financial aid professional is to help students achieve their educational goals through financial aid support and resources. To this end, this statement provides the Financial Aid Professional with a set of principles that serves as a common foundation for accepted standards of conduct.

Financial aid administrators shall:

Advocate for students

- Remain aware of issues affecting students and continually advocate for their interests at the institutional, state and federal levels.
- Support federal, state and institutional efforts to encourage students, as early as the elementary grades, to aspire to and plan for education beyond high school.

Manifest the highest level of integrity

- Commit to the highest level of ethical behavior and refrain from conflict of interest or the perception thereof.
- Deal with others honestly and fairly, abiding by our commitments and always acting in a manner that merits the trust and confidence others have placed in us.
- Protect the privacy of individual student financial records.
- Promote the free expression of ideas and opinions, and foster respect for diverse viewpoints within the profession.

Support student access and success

- Commit to removing financial barriers for those who want to pursue postsecondary learning and support each student admitted to our institution.
- Without charge, assist students in applying for financial aid funds.
- Provide services and apply principles that do not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, age, or economic status.
- Understand the need for financial education and commit to educate students and families on how to responsibly manage expenses and debt.

Comply with federal and state laws

- Adhere to all applicable laws and regulations governing federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs.
- Actively participate in ongoing professional development and continuing education programs to ensure ample understanding of statutes, regulations, and best practices governing the financial aid programs.
- Encourage colleagues to participate in the financial aid professional associations available to them at the state, regional, or national level and offer assistance to other aid professionals as needed.

Strive for transparency and clarity

- Provide our students and parents with the information they need to make good decisions about attending and paying for college.
- Educate students and families through quality information that is consumer-tested when possible. This includes (but is not limited to) transparency and full disclosure on award notices.
- Ensure equity by applying all need-analysis formulas consistently across the institution's full population of student financial aid applicants.

- Inform institutions, students, and parents of any changes in financial aid programs that could affect their student aid eligibility.
- Strive to ensure that cost of attendance components are developed using resources that represent realistic expenses.

Protect the privacy of financial aid applicants

- Ensure that student and parent private information provided to the financial aid office by financial aid applicants is protected in accordance with all state and federal statutes and regulations, including FERPA and the Higher Education Act, Section 483(a)(3)(E) (20 U.S.C. 1090).
- Protect the information on the FAFSA from inappropriate use by ensuring that this information is only used for the application, award, and administration of aid awarded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act, state aid, or aid awarded by eligible institutions.

Code of Conduct

An institutional financial aid professional is expected to always maintain exemplary standards of professional conduct in all aspects of carrying out his or her responsibilities, specifically including all dealings with any entities involved in any manner in student financial aid, regardless of whether such entities are involved in a government sponsored, subsidized, or regulated activity. In doing so, a financial aid professional should:

1. No action will be taken by financial aid staff that is for their personal benefit or could be perceived to be a conflict of interest.

- a. Employees within the financial aid office will not award aid to themselves or their immediate family members. Staff will reserve this task to an institutionally designated person, to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.
- b. If a preferred lender list is provided, it will be compiled without prejudice and for the sole benefit of the students attending the institution. The information included about lenders and loan terms will be transparent, complete, and accurate. The complete process through which preferred lenders are selected will be fully and publicly disclosed. Borrowers will not be auto-assigned to any particular lender.
- c. A borrower's choice of a lender will not be denied, impeded, or unnecessarily delayed by the institution, even if that lender is not included on the institution's preferred lender list.
- d. No amount of cash, gift, or benefit in excess of a de minimis amount shall be accepted by a financial aid staff member from any financial aid applicant (or his/her family), or from any entity doing business with or seeking to do business with the institution (including service on advisory committees or boards beyond reimbursement for reasonable expenses directly associated with such service).

2. Information provided by the financial aid office is accurate, unbiased, and does not reflect preference arising from actual or potential personal gain.

3. Institutional financial aid offers and/or other institutionally provided materials shall include the following:

- Breakdown of estimated individual Cost of Attendance components, including which are direct (billed by the institution) costs vs. indirect (not billed by the institution) costs
- Clear identification and proper grouping of each type of aid offered indicating whether the aid is a grant/scholarship, loan, or work program
- Estimated net price
- Standard terminology and definitions, using NASFAA's glossary of terms

- Renewal requirements for each aid type being offered as well as next steps and financial aid office contact information

4. All required consumer information is displayed in a prominent location on the institutional web site(s) and in any printed materials, easily identified and found, and labeled as "Consumer Information."

5. Financial aid professionals will disclose to their institution any involvement, interest in, or potential conflict of interest with any entity with which the institution has a business relationship.

HOW ELIGIBILITY IS DETERMINED

Financial assistance is awarded to bridge the gap or to supplement the amount that you and your family are reasonably able to contribute toward your educational expenses. When applying for Federal Student Aid, it is necessary for you to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with information concerning your family's financial information such as income and assets, size of family, number in college, and any unusual circumstances or expense which you face. The information reported is used in formula established by the U.S. Congress that calculates the Student Aid Index (SAI). If the SAI is below a certain amount, a student may be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, assuming he/she meets all other eligibility requirements. The SAI is used in the following equation to determine the financial need:



| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Cost of Attendance | (calculation of tuition, fees, transportation, personal, etc.) |
| (-) Student Aid Index | (what you and your family are able to contribute toward your educational costs) |
| (-) <u>Other Resources</u> | (scholarship, tuition assistance dollars, etc.) |
| (=) Your Financial Need | (eligibility for need based aid) |

Students will need to add Northwest State's School Code to the FAFSA in order for it to be sent by the Department of Education:

Northwest State Community College School Code: 008677

TITLE IV ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Have financial need (as calculated above)
- Be enrolled in a financial aid eligible program
- Not be in default on a Federal Loan received at any school, and not owe a refund on a Federal, or State Grant at any institution
- Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress standards set by the school
- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen
- Have a valid high school diploma or GED
- Have a valid Social Security Number
- Not obtained loan amounts that exceed the annual or aggregate loan amounts
- Not owe money back to the federal grant program
- Not have property subject to a judgment lien for any debt owed to the United States Government
- Must complete and submit all applicable financial aid paperwork

Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations

Per federal law, a conviction of any offense, during a period of enrollment for which a student received Title IV Financial Aid program funds, under any federal or state law involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs will result in the loss of eligibility of any Title IV Financial Aid grant, loan, or work study assistance.

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

As a recipient of Federal Student Aid, students have certain rights they should exercise and certain responsibilities they must meet. Knowing what they are will put students in a better position to make decisions about their educational goals, and how they can best achieve them.

Students' Rights:

1. The right to know what Financial Aid programs are available at the school.
2. The right to know the deadlines for submitting applications for each of the financial aid programs available.
3. The right to know how financial aid will be distributed, how decisions on the distributions are made, and the basis for these decisions.
4. The right to know who financial need was determined. This includes how costs for tuition and fees, room and board, transportation, books and supplies, personal and miscellaneous expenses are calculated when determining the cost of attendance.
5. The right to know how resources (tuition assistance, outside scholarships, benefits) are considered when determining financial need.
6. The right to know how much of the financial need as determined by the institution has been met.
7. The right to request an explanation of the various programs in the student financial aid package.
8. The right to know your schools refund policy.
9. The right to know what portion of your financial aid award package must be repaid, and what portion is grant aid. If the aid is a loan, students have the right to know what the interest rate is, the total amount that must be repaid, the payback procedures, the length of time they have to repay the loan, and when repayment is expected to begin.
10. The right to know how the school determines whether students are making satisfactory academic progress, and what happens if they are not.
11. The right to view the contents of school's student financial aid file in accordance with the Federal Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA).
12. The right for all documents submitted to the financial aid office to be confidential.

Students' Responsibilities:

1. Must abide by all regulations determined by the U.S. Department of Education.
2. Must complete all application forms accurately and submit them in a timely manner.
3. Must provide correct information. Financial aid may be terminated if it is discovered that there was fraud or misrepresentation by the student on any financial aid application. In most instances, mis-reporting information on financial aid application forms is a violation of the law and may be considered a criminal offense, which could result in an indictment under the Criminal Code.
4. Must provide all additional documentation, verification corrections and/or new information requested by either the Financial Aid Office.
5. Must be responsible for reading and understanding all forms that they are asked to sign and accept responsibility for all agreements that are signed.
6. Must be aware of and comply with the institutional deadlines, these include: financial aid, payment due date, and registration periods.
7. Must be aware of the school's refund procedures.

8. Must maintain satisfactory academic progress.
9. Must understand the consequences of defaulting on a student loan.
10. Must keep their contact information current by notifying the Registrar's Office.
11. Must notify the Financial Aid Office of any changes to their financial aid application or status.
12. Must understand that Financial Aid awards may be changed if estimated dollars are not received from the U.S. Department of Education, if errors in awards were made, or if funding levels are modified

CONFIRMATION OF CITIZENSHIP

All students applying for financial aid must be able to confirm their citizenship status with the Social Security Administration. The confirmation process is applied when the student submits the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to the Federal processor. The Federal processor performs a match with the SSA to confirm the student's citizenship status and social security number. If SSA cannot confirm the student's citizenship status, a comment will appear on the student's Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) and the following will apply:

U.S. Citizen or National:

- Must correct SSN, name, or date of birth if these are entered in error and resubmit FAFSA
- If data still doesn't match, student may need to contact the Social Security Administration to resolve discrepancies
- Student may need to provide citizenship documentation which may include birth certificate, social security card, or Certificate of Naturalization

Eligible Noncitizen:

- "A-number" is sent to DHS for primary verification
- If status is not confirmed an automatic secondary confirmation will be performed by DHS
- School will wait at least five but no more than 15 days for result of secondary confirmation
- If no secondary confirmation the school will begin paper confirmation on form G845
- Form G845 is sent to the DHS field office with documentation from student

DEPENDENCY STATUS

A student is considered an "Independent Student" if he/she is able to answer 'yes' to any of the following questions:

- Were you born before Jan. 1, 2002?
- As of today, are you married? (Also answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced.)
- At the beginning of the 2025–26 school year, will you be working on a master's degree or doctorate degree (such as an M.A., MBA, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., graduate certificate, etc.)?
- Do you now have—or will you have—children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026?
- Do you have dependents—other than your children or spouse—who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2026?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training? (If you are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee, are you on active duty for other than state or training purposes?)
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces? *

- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- Has it been decided by a court in your state of legal residence that you are an emancipated minor or that someone other than your parent or stepparent has legal guardianship of you? (You also should answer “Yes” if you are now an adult but were in legal guardianship or were an emancipated minor immediately before you reached the age of being an adult in your state. Answer “No” if the court papers say “custody” rather than “guardianship.”)
- At any time on or after July 1, 2024, were you determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, as determined by (a) your high school or district homeless liaison, (b) the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or (c) the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program?

If the student does not meet any of the above criteria, the student is considered a “Dependent Student” and must provide parent information on the FAFSA.

Dependency Override

A Dependency Override may be granted for a student who has a special circumstance that prevents a student from providing parental information on the FAFSA. The Dependency Override process is used to address on a case by case basis a student who claims to be independent but does not meet the federal criteria. The student must demonstrate a unique and extenuating circumstance.

The following provides information and explains the procedure used to determine a student’s eligibility for a “Dependency Override.” A Financial Aid Administrator will review the student’s appeal by examining the supporting documentation provided by the student and will either approve or deny the students request and notify the student in writing. The decision is final and cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education.

THE FOLLOWING IS NOT CONSIDERED A UNIQUE OR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Self-sufficiency of the student | • Not residing at the parent's residence |
| • Parent’s unwillingness to complete the parent section of the FAFSA | • Not being claimed as a dependent on your parent’s tax return |
| • Parents refuse to contribute to the student’s education | • Student’s desire for grants instead of loans |

CIRCUMSTANCES GIVEN CONSIDERATION WHERE PARENTAL SUPPORT HAS BEEN TERMINATED

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Documented abandonment | • Physical or emotional abuse |
| • Parental drug abuse | • Severe estrangement from parents |
| • Parental mental incapacity | • Parental Incarceration |

The Director of Financial Aid will review the Dependency Override and supporting documentation and will make the final determination. All documents will be retained in the student’s financial aid file.

VERIFICATION

The school is responsible for verifying the accuracy of the financial data used to calculate the student aid index (SAI). The U.S. Department of Education randomly selects students for verification, the school may also select a student for verification. Verification must be completed before your financial aid awards will

be determined. If there is a difference between your FAFSA and the verification information that is provided to the financial aid office, we will make corrections to the FAFSA and recalculate your SAI. Once the verification process has been completed, students will be sent an award letter noting any changes in aid resulting from the verification process.



Verification

Applicants Selected for Verification:

1. All applicants selected for verification must submit the required documentation to the financial aid office. There are 3 different kinds of verification (V1, V4, and V5). All applicants will be notified in writing of the documentation that must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office based on the type of verification group that the student was selected for.
2. Any applicant failing to submit the required documentation prior to the end of the award year will forfeit aid, which would have been awarded for that time period.
3. Any applicant who forfeits his/her disbursements will be responsible for making cash payments as listed in the Enrollment Acknowledgement Agreement.

Verification Items *

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Adjusted gross income | • IRA deductions & payments to SEP, SIMPLE, Keogh, & other plans |
| • U.S. income tax paid | • Tax deferred payments to pensions & savings plans |
| • Income earned from work | • Other untaxed income |
| • Exemptions | • Tax exempt interest |
| • Education tax credits | • High School completion status |
| • Household size | • Identity/Statement of educational purpose |
| • Number in college | |
| • Untaxed portions of IRA distributions | |
| • Untaxed portions of pension and annuity distributions | |

Correction Procedure:

The following procedures will be used to correct misstated application information:

1. Upon receipt of the verification documentation, the Financial Aid Office will compare the information contained on the applicant's original ISIR with the information requested in the verification requirements.
2. Upon review of the verification documentation and the ISIR record, the Financial Aid Office may need to request additional information to resolve conflicting information that was not originally requested.
3. If it is determined that the applicant has misstated information, the school will correct all the misstated data items on the ISIR.
4. The corrected information will be sent to the Central Processing Center and a new ISIR will be generated.
5. If it is determined that an applicant's award changes as a result of verification, a revised award notification will be provided to the applicant.

NOTE: The Financial Aid Office is obligated to address any discrepancies and may request additional documentation to resolve them. Failure to submit required documentation may result in the loss of eligibility to receive Federal Student Aid.

Applicants Excluded from Verification:

In some instances, certain applicants may be excluded from verification and may receive his/her financial aid awards. However, the following conditions do not apply if the school has documentation that conflicts with information reported on financial aid applications or the Financial Aid Office has reason to believe that the information is incorrect.

1. The applicant dies during the award year. Deceased students are excluded from verification. However, no future payments will be made, and funds already disbursed are not considered an overpayment.
2. Dependent applicants whose both parents are:
 - a. Deceased
 - b. Mentally or physically incapacitated
 - c. Residing in a country other than the United States and cannot be contacted by normal means of communication
 - d. They cannot be located because the student does not have and cannot get their contact information
3. Applicant selected for verification than drops out of school without receiving a disbursement, no further action is required.
4. Verification of spouse's information or signature will not be required under the following circumstances:
 - a. The spouse is deceased
 - b. The spouse is mentally or physically incapacitated
 - c. The spouse is residing in a country other than the United States and cannot be contacted by normal means of communication
 - d. He/she cannot be located because the student does not have and cannot get his/her contact information

Professional Judgment/ Special Conditions

The Student Aid Index formula is the same for all applicants and prior-prior year income is used in the calculation. The financial aid office has the authority on a case by case basis to adjust certain data elements for a student with a special or unusual circumstance. Some examples would include unemployment, unusually high medical bills, divorce/separation, and death of a parent/spouse. If you feel that you have a special circumstance, please contact the financial aid office to discuss your situation and determine what documentation may be needed. After reviewing all documentation, the financial aid office will decide to approve or deny your request and will notify you of the outcome. The decision is final and cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education.

NOTE: The use of professional judgement is allowed but is not required of the school.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

Investing in a college degree could be the best financial decision you ever make. At Northwest State, you may be eligible to earn some form of financial aid to help offset the cost of tuition. There are many different [types of financial aid](#) to assist you in bridging the gap between your student aid index and the cost of educational expenses. The NSCC Financial Aid Office staff are available to help you through the process of [applying for financial aid](#).

Financial Aid is money intended to help you meet the expenses of going to college. Aid may be in the form of grants, loans, scholarships, employment, or a combination of these and can come from many different sources:

- The [U.S. Federal Government](#)
 - To view the latest Department of Education Regulatory Information, visit:
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34>
- The [State](#) in which you live
- The [Institution](#) that you attend
- Other [nonprofit or private organizations](#)

The first step in applying for financial aid is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) and submit all required documents to the financial aid office.

Federal Aid

The following is a source of information concerning federal financial aid for which you may be eligible. Current funding may vary from year to year and current programs can be found on the Department of Education website.

Federal Pell Grant: A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not typically have to be repaid. Pell Grants are awarded only to undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's or professional degree. The maximum Pell Grant amounts change from year-to-year, for specific yearly amounts see the Financial Aid Office.

The student's lifetime eligibility used (LEU) for the Federal Pell Grant is 12 full-time semesters (or its equivalent). The amount you receive will depend on your student aid index (SAI), cost of attendance, and whether you are a full-time or part-time student. When a student reaches 600% LEU, they become indefinitely ineligible for the Federal Pell Grant. You may not receive Pell Grant funds from more than one school at a time. Pell Grant funds will be credited to your student account.

To track your Pell Grant history and your LEU percentage, visit the StudentAid website at <https://studentaid.gov/>. This site is updated regularly with your Pell Grant awards as they are reported from each institution.

Important Note: Your Title IV grant disbursement history will be stored in the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) website where other school financial aid administrators, guaranty agencies, and eligible lenders will be able to view your federal financial aid history.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG): FSEOG is for undergraduates with exceptional financial need, with priority being given to students who receive Federal Pell Grants. FSEOG does not have to be paid back. Funds will be credited to your expenses in the registration process in the Business Office. Students must be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours.

Student Employment & Work-Study: The Career Services Office assists students attending NSCC to locate employment. Both work-study and other part-time employment opportunities are listed with Career Services. On and off -campus employment opportunities are available.

Work-study eligibility will be determined once you have secured a work-study position. In order to be eligible, you must have completed the FAFSA and received your financial aid award notification from the Financial Aid Office. You must be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours for Fall and Spring semesters (or 3 credit hours for the summer), be maintaining a 2.0 cumulative GPA, and comply with the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. Students *may* also be eligible to work during a period of non-attendance as long as they are registered for the following semester.

For more information about securing a work study position please contact the Career Services Office. Work-study awards are NOT credited to your expenses in the Business Office. You are paid on scheduled

pay days for the actual hours worked during the preceding month. When you have earned the amount of your work-study award, your employer may decide to continue your employment as a regular student employee.

William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program: Loans made through this program are referred to as Direct Loans. Eligible students borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education at participating schools. Direct Loans are either subsidized or unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loans (also known as Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans). With a subsidized loan, the Federal Government pays interest on the loan while you are attending school. If you receive an unsubsidized loan, you will be charged interest from the time the loan is disbursed until it is repaid in full. If you allow the interest to accumulate, it will be capitalized (added to the principal which means the loan “grows”) and the amount you repay can become very expensive. If you choose to pay the interest as it accumulates, you will repay less over the life of the loan. You can receive both a subsidized and an unsubsidized loan for the same enrollment period.

- The interest rates are determined by congress. The interest is charged on the loan from the date that the first disbursement is made until the loan is paid in full. For current rates, please visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/interest-rates>.
- The borrower must also pay a loan fee of 1 percent of the amount borrowed, which is deducted from each disbursement. The loan fee is paid to the lending institution.
- Repayment of the principle balance begins after you graduate, leave school or drop below half-time enrollment. You have six months before payments begin. This is called a “grace period.” Contact the Department of Education for more information about repayment options. Federal regulations require the maximum annual Federal Stafford Loan amount an undergraduate student may borrow to be prorated in cases where it is known that the student’s remaining period of study will consist of less than one (1) academic year. The proration is based on a ratio of the number of credits enrolled divided by 24. The student will be asked to fill out a loan proration form for the financial aid office.
- Direct Loans will be credited to your student account.
- Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Students must be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours to qualify for a student loan.

| Direct Loan Borrowing Limits | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Base Loan Amount (may be sub or unsub) | Additional Unsubsidized | Total Combined Aggregate Limit |
| Dependent | | | |
| Freshman | \$3,500 | \$2,000 | \$23,000 sub |
| Sophomore | \$4,500 | \$2,000 | \$31,000 combined total |
| Independent | | | |
| Freshman | \$3,500 | \$6,000 | \$23,000 sub |
| Sophomore | \$4,500 | \$6,000 | \$57,500 combined total |

Important Note: Your Title IV loan disbursement history will be stored in the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) website where other school financial aid administrators, guaranty agencies, and eligible lenders will be able to view your federal financial aid history.

Entrance Counseling

All first-time student loan borrowers are required to complete Direct Loan Entrance Counseling before their loan can be disbursed. This is completed online and takes approximately 20 minutes. It is a process designed to inform you of the rights and responsibilities associated with your student loan. Direct Loan Entrance Counseling should be completed at:

<https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action>

Federal Parent Loan to Undergraduate Student (PLUS): Federal Parent PLUS Loans enable parents with good credit histories to borrow to pay the education expenses of their children. To be eligible, the child must be a dependent, undergraduate student enrolled at least half-time. The yearly borrowing limit on the Parent PLUS loan is equal to the cost of education minus any other financial aid received.

- The interest rates are determined by congress each year and are typically a fixed rate. The interest is charged on the loan from the date that the first disbursement is made until the loan is paid in full.
- The borrower must also pay a loan fee. The loan fee is a percentage of the loan amount and is proportionately deducted from each loan disbursement. The loan fee is paid to the lending institution. The percentage amount varies depending on when the loan is first disbursed. For current loan fee rates, please visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/plus/parent>.
- Repayment generally begins within 60 days after the loan disbursement. There is no grace period. This means that interest begins to accumulate at the time of the first disbursement and repayment of both interest and principal begins while the student is in school.

If your parent is interested in borrowing a Parent PLUS loan, please contact the Financial Aid Office for information on how to apply this type of loan or visit: <https://northweststate.edu/student-loans>.

Important Note: Your Title IV loan disbursement history will be stored in the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) website where other school financial aid administrators, guaranty agencies, and eligible lenders will be able to view your federal financial aid history.

State Aid

The following is a source of information concerning state aid for which you may be eligible. Current funding may vary from year to year and current programs can be found on the Ohio Department of Higher Education website.

Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program (NEALP): This is a state program for nursing students who, upon completion of their education, plan to practice nursing in the state of Ohio.

- Based on financial need.
- A student may receive a maximum of \$1,650 per year (maximum rate is subject to change each year).
- Recipient must serve as a fulltime nurse in Ohio for five years to qualify for 100 percent loan cancellation.
- Applications and eligibility criteria are available at the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) web site <http://regents.ohio.gov/sqs/index.php>. Applications are due July 15 of each year. Call the ODHE Grants and Scholarships Office at 1-888-833-1133 for more information.
- Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit the results as part of the application.

Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG): The Ohio Department of Higher Education administers the OCOG program, which provides grant money to Ohio residents who demonstrate the highest levels of financial need as determined by the results of the FAFSA.

- Ohio residents in an associate degree, first bachelor's degree, or nurse diploma program at an eligible Ohio institution
- FAFSA Student Aid Index (SAI) of \$3,750 or less and a maximum household income of \$96,000.
- The initial FAFSA must be submitted by October 1
- Students are limited to 10 semesters or 15 quarters of state, need-based grant aid (including combination of OCOG and OIG)
- Students enrolled at community colleges are only eligible for OCOG during the spring semester and only if they were enrolled during the previous summer and fall semesters and have a limited (reduced) pell award remaining for the spring semester
 - Eligible students receiving federal veteran's education benefits at community colleges and regional campuses may qualify for OCOG for living expenses
 - Eligible foster youth at community colleges may qualify for OCOG
- OCOG can only be used for tuition and general fees

Institutional Aid

The following is a source of information concerning institutional aid for which you may be eligible. Current funding may vary from year to year and current programs can be found on the NSCC college website.

Scholarships: Primarily two departments on campus, the Admissions Office and the Financial Aid Office, award scholarships. Committees make selections, and application information is available at each office.

Scholarships are awarded generally in the spring of each year for disbursement in the following year. These awards are made on the basis of academic achievement, financial need, or a combination of the two. Many scholarships have additional requirements as well. Institutional scholarships are provided to the institution by donors who specify the award criteria. The selection process is managed by a committee and awards are disbursed through the Financial Aid Office. Generally, the Admissions Office serves incoming student scholarships.



Other Sources of Assistance

The following is a source of information concerning some of the other sources of assistance for which you may be eligible. Current funding may vary from year to year depending on availability from the funding source.

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR): The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) provides individuals with disabilities services and supports necessary to help them attain and maintain employment. Disabilities may include physical, intellectual, mental health, or sensory disabilities. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services are customized for each individual through assessment and one-on-one meetings with professional VR Counselors. VR services are available in all 88 counties. For more information, please contact your local Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation office.

Charles E. Schell Foundation Assistance Loan: The Charles E. Schell Loan was established at the request of the Last Will and Testament of Charles Edison Schell to provide educational assistance loans without

interest and without security to qualified students. The loan will aid students in securing a practical education that may not otherwise be attainable at NSCC. The eligibility criteria includes:

- Minimum 2.0 GPA
- Enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours) during the term the loan is requested
- Be a citizen of Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia or adjoining states
- Born in and citizen of the United States of America; student's parents must also have been born in and are a citizen of the United States of America.
- No outstanding Charles Schell loan balance

To apply for the Charles E. Schell loan, please contact the NSCC Financial Aid Office at 419-267-1333.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):

The NSCC Registrar's Office assists students with applying for various GI Bills, maintain eligibility, and troubleshoot payment and other issues. Our certifying official submits enrollment and tuition information to the VA Regional Processing Office and/or to the student's vocational rehabilitation counselor.

Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) and Transfer of Entitlement (TOE)

This program provides financial support for education and housing to veterans with at least 90 days of active service on or after September 11, 2001, and eligible dependents that meet requirements for transfer of benefits. Benefits are available for up to 15 years following discharge.

- An annual book stipend of \$1,000 paid proportionately based on enrollment
- Tuition payment will be made directly to the school after registration, not to exceed the maximum in-state tuition/fees at a public institution
- Monthly housing allowance when meeting the basic allowance for housing criteria for an E5 with dependents based on location of the school of higher learning
- If you participated in the \$600 buy-up under the Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty, you will not receive that additional benefit under the Post 9/11 GI Bill

Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (Chapter 30)

Benefits are payable for 10 years following your release from active duty.

- You will receive a monthly payment at a rate set by Congress based on your expenses for 36 months, which varies based on enrollment status
- Monthly check (via direct deposit) sent to veteran after proof of enrollment and monthly online verification

Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)

This program may be available to you if you are a member of the Selected Reserve. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, and Air National Guard.

- Allows "kickers" up to \$350 per month
- Monthly check (via direct deposit) sent to veteran after proof of enrollment and monthly online verification

Reserve Education Assistance Program – REAP (Chapter 1607)

This program makes certain reservists who were activated for at least 90 days after September 11, 2001, either eligible for education benefits or eligible for increased benefits.

- Monthly check (via direct deposit) sent to veteran after proof of enrollment and monthly online verification
- Allows “kicker” up to \$350 per month
- Increased benefits based on longest continuous time on active duty

Survivors and Dependents Assistance – DEA (Chapter 35)

DEA provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits.

- For a son or daughter, you must be between the ages of 18 and 26
- If you are a spouse, benefits end 10 years from the date the VA finds you eligible
- For surviving spouses (spouses of service members who died on active duty) benefits end 20 years from the date of death.

Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31)

This program provides effective vocational rehabilitation services to veterans with service connected disabilities.

- Benefits determined on an individual basis
- Visit the Vocational Rehabilitation website for more information:
<https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/index.asp>

Private Loans: Northwest State Community College does not participate in any private loan programs. Please contact the Financial Aid Office to see if you have any additional Federal Direct Subsidized or Unsubsidized Loan eligibility to help fund your college education.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA): Assistance may be available for students who have lost jobs or had hours or wages reduced because of foreign trade. Contact your employer or a local Ohio Bureau of Employment Services office for more information: https://ifs.ohio.gov/ouio/TradeAdjustAssist_FAQ.stm.

Workforce Investment Act (WIOA): The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 is a federal employment and training law that replace the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Implemented to streamline employment and training programs, help job seekers find work, and help employers locate qualified workers. Contact your county Ohio Means Jobs center for more information.

Defiance County: 419-784-3777

Fulton County: 419-337-9215

Henry County: 419-592-3862

Lucas County: 419-213-5627

Paulding County: 419-784-3777

Williams County: 419-633-5250

Wood County: 419-352-7566

Van Wert County: 419-238-4931

LOAN REPAYMENT

When it comes to start repaying your student loan(s), you can select a repayment plan that’s right for your financial situation. Generally, you will have from 10 to 25 years to repay your loan, depending on which repayment plan you choose. The following repayment options are available to Direct Loan borrowers:

1. Standard Repayment Plan

2. Graduated Repayment Plan
3. Extended Repayment Plan
4. Revised Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan (REPAYE)
5. Income-Based Repayment Plan (IBR)
6. Income-Contingent Repayment Plan (ICR)
7. Income Sensitive Repayment Plan

For more information on each of the following payment options, please visit www.studentaid.gov, or contact your loan servicer. If you are unsure who your loan servicer is, log in to your account at www.studentaid.gov.

If you are having troubles making payments on your Federal Student Loans, contact your loan servicer immediately. Your loan becomes delinquent the first day after you miss a payment. If you are more than 90 days delinquent on your student loan payment, your loan servicer will report the delinquency to the three major national credit bureaus. This will affect your credit score and negatively affect your finances. If your loan continues to be delinquent, you may go into default. The consequences, may include loss of additional federal financial aid eligibility, damage to credit rating, withhold tax refunds, wage garnishment, and more.



EXIT COUNSELING

Exit Counseling provides important information to prepare you to repay your federal student loan(s). If you have received a subsidized, unsubsidized, or PLUS loan under the Direct Loan Program or the FFEL Program, you must complete exit counseling each time you:

- Drop below half-time enrollment
- Graduate
- Leave school

The exit counseling process can be completed online at www.studentloans.gov and usually takes around 20-30 minutes to complete. If you do not complete Exit Counseling within 14 days, a hold will be placed on your student account and you will be unable to register for classes or request an academic transcript.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Policy

To be eligible for financial aid funds at Northwest State Community College, you must maintain satisfactory academic progress toward your degree objective. The NSCC financial aid office will determine your SAP status at the end of every semester (including summer) and will send an electronic notification via your NSCC Student email account. Every enrolled student will receive this notification, regardless if they are currently receiving financial aid. ALL courses count towards in the determination, **regardless if the student was receiving financial aid funds**. Satisfactory Academic Progress is a condition for continued financial aid eligibility and is measured by the following factors:

- Qualitative Progress (GPA and Credit Hour Pace of Progression Requirement)
- Quantitative Progress (Time-based)

These criteria evaluate: the quality and quantity of the academic work a student completes and progress toward completion of his/her academic program. The satisfactory academic progress requirements listed below are minimum standards

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Students must meet a **cumulative** grade point average requirement based on the number of credit hours attempted.

| <u>Credits Attempted</u> | <u>Cumulative GPA</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1-15 | 1.4 |
| 16-30 | 1.6 |
| 31-45 | 1.8 |
| 46+ | 2.0 |

Credit Hour Pace of Progression

Students must successfully complete no less than 67% of all credit hours **attempted** cumulatively. Successful completion of classes means passing grades must be earned. Grades of F, W, I, U, P, UC, WF, WM, WP, NP, and NR do not count towards successful completion. Examples of the hours that need to be completed in order to meet 67% completion rate:

| <u>Total Hours Attempted</u> | <u>Minimum Hours Required to Complete</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 4 | 3 |
| 9 | 7 |
| 12 | 9 |
| 24 | 17 |
| 42 | 29 |

Length of Eligibility for Degree Completion (Maximum Time Frame)

For each program of study, an institution must establish a maximum time frame in which a student is expected to complete his/her degree requirements. The maximum "length of eligibility" a student is allowed is 150% of the actual credits required for his/her degree or certificate as stated in the Northwest State Catalog.

Examples are listed below:

| <u>Degree Program</u> | <u>Average Hours Required</u> | <u>150%</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Certificate program | 36 credit hours | 54 credit hours |
| Associates degree | 70 credit hours | 105 credit hours |

Additional SAP Information

Repeated Courses

When a course, or its current equivalent, is repeated, the most recent grade will be included in the calculation of the Grade Point Average (GPA). A course repeated will be considered as any other course (earned hours and attempted hours) for the calculation of pace of progression and Maximum Time Frame. Refer to the Repeat Course Policy for additional information regarding aid eligibility for repeated courses.

Transfer Credit

Credit(s) transferred to NSCC will apply toward graduation only if they satisfy requirements for a particular major. Transfer credit(s) not required by a particular major may be counted as additional hours completed.

Transfer(s) credits are not included in the calculation of Grade Point Average (GPA), however, they are included in the calculation for Pace of Progression and Maximum Time Frame.

Incomplete Grades

Incomplete grades are factored into student's SAP calculation for the term in which the grade is assigned. When an incomplete grade is changed to a final grade, the new grade will be factored into the student's SAP calculation during the next formal evaluation period. The school cannot retroactively change the student's SAP status when the grade of "I" becomes a final grade, since, at the time of the SAP evaluation, the grade of "I" was a valid grade.

Withdrawals

If a student withdrawals (W) from a course after the drop/add period for any given semester, the course is considered in "hours attempted" when calculating Credit Hour Pace of Progression and Maximum Timeframe.

Remedial Courses

Remedial or developmental courses do not count toward the student's degree requirements; however, they are counted as attempted and earned hours and are used to determine a student's academic grade level or classification. Thus, developmental courses are calculated in the quantitative and maximum time frame measures.

Reminder – financial aid may be awarded to cover up to 30 remedial course credits. Remedial course credits in excess of 30 cannot be calculated as enrolled hours for financial aid purposes. This rule is not related to SAP but is a general financial aid eligibility requirement.

Changes of Major and Pursuit of Second Degree

Prior credits and grades that do not count toward the new major will be included in the SAP determination of Grade Point Average (GPA), Pace of Progression and Maximum Time Frame. All periods of the student's enrollment count when assessing Satisfactory Academic Progress, even periods in which the student did not receive Financial Aid funds.

All periods of enrollment (including the summer semester) are included during the calculation of a student's Satisfactory Academic Progress status, regardless if the student paid out of pocket. If the student paid for classes without financial aid, the hours are included in the earned and attempted hours during the calculation of Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Financial Aid Appeal

Students that are placed on Financial Aid Suspension may be granted an exception to this policy if they complete the **Financial Aid Appeal Form** and present written evidence showing why an exception is in order. It is the student's responsibility to initiate all appeals.

The Financial Aid Office will review the financial aid appeal with all documentation, including the student's academic history, to determine whether the circumstances warrant approval. The student must explain in the appeal how the documented circumstances will not prevent him/her from maintaining satisfactory progress in the future.

If the appeal is approved, the student will be allowed to restore satisfactory standing based on the plan of study and meeting the conditions of the appeal. A student, whose financial aid has been reinstated through the appeal process, may have adjustments made to their original awards, including loans, as a condition of an approval.

The student must earn C's or better in each course without withdrawing from any classes. If the student goes back onto suspension, a second appeal may not be approved.

If the student will need more than the allowed maximum “length of eligibility” for his/her program, a financial aid appeal for an extension must be submitted. The appeal must document circumstances responsible for the extended time needed. The student must be making satisfactory academic progress at the time of the request. The signed plan of study must include every semester needed to complete his/her degree or certificate.

If the appeal is NOT approved it is the students’ responsibility to either make payment arrangements with the Business Office or go online and drop the courses that he/she is registered for; otherwise the student is responsible for any outstanding balance.

Plan of Study

The objective of the plan of study or academic plan should be to assist the student in producing academic success at each of the stipulated checkpoints and milestones of the academic plan. The long-term goal of the plan of study should be to restore the student to proper SAP standards at a specified future point in time.

Students who are meeting the conditions of an academic plan can work with the school to change the terms of the plan without submitting an appeal.

A plan of study will be voided by the financial aid office for the following reasons:

- **When a student changes major, then the previous plan is void since it pertained to the major at the time of the appeal.**
- **If a student violates the academic plan as defined by the academic advisor or faculty advisor.**
- **If a student does not enroll for the term that the plan of study was designed to be applicable.**

The financial aid office may specify in a plan of study the terms and conditions that the student will be required to take a reduced course load or enroll in specific courses.

Re-Instatement of Financial Aid Eligibility

The Financial Aid Office will make a decision regarding the approval or denial of the appeal. Listed below are the possible decisions and their meanings:

Probation Appeal Approved – Student did not meet satisfactory academic progress requirements and was placed on Suspension. He/she submitted an appeal describing the special circumstance that caused them to be unsuccessful in their classes and how that situation has since been resolved. The student’s appeal was approved for **ONE** additional semester of probation. Student must meet ALL satisfactory academic progress requirements during this semester or their financial aid eligibility will be suspended. Students are only considered one time for a probation appeal approved status.

Probation Plan of Study – Student did not meet satisfactory academic progress requirements and was placed on Suspension. He/she submitted an appeal describing the special circumstance that caused them to be unsuccessful in their classes and how the situation has been resolved. The student’s appeal was approved for the number of semesters that have been outlined by the student’s academic advisor. The plan of study must include every class needed in order to get the student back on track with meeting all satisfactory academic progress requirements. Student may not fail or withdraw from any future classes and must pass each course listed on their plan of study with ‘C’ or higher. If the student fails to meet the conditions of their approved appeal they will go back on Suspension and will no longer be eligible to receive financial aid funds.

Plan of study for Maximum Time Frame (1, 2, 3, or 4 more semesters) – Student has previously reached the maximum time frame and submitted an appeal for an extension of financial aid eligibility to complete their degree or certificate or to work on another degree program. Student must meet satisfactory academic progress requirement throughout each additional semester he/she has been granted. Student may not fail or withdraw from any future classes and must pass each course listed on their plan of study with 'C' or higher. If the student fails to meet the conditions of their approved appeal they will go back on Suspension and will no longer be eligible to receive financial aid funds.

Appeal Denied – The appeal has been denied and the student is not eligible to receive financial aid funds (including student loans). There are multiple reasons why an appeal may be denied, listed below are a few examples of those reasons:

- Did not have an extenuating circumstance that caused them to be unsuccessful in classes.
- The number of hours needed to raise Pace of Progression/GPA to required levels exceeds the maximum number of hours allowed for their program of study.
- Did not meet conditions of a previously approved appeal.

Students will be notified via their NSCC student email account regarding the decision of their appeal within 15 business days of receipt of the appeal. If you have questions regarding the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy or the steps to appeal, please contact the Financial Aid Office at 419-267-1333 or email at finaid@northweststate.edu.

Students who do not wish to complete the appeal may also choose to pay for courses on their own until they once again meet satisfactory academic progress requirements.

DISBURSEMENT OF FINANCIAL AID

Provided you meet all qualifications to receive financial aid funds; any scholarship, grant, or loan awarded to you will be automatically credited to your expenses (tuition, fees, and any books/supplies charged to account) and any other charges assessed by the institution.

Grants, Loans, and Scholarships are first applied as a pending payment to the students account. These funds are available as payment for Tuition, Fees and other charges on the students account. Any remaining funds (after account charges are covered) can be used in the bookstore to make purchases.

Grants and loans are disbursed according to predetermined disbursement dates or when the student has begun attendance (whichever is later). If financial aid credited to your account exceeds allowable charges due for the term, a refund will be issued for the difference.

All loans require repayment. Students have the right to cancel their Federal Direct Loan. Should a student wish to cancel their loan, they need to notify the Financial Aid Office in writing within 14 days from the disbursement date.

Check your online fee statement carefully. Some types of financial aid appear on your student account as credits and others (such as work-study) are paid at other intervals. Earnings from the Federal Work Study program are paid to student workers bi-monthly according to our normal payroll dates by direct deposit. Compare your credits, which show your aid against your award letter, to reconcile funds awarded to you. NOTE: If for any reason you register for classes late or enroll for insufficient credits, your aid will be delayed and possibly adjusted. Financial aid funds will not be credited to your account until all required documents have been processed.

Please remember, fees, and other charges must be paid when due or a late fee may be applied and/or your registration may be canceled. If your financial aid or outside payment (i.e. scholarship, TAA, WIA, etc.) does not arrive in time for you to pay your fees and other charges, you are responsible for payment of your bill on the due date. If you have specific questions regarding charges, credits, release processes, or student account refunds, please contact the Business Office at (419) 267-1311.

Refunds of Student Account Balances

If financial aid credited to your account exceeds allowable charges for the term, a refund will be issued for the difference. The refund will usually be issued during the 7th week of instruction each semester (5th week for summer). Please review the Academic Calendar for exact dates. Students need to select their refund preference with BankMobile prior to the refund period in order to prevent delays of receiving their refund. For more information about BankMobile, visit this link: <https://northweststate.edu/student-refunds>. To view information on the College's contract with the third-party service provider, please visit <https://www.vibeaccount.com/swc/doc/landing/oa57rhzd96dykwg7hxi5>.

REFUND POLICY

A student takes full responsibility for adding or dropping courses. This can be done through myNSCC, or by completing an Add-Drop Form and returning it to the NSCC Registrar's Office.

In extreme circumstances, tuition and lab/material fees may be refunded after the refund period. Documentation proving extreme circumstances must be submitted to the Registrar for consideration and final approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer

Failure to attend classes or give proper written intention to withdraw will result in failure of a course. Students will be academically and/or financially responsible for any "W" or "F" grades received. The adding or dropping of courses requires the student to contact the Financial Aid Office and/or the Business Office to adjust the aid or make payment.

Dropping Class(es)

Students may drop courses online through their myNSCC account through the 100% tuition refund period for a specific course. A student takes full responsibility for adding or dropping courses. Failure to attend classes or give proper written intention to withdraw will result in failure of a course. Students will be academically and/or financially responsible for any "W" or "F" grades received. The adding or dropping of courses requires the student to contact the Financial Aid Office and/or the Business Office to adjust the aid or make payment. Students who are reported as non-attending for all courses during the first 14-days of the term are administratively dropped from the course(s). Online courses require an assignment submission to verify attendance.

Withdrawing from Class(es)

Dropping a course after the 100% tuition period is considered a "withdrawal." Withdrawing from courses may be done through a student's myNSCC account, in-person in the Registrar's Office, by faxing the request to the Registrar's Office, or by mailing the request (must be post marked on or before the last date for a "W" deadline). Failure to attend classes or give proper written intention to withdraw will result in a failure of the course. Students will be academically and financially responsible for any "W" or "F" grade received.

Refund policy for courses 16 weeks or more:
Week 1 100% Refund

Week 2 75% Refund
Week 3 50% Refund
After Week 3 No Refund
Refund policy for courses 8 - 15 weeks:

Week 1 100% Refund
Week 2 50% Refund

After Week 2 No Refund

Refund policy for courses 2 - 7 weeks

Week 1 100% Refund
Week 2 No Refund

Refund policy for courses 1 week or less:

Must be dropped the day before the course begins for a 100% refund.

Financial aid recipients should contact the Financial Aid Office if they plan to withdraw from (or stop attending) all classes during the semester

Military Withdrawal

Withdrawals due to military activation during a semester will require the student to withdraw from classes at the time of activation, at which time a "W" will be assigned. Upon receipt of a copy of the student's actual military activation orders, the College will refund 100 percent of the student's tuition and fee for the semester, and any "W" grade will be changed to a "WM" to signify a military withdrawal on the transcript. Upon returning to college the student is required to submit a copy of Member page 4 of the DD214.

Readmission to the college will include the additional statement regarding Service members and reservists: When a learner whose enrollment is interrupted by mobilization or call to active duty, the college will make every possible effort to place the returning learner back into the academic track as close as possible to the point prior to activation in accordance to the Federal Aid Student Handbook, Chapter 3 of Volume 2 [DoD MOU, paragraph 3,i(1)]. The Registrar's office will be the point of contact the learner must provide notification of service and notification of intent to return.

Attendance Policy

Student attendance is essential to success in the course. Faculty may issue a failing grade to students who incur excessive absences and who have not filed an official withdrawal from a course.

Excessive absences are defined as three consecutive absences or sporadic absences that impair satisfactory student progress in a course. For those students, instructors should report excessive absences and last date of attendance to Student Resources.

The College is obligated to report lack of attendance or last date of attendance to federal and state agencies that provide financial assistance to students. Failure to attend classes will result in loss of financial aid (grants and/or loans). Students considering withdrawing from all classes should contact the Financial Aid Office to discuss the financial implications of withdrawing from all classes.

The last date of attendance may be determined from attendance records, tests taken, or homework assignments submitted. Faculty will be required to report the student's last date of attendance when a final grade of "F" or "U" is assigned. All Title IV refunds will be calculated using the student's last date of attendance.

RETURN OF TITLE IV POLICY

How a withdrawal affects financial aid

Federal regulations require Title IV financial aid funds to be awarded under the assumption that a student will attend the institution for the entire period in which federal assistance was awarded. When a student withdraws from all courses for any reason, including medical withdrawals, he/she may no longer be eligible for the full amount of Title IV funds that he/she was originally scheduled to receive. The return of funds is

based upon the premise that students earn their financial aid in proportion to the amount of time in which they are enrolled. A pro-rated schedule is used to determine the amount of federal student aid funds he/she will have earned at the time of the withdrawal. Once 60% of the semester is completed, a student is considered to have earned all of his/her financial aid and will not be required to return any funds.

Federal law requires schools to calculate how much federal financial aid a student has earned if that student:

- Completely withdraws, or
- Stops attending before completing the semester, or
- Does not complete all modules (courses which are not scheduled for the entire semester or payment period for which he/she has registered at the time those modules began).

Based on this calculation, Northwest State Community College students who receive federal financial aid and do not complete their classes during a semester or term could be responsible for repaying a portion of the aid they received. Students who do not begin attendance must repay all financial aid disbursed for the term.

How a withdrawal affects academics

The following policies will help you understand that a withdrawal potentially affects students academically as well as financially. We encourage students to read all the information below prior to making a final decision.

- The Northwest State Academic Policy is available in the College Catalog, see Academic Policies and Procedures section.
- The Northwest State tuition refund policy is separate from the federal regulations to repay unearned aid. Whether or not a student receives a tuition refund has no bearing on the amount he/she must repay to the federal aid programs. The tuition refund policy is available in the College Catalog, see Academic Policies and Procedures section.



How the earned financial aid is calculated

Students who receive federal financial aid must “earn” the aid they receive by staying enrolled in classes. The amount of federal financial aid assistance the student earns is on a pro-rated basis. Students who withdraw or do not complete all registered classes during the semester may be required to return some of the financial aid they were awarded.

Institutions are required to determine the percentage of Title IV aid “earned” by the student and to return the unearned portion to the appropriate aid programs. Regulations require schools to perform calculations within 30 days from the date the school determines a student’s complete withdrawal. The school must return the funds within 45 days of the calculation. For example, if a student completes 30% of the payment period, they earn 30% of the aid they were originally scheduled to receive. This means 70% of the scheduled awards remain “unearned” and must be returned to the federal government. Once 60% of the semester is completed, a student is considered to have earned all of his/her financial aid and will not be required to return any federal funds.

The following formula is used to determine the percentage of unearned aid that has to be returned to the federal government:

- The percent earned is equal to the number of calendar days completed up to the withdrawal date, divided by the total calendar days in the payment period (less any scheduled breaks that are at least 5 days long).

- The payment period is the entire semester. However, for students enrolled in modules (courses which are not scheduled for the entire semester or term), the payment period only includes those days for the module(s) in which the student is registered.
- The percent unearned is equal to 100% minus the percent earned.

For students enrolled in modules (part of term/ courses that do not run the entire length of the term):

A student is considered withdrawn if the student does not complete all of the days in the payment period that the student was scheduled to complete. Northwest State will track enrollment in each module (part of term) to determine if a student began enrollment in all scheduled courses. If a student officially drops courses in a later module while still attending a current module, the student is not considered as withdrawn based on not attending the later module. However, a recalculation of aid based on a change in enrollment status may still be required.

Steps in the Return of Title IV funds policy

Northwest State Community College will determine:

- A. The total amount of Title IV aid disbursed for the semester in which the student withdrew. A student's Title IV aid is counted as aid disbursed in the calculation if it has been applied to the student's account on or before the date the student withdrew.
- B. The total amount of Title IV aid disbursed plus the Title IV aid that could have been disbursed for the semester in which the student withdrew.
- C. Will calculate the percentage of Title IV aid earned as follows: the number of calendar days completed divided by the total number of calendar days in the semester in which the student withdrew. The total number of calendar days in a semester shall exclude any scheduled breaks of more than 5 days. **Days Attended ÷ Days in Enrollment Period = Percentage Completed**
- D. If the calculated percentage completed exceeds 60%, then the student has "earned" all the Title IV aid for the enrollment period.
- E. Northwest State will calculate the amount of Title IV aid earned as follows: The percentage of Title IV aid earned (Step 2) multiplied by the total amount of Title IV aid disbursed or that could have been disbursed for the term in which the student withdrew. **Total Aid Disbursed × Percentage Completed = Earned Aid**
- F. Amount of Title IV aid to be disbursed or returned
 - If the aid already disbursed equals the earned aid, no further action is required.
 - If the aid already disbursed is greater than the earned aid, the difference must be returned to the appropriate Title IV aid program.
 - **Total Disbursed Aid – Earned Aid = Unearned Aid to be Returned**
 - If the aid already disbursed is less than the earned aid, then Northwest State will calculate a post-withdrawal disbursement.

Post-Withdrawal Disbursement

Students may be eligible for a post-withdrawal disbursement if they have accepted aid that had not yet disbursed at the time of withdrawal. NSCC will notify the student within 30 days of the date of

determination of any amount of a post-withdrawal disbursement. The school is permitted to credit the student's account with the post-withdrawal disbursement of Title IV grant funds without the student's permission for current charges for tuition and fees up to the amount of outstanding charges. The school must notify the student (or parent in cases of a Direct Parent PLUS loan), in writing prior to making any post-withdrawal disbursement of loan funds. If the student (or parent in cases of a Direct Parent PLUS loan) wishes to accept the loan funds, he/she must complete the Loan Request form and return it to the financial aid office. Once the school has received confirmation from the student (or parent in cases of a Direct Parent PLUS loan) that he or she wants to receive the post withdrawal disbursement of loan funds, a school must make the post withdrawal disbursement of Title IV loan proceeds as soon as possible but no later than 180 days after the date of the school's determination that the student withdrew.

Types of Withdrawals

For financial aid purposes there are two types of withdrawals: Official and Unofficial.

Official – an official withdrawal from Northwest State by the student. For the policy and procedure of Official Withdrawals review the NSCC College Catalog, Academic Policies section. Contact the Registrar's Office for more information.

Unofficial – federal financial aid regulations consider a student to be an unofficial withdrawal if the student receives all F, U (failure) grades or a combination of all F, U, and W (withdraw) grades for the term.

Determination of the Withdrawal Date

The withdrawal date used in the return calculation of a student's federal financial aid is the actual date indicated on the official drop form. If a student stops attending classes without notifying Northwest State, the withdrawal date will be the midpoint of the semester or the last date of academic activity as reported by the NSCC course instructor.

Withdrawing prior to completing 60% of a term

Unless a student completes 60% of the term in which federal aid was disbursed, the student will be required to return all or part of the financial aid disbursed in the term. This applies to students who have officially or unofficially withdrawn.

When a student fails to begin attendance

If a student receives financial aid, but never attends classes, NSCC will return all disbursed funds to the respective federal aid programs. If the student owes money to NSCC resulting from the return of federal funds, the student will be billed by the Business Office. If the student does not pay the funds due to the college, a business hold is placed on the student's account. This means he/she will not be permitted to register for classes or receive transcripts until the balance is paid in full.

Students who do not receive an earned grade in a term

Financial aid is awarded under the assumption that the student will attend Northwest State for the entire term for which federal assistance was disbursed. Northwest State is required to have a procedure for determining whether a Title IV recipient who began attendance during a period completed the period or should be treated as a withdrawal. Students who attended the entire length of the course but failed to meet the academic requirements of the course at the end of the term are awarded a grade of F or U. Students who started a course but stopped attending class at some point and was given a grade of an F(failure), U(unsatisfactory), or W(withdrawal) are considered an "unofficial" withdrawal, and will be reviewed to determine that last date of an academically related activity or the midpoint of the semester.

Repayment calculation process:

Once grades are posted for the student who receives a combination of either all F, U or W grades, Northwest State will return all unearned aid back to the federal aid programs and the student's billing account will be charged. The Business Office will mail a bill to the student's permanent address. The student is responsible for any balance due.

Definition of an academic related activity

Examples of Northwest State academic-related activities include but are not limited to physically attending a class where there is an opportunity for direct interaction between the instructor and students.

Proof of participation:

- Exams or quizzes
- Tutorials
- Computer-assisted instruction
- Submission of an academic assignment, paper or project
- Participating in online discussion about academic matters

Repayment of Federal Aid Programs

Federal regulations require that the following aid programs be subject to the repayment calculation if the student did not attend through 60% of the term in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan
2. Subsidized Direct Stafford Loan
3. Direct PLUS (Parent) Loan
4. Federal Pell Grant
5. Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)



Overpayment of Federal Grant Funds

Federal regulations provide that 50% of the unearned amount of all federal grants is protected by the federal calculation. Any federal grant money subject to repayment is returned by Northwest State Community College and that amount will be billed to the student's billing account as a debt to the college.

Additional loan information to consider when withdrawing

When a student is enrolled less than part-time, the grace period begins. The student's grace period for loan repayments for Federal Direct Unsubsidized and Subsidized Loans will begin on the day of the withdrawal from the school. If the student is not enrolled part-time for more than 6 months, the loans will go into repayment. The student must contact the U.S. Department of Education or his/her lender(s) to make payment arrangements. Loans must be repaid by the loan borrower (student/parent) as outlined in the terms of the borrower's promissory note. The student should contact the lender if he/she has questions regarding their grace period or repayment status.

Repayment of unearned funds and consequences

Unearned funds are paid to the U.S. Department of Education by Northwest State Community College on the student's behalf. The school will return the funds within 45 days from the Date of Determination. If the student owes any money to the college resulting from the return of unearned federal financial aid, the student will be billed by NSCC. If the student does not pay the funds, a business hold is placed on the student's

account. This means he/she will not be permitted to register for classes or receive transcripts until the balance is paid.

School and Student responsibilities in regard to the Return of Title IV policy & process

Northwest State Community College's responsibilities:

- Provide each student with the information given in this policy
- Identify students affected by this policy and complete the R2T4 calculation
- Inform the student of the result of the R2T4 calculation and any balance owed to the college as a result of a required return of funds
- Return funds to the U.S. Department of Education within 45 days from the Date of Determination
- Return any unearned Title IV aid that is due to the Title IV programs and, if applicable, notify the borrower's holder of federal loan funds of the student's withdrawal date
- Notify the student and/or PLUS borrower of eligibility for a Post-Withdraw Disbursement, if applicable

Student's responsibilities

- Becoming familiar with the R2T4 policy and how withdrawing from all courses effects eligibility for Title IV aid
- Resolve any outstanding balance owed to Northwest State Community College
- Resolve any repayment to the U.S. Department of Education as a result of an overpayment of Title IV grant funds

How a withdrawal affects future financial aid eligibility

Refer to the Northwest State Community College Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy to determine how a withdrawal will impact future financial aid eligibility.

Note: The procedures and policies listed above are subject to change without advance notice based on changes to federal laws, federal regulations, or school policies. If changes are made, students must abide by the most current policy. For further guidance on Return of Title IV policies and procedures please contact the Northwest State Community College Financial Aid Office.

REFERRAL OF OVERPAYMENTS

If the school discovers during the verification or Return of Title IV process that a student received an overpayment of federal funds, the school will attempt to adjust subsequent financial aid disbursements. If this is not possible, the student will be required to repay the overpayment amount. Any applicant failing to repay the overpayment will be referred to the U.S. Department of Education for collection. Such applicants will be ineligible for future Federal Aid funds.

FRAUD POLICY

Northwest State Community College has established guidelines for the prevention, identification of and response to identification of identity theft and financial aid fraud.

What is Identity Theft and Financial Aid Fraud?

Identity Theft

Individuals who use personally identifying information of other people to apply for admission to college, receive financial aid and then enroll in classes are committing identity theft. Often, the victimized student is not aware that they have been enrolled in classes, and the financial aid funds in their name are sent to the individual who is perpetrating the fraud. This frequently results in the victimized student being left with

unpaid debt at the institution and with the U.S. Department of Education due to student loans that were obtained in their name.

Financial Aid Fraud

Students and potential students who enroll in classes and accept financial aid based on enrollment with no intent to complete classes may be considered perpetrators of financial aid fraud. The student's tuition and fees are usually paid by financial aid funds, and the student receives a refund of financial aid funds in excess of those costs.

Students, parents, spouses, college staff and all others are responsible for accurately portraying information submitted on the FAFSA, and in all supporting documents to the financial aid application process. Such documents include, but are not limited to, the FAFSA, verification forms, time sheets, signature pages, appeal applications, correspondence, etc. Falsification of financial aid documents is an extremely serious offense. Students and others who fraudulently complete financial aid documents will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include loss of eligibility for all financial assistance, termination from all College employment programs, and referral to the U.S. Department of Education for criminal prosecution.

Response to Financial Aid Fraud or Identify Theft

When a Northwest State Community College student is identified as being a potential victim of identity theft or involved in financial aid fraud, their account at the college is placed on hold. This hold prevents students from registering and prevents their financial aid from disbursing to their student account. Financial aid funds for the current semester may also be revoked pending resolution. The hold will remain in place until the student has provided all documents that Northwest State may request. Northwest State reserves the right to leave the hold in place until those documents are provided by the student **in person** to the Director of Financial Aid or designee. The student may be asked questions particular to their status in order to positively determine their identity and intent as a student at Northwest State. The student may also be asked to submit additional documentation in order to clarify their student as a student. Additional documentation may include, but not be limited to:

- Unexpired State Issued Photo ID
- Proof of residency at the address listed on the student's college records
- Social Security Card
- Birth Certificate
- Official High School Transcript or GED from the issuing entity
- Official transcripts from other institutions of higher education that the student has previously attended

When the College has credible information that suggests that an individual has engaged in fraud or other criminal misconduct, the case will be reported to the Regional Office of the Inspector General and, if applicable, the state or local law enforcement agencies as specified by the U.S. Department of Education under section 668.14(g) of the General Provisions Regulation.

In these instances, the College will leave the student account hold in place until instructed by the Department of Education that it is appropriate to lift the hold. Students identified to be involved in financial aid fraud will also be referred to the Vice President for Academics for possible disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the College. All monies paid to the student that are determined to have been the result of fraud will be immediately due to the College. If not repaid, this debt will be referred to a collection agency for collection and legal action, and may also be referred to the U.S. Department of Education. Debts that are referred to a collection agency are subject to fees for the costs associated with collecting the debt, including attorney fees and court costs.

Any fraud that the College refers to the Department of Education may result in criminal prosecution. Criminal prosecution may result in a fine of up to \$20,000, imprisonment for up to five years, or both.

Students who are victims of identity theft and/or financial aid fraud are urged to file a police report and seek assistance from appropriate authorities outside of the college. This may include contacting credit bureaus and your banking institution.

UNUSUAL ENROLLMENT HISTORY VERIFICATION

The U.S. Department of Education has established new regulations to prevent fraud and abuse in the Federal Student Aid Program. They have done this by identifying financial aid students with an unusual enrollment history. If a student has received federal financial aid while attending multiple institutions during the last four academic years, the student may be flagged for unusual enrollment history (UEH). While most students have legitimate reasons for unusual enrollment histories, other students enroll in school just long enough to receive cash refunds of federal student aid. These students will often leave school, after receiving their financial aid refund, and repeat the process again by enrolling at another school.

Students with unusual enrollment histories will be flagged by the central processor on their Student Aid Report (SAR) as having either a possible or questionable enrollment pattern. Once identified as having a UEH flag, the Financial Aid Office is required to review the student's enrollment information and determine if academic credit was earned during the last four award years. Students with UEH flags will be required to provide the Financial Aid Office with their official signed academic transcripts from each college from which financial aid was received in the past four award years. As part of the review process, the Financial Aid Office has the authority to request missing official academic transcripts from the student. The Financial Aid Office is able to determine if academic records are missing by reviewing data from the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS).

Students will be ineligible for financial aid until all required transcripts are received by the Financial Aid Office. Once all required transcripts are received, the Financial Aid Office will review the student's enrollment and financial aid records to determine if academic credit was earned. Records may be reviewed from previously attended schools.

- **Academic Credit Earned** – if the institution determines that the student earned any academic credit at each of the previously attended institutions during relevant award years, no further action is required unless the institution has other reasons to believe that the student is one who enrolls just to receive the credit balance. In such instances, the institution must require the student to provide additional documentation as outlined below. Academic Credit is considered to have been earned if the academic records show that student completed any credit hours or clock hours.
- **Academic Credit Not Earned** – if the student did not earn academic credit at a previously attended institution and, if applicable, at the institution performing the review, the institution must obtain documentation from the student explaining why the student failed to earn academic credit. The institution must determine whether the documentation supports (1) the reasons given by the student for the student's failure to earn academic credit; and (2) that the student did not enroll only to receive credit balance funds.

Reasons could include illness, family emergency, change in students living arrangement, and military obligations. The institution should, to the extent possible, obtain third party documentation to support the student's claim. The financial aid administrator may choose to

require the student to establish an academic plan, similar to the type of plan used to resolve satisfactory academic progress appeals.

If the student did not earn academic credit at one or more of the relevant institutions and does not provide acceptable explanation and documentation for each of those failures, the institution must deny the student any additional title IV program assistance.

If the institution denies a student continued Title IV program assistance, it must provide the student with information as to how the student may subsequently regain title IV program eligibility. Since the basis for the denial is the student's academic performance, it is expected that successful completion of academic credit would form the basis for the student's subsequent request for renewal of title IV eligibility. This could include meeting the requirements of an academic plan that the institution established with the student.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

Section 99.7 of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires students be informed of their rights under the FERPA regulations. Student rights include the following:

1. The right to inspect and review their education records.
2. The right to request the amendment of their education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of their privacy or other rights.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in their education records, except to the extent that the Act and regulations in this part authorize disclosure without consent such as University officials with legitimate educational interest.
4. The right to file with the U.S. Department of Education a complaint under Sections 99.63 and 99.64 concerning alleged failures by the University to comply with the regulations of the Act. The office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office,
U.S. Department of Education,
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520
1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327)

Authorization to Release Financial Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 is designed to protect the privacy of a student's educational records. These confidential records include financial aid, scholarship, billing/account information, and will not be released without written consent from the student.

A student may complete the Authorization to Release Financial Information form to grant the Business Office and Financial Aid Office to discuss account information with a designated person. Account information may include:

- Financial aid and scholarship records, including processing and eligibility status as well as award types and amounts. This information will not include specific parental income or asset information.
- Student account and statements, including credits and debits posted to that account and any refund amounts that the student may have received.
- Any other unpaid bills that are owed to the College.

The student must appear in person to the Financial Aid or Business Office and present an unexpired state-issued photo ID. The authorization will remain in effect until revoked in writing by the student.

Directory Information

The following has been identified as Directory Information and may be released without the student's written consent:

- Student name
- Student address **
- Email Address **
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Degree and awards received
- Enrollment Status
- Honors (e.g., Dean's List)

** For legitimate educational purposes only.

Note: Northwest State Community College reserves the right to exercise its discretion to limit disclosure of directory information "to specific parties, for specific purposes, or both."

Under FERPA a student may request that directory information cannot be released. In doing so directory information required for instances including but not limited to classroom administration and Internal Revenue Service remain exempt. Northwest State does not assume any responsibility for contacting a student for ongoing permission to release directory information and does not assume liability for honoring a student's request to restrict disclosure of directory information. Please contact the Registrar's Office at registrar@northweststate.edu for more information on restricting directory information.

As a part of FERPA policy, Northwest State defines a College official as: members of the College in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support position or a person employed by (or under contract to) the College to perform a special task, such as an agent, attorney, or auditor.

A College official has a legitimate interest if the official has the need to know within the limitations typically required to fulfill his or her official responsibilities or by a contract agreement related to a student's educational experience.

FERPA permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from students' education records, without consent of the student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in 99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to College officials, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the student, 99.32 of FERPA regulations require Northwest State to record the disclosure. Eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures.

A postsecondary institution may disclose personally identifiable information from the education records without obtaining prior written consent of the student:

1. The disclosure is to other school officials, including teachers, within the institution whom the institution has determined to have a legitimate educational interest.
2. The disclosure is to officials of another institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll or where the student is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment transfer.
3. The disclosure is to authorized representatives of federal, state, or local educational authorities.
4. Disclosure is to the student.

5. In connection with the student's request for receipt of financial aid.
6. If required by a state law requiring disclosure that was adopted before November 19, 1974.
7. To organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the College.
8. To accrediting organizations to carry out their functions.
9. To the student's parents if they claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
10. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.

Note: The College will make a reasonable effort to notify the student or a designate of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance.

11. To appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency.
12. To a victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense, subject to the requirements of 99.39. The disclosure may only include the final results of the disciplinary proceeding with respect to that alleged crime or offense, regardless of the finding. [99.31 9(a)(13)]
13. To the general public, the final results of a disciplinary proceeding, subject to the requirements of 99.39, if the school determines the student is an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or non-forcible sex offense and the student has committed a violation of the school's rules or policies with respect to the allegation made against him or her. (99.31 (a)(14))
14. To parents of a student regarding the student's violation of any federal, state or local law, or any rule or policy of the school, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance if the school determines the student committed a disciplinary violation and the student is under the age of 21. [99.31 (a)(15)]
15. Information the school has designated as "directory information" under 99.37. [99.31 (a)(11)]

Inspection and Review of Educational Records

A student may inspect and review their education records upon request to the appropriate record custodian.

A student may submit a written request which identifies as precisely as possible the record or records they wish to inspect to the record custodian or an appropriate College staff person. The record keeper or an appropriate College staff member will make the needed arrangements for access as promptly as possible and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. Access must be given in 45 days or less from the receipt of the request.

When records contain information about more than one student, the requesting student may inspect and review only the records which relate to them. Northwest State reserves the right to refuse to permit a student to inspect the following:

- The financial statement of their parents.
- Letters and statements of recommendation for which the student has waived their right of access, or which were placed in file before January 1, 1975.
- Records connected with an application to attend Northwest State if that application was denied.
- Those records which are excluded from the FERPA definition of education records.

Northwest State reserves the right to deny transcripts or copies of records not required to be made available by FERPA in any of the following situations:

- The student has an unpaid financial obligation to the College.
- There is an unresolved disciplinary action against the student.

Inspect and Review Records

1. Individuals who have attended Northwest State Community College have the right to inspect and review official records, files, and data directly related to themselves, including material incorporated into each student's cumulative record folder in accordance with the College policy on access to student records.
2. A student may request, in writing, the opportunity to inspect and review his/her records.
 - a. The request should be made to the chief administrator or designee(s) of the department in which the records are on file.
 - b. A request must specify records to be inspected and reviewed.
3. Release of Information for Deceased Students.
 - a. Requests for information on individuals other than the executor during the first 10 years after death will be limited to the release of directory information only. Thereafter, all information becomes available to the public.
4. A request by a student to inspect and review his/her records will be granted within a reasonable period of time, but such time is not to exceed seven days in which classes are held after the request has been made.
5. Records will be inspected and reviewed by the student in the presence of the department head or his/her designee(s).
 - a. Records may not be changed or deleted during the process of inspection and review.
 - b. The student shall be advised of his/her right to challenge and the procedure to challenge any portion(s) of his/her College record.
 - c. Upon written request, the student shall be provided with a copy of requested documents within his/her record.
6. Northwest State Community College will release non-directory information, including grades, to parents of dependent students only with the written consent of the student, regardless of the student's age or dependency status. Written consent for such requests must be submitted to the Registrar's Office.

Hearing to challenge content of records:

1. Students shall have an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of their College generated records, to ensure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of students, and to provide an opportunity for the correction or deletion of any such inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise inappropriate data contained therein. Third party records are not open to challenge.
2. A student may request, in writing, an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of his/her College record.
 - a. Request should be made to the President or President's designee(s).
 - b. A request must:
 - i. Identify in specific terms the portion(s) of the record to be challenged.

- ii. State the reason(s) for challenging the portion(s) of the record so identified.
- iii. State the remedy sought; i.e., the correction or the information under challenge.

Hearing procedures:

1. The hearing will be conducted by the President or designee(s) who will act as the hearing officer(s).
2. The hearing will be granted within ten days after the request has been made.
3. The department head or his/her designee(s) responsible for the student record under challenge shall represent that record in the hearing.
4. Prior to the hearing, the hearing officer(s) shall notify the student and the department head of the time, place and date of the hearing and of the specific portion(s) of the student's record to be challenged in the hearing.
5. The hearing shall be limited to consideration of the specific portion(s) of the student's record being challenged.
6. The student will have the right to be assisted by an advisor of his/her choice.
7. The burden of sustaining the challenge rests with the student.
8. The student and the department head have the right to present evidence and witnesses directly related to that portion(s) of the student's record being challenged.
9. The hearing officer(s) shall keep a taped record of the hearing.
10. The hearing officer must provide the student with a written notification of the disposition of the challenge including the reason(s) for the disposition.

Institutional personnel access to student records:

1. Students have the right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
 - a. 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; 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 another school official in performing his or her tasks.
 - b. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
2. Financial aid information supplied by students or parents will be maintained on a confidential basis, with only necessary information released to institutional personnel from the standpoint of processing financial aid awards.

Types, Locations, and Custodians of Education Records

| <u>Type</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Custodian</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Admissions Records | Registrar's Office | Registrar |
| Cumulative Academic Records | Registrar's Office | Registrar |
| Financial Records | Business Office | Director of Business Office |

Amendment of Educational Records

You need to ask the appropriate College official (President or President's designee) to amend a record. You should identify the part of the record you want amended and specify why you believe it is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of your privacy or other rights. Please note this procedure excludes grades.

Northwest State may comply with the request or decide not to comply. If we decide not to comply, you will receive notification of the decision and advice on your right to a hearing to challenge the information believed to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of your rights. Upon request to the President or designee, the College will arrange for a hearing, and notify you, reasonably in advance, of the date, place, and time of the hearing.

The hearing will be conducted by a hearing officer (who is a neutral party). The hearing officer may be an official of the institution. You shall be afforded a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues raised in the original request to amend your educational records. Northwest State will prepare a written decision based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing. The decision will include a summary of the evidence presented and the reasons for the decision.

If the College decides the challenged information is not inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of your right of privacy, we will notify you that you have a right to submit a statement commenting on the challenged information and/or a statement setting forth reasons for disagreeing with the decision for placement in the record. The statement will be maintained as part of your education records as long as the contested portion is maintained. If Northwest State discloses the contested portion of the record, it must also disclose the statement. If Northwest State decides the information is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of your right of privacy, we will amend the record and notify you in writing that the record has been amended.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The NSCC Campus Police Department makes every effort to provide a safe and secure environment that allows all members of the campus community an opportunity to achieve their educational goals. Personnel of the department are on duty during all hours that the campus is open.

The NSCC Campus Police Office offers a variety of services to students, staff, and guests while on campus. Services include: escorts to and from their vehicles, vehicle jump-starts, unlocks, and stop-bys. You can contact the Campus Police Department by calling 419-572-1773.

Annual Campus Security Report

The campus security report statistics are compiled in accordance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act. The Clery Act mandates the manner and format in which statistics are collected and published. Please visit: <https://northweststate.edu/campus-police> to access the Annual Security Report, or you can request a hard copy by visiting the NSCC Campus Police Department, located in the College Atrium.

Campus Security, Campus Crime Statistics, and Clery Act Information

The Jeanne Clery Act requires colleges to disclose an annual report highlighting crime statistics for the previous three years, safety awareness programming, student conduct information, and other information on campus crimes and incidents. Northwest State is strongly committed to provide a safe and secure environment for the campus community. Please visit: <https://northweststate.edu/campus-police> to access the most current Jeanne Clery Act report.

The daily crime log <https://northweststate.edu/campus-police> is updated in compliance with the Clery Act in an effort to inform the campus community and general public. The log includes criminal occurrences that have happened on College-owned property or at a College-sponsored event. The items listed in the daily crime log are only those that have been reported to a local police agency or to an officer of the NSCC Campus Police Department.

Federal Law provides tracking of convicted, registered sex offenders enrolled as students at institutions of higher education, working, or volunteering on campus. The Northwest State Community College Police, in compliance with the Campus Sex Crime Prevention Act, makes the following information available to the college campus community in order to afford those from the campus community with the opportunity to be aware of the condition of their community environment concerning known sex offenders. To access the Local Sex Offender Registry website, visit <https://northweststate.edu/campus-police>.

For more Campus Security information, please visit: <https://northweststate.edu/campus-police>.

Timely Warning Policy

The Timely Warning is designed to give students, faculty and staff timely notification of a crime that constitutes a danger to the College community. Such information is a valuable tool in heightening safety awareness and obtaining information, which may lead to an arrest and conviction of a perpetrator. The College issues a Timely Warning when a crime is reported to the Campus Police Department or adjoining law enforcement agency and it is determined that such offense represents a threat to the safety of the College community. A Timely Warning will be issued as soon as the pertinent information is available; however, the release is subject to the availability of facts concerning the incident. An alert is distributed by the Rave Alert system and may also be posted on the Northwest State Community College web site. As the purpose of a Timely Warning is to alert the community of a crime or crimes that have occurred and offer the community advice and guidance on protecting itself, the College will withhold the names of victims as confidential when issuing the alert.

Emergency Response and Evacuation Procedures

In the event of an on-campus emergency, Northwest State students and employees should contact the campus police office at 419-572-1773.

Weather related closings and delays will be communicated via the college website, Quick Alert system, and local Radio and Television stations.

The College Emergency Response Plan can be found at: <https://northweststate.edu/wp-content/uploads/files/NSCC-Emergency-Plan.pdf>.

Fire Safety Report

Northwest State Community College does not have on-campus housing and is therefore not required to maintain a written fire log.

Missing Student Policy

Northwest State Community College does not have on-campus housing and is therefore not required to have a missing student notification procedure included in our annual security report.

Vaccinations Policy

Northwest State Community College does not have a vaccination policy in place to attend.

Smoking and Tobacco Use Policy

Smoking and the use of tobacco products including electronic cigarettes (ecigarettes) is prohibited at all times in all Northwest State Community College buildings and fleet vehicles. This also applies to satellite and other locations where NSCC classes are conducted. Smoking is only permitted in the small courtyard south of the vending area of the “E” Building, on the smokers’ court north of the sidewalk entering the Atrium and inside personal vehicles in the parking lot on the Archbold Campus.

Substance Free Campus and Workplace

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act amendments of 1989 (PL 101-226) require that as a condition of receiving funds, or any other form of financial assistance under any federal program, Northwest State Community College must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees. Northwest State Community College is opposed to the misuse of lawful drugs, the possession and use of unlawful drugs and the abuse of alcohol.

At a minimum, an institution of higher education must annually distribute the following in writing to all students and employees:

- A written statement about its standards of conduct that prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees;
- A written description of legal sanctions imposed under Federal, state, and local laws and ordinances for unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol;
- A description of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and alcohol abuse;
- A description of any drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation/re-entry programs that are available to students and employees; and
- A statement that the institution of higher education will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees for violations of the institution’s codes of conduct and a description of such sanctions.

Standards of Conduct

3358:14-19-01 - Smoking and use of tobacco policy

Northwest State Community College adopted a smoke-free and tobacco-free policy which prohibits the use of smoke and tobacco products on college property owned or controlled by the college. This policy applies to all campuses, employees, students, visitors, and contractors on its property or as part of any of its activities. The policy is as follows:

- a) **The board of trustees recognizes that the use of tobacco presents a health hazard which can have serious consequences both for the user and the non-user and is, therefore, of concern to the board.**
- b) **For purposes of this policy, “use of tobacco” shall mean all uses of tobacco, including cigar, cigarette, pipe, snuff, and other devices or process wherein the user ingests in a manner similar to cigar, cigarette, pipe, snuff (with or without tobacco and with or without nicotine), including but not limited to electronic cigarettes.**
- c) **In order to protect students and staff who choose not to use tobacco from an environment noxious to them, and because the board cannot, even by indirection, condone the use of tobacco, the board prohibits the use to tobacco on the college campus and in the fleet vehicles at all times. Exceptions to this include personal vehicles and a designated area authorized by the campus.**

3358:14-3-21 - Drug-free Workplace

Northwest State Community College has adopted a Drug-Free Workplace policy which prohibits the unlawful drug related activities, which include but are not limited to: the possession, use, manufacture, distribution, and/or dispensation of a controlled substance on college-owned or college-controlled property. This policy applies to all campuses, employees, students, visitors, and contractors on its property or as part of any of its activities. The policy is as follows:

- a) **Northwest State Community College shall comply with the Drug-free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug-Free School and Community Act of 1989.**
- b) **Northwest State Community College shall maintain a drug and alcohol prevention plan.**

Employees – If any employee of the college engages in any activities prohibited by the Drug Free Workplace Act and the Drug-Free School and Community Act, that employee may be subject to disciplinary action by the college in accordance with college policy and the bargaining unit agreements, as applicable.

Student – If any student engages in any activities prohibited by the Drug Free Workplace Act and the Drug-Free School and Community Act, that student may undergo disciplinary or remedial action, expulsion, and/or referral for prosecution under local, state, or federal laws.

Student Code of Conduct

The code of student conduct exists to advance the core missions of the College, promote a safe and secure educational environment, foster the academic and social development of students, and protect the persons, property, processes, and academic integrity of the College community. Although the code is intended to be as comprehensive as possible, it makes no attempt to list all activities, behavior, or conduct which may adversely affect the College community.

In order to maintain an orderly process for learning, the instructor/ supervisor/administrator has the authority to exclude any student who is considered to be detrimental to an ongoing learning experience. This may include dismissing a student from a particular course, workshop, or learning event. As a result of

disruptive or detrimental behavior, a student may be subject to additional discipline under this policy including, but is not limited to disciplinary probation, suspension, dismissal, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, or other appropriate action.

The code applies to the on-campus conduct of all students and registered student organizations. The code also applies to the off-campus conduct of students and student organizations in direct connection with:

1. A class assignment;
2. Academic course requirements or any credit-bearing experiences, such as clinical experiences, externships, internships, field trips, study abroad, or student teaching;
3. Any activity supporting pursuit of a degree;
4. Activities sanctioned, sponsored, conducted, or authorized by the College or by registered student organizations;
5. Any activity that causes substantial destruction of property belonging to the College or members of the College community or causes serious harm to the health or safety of members of the College community; or
6. Any activity in which a police report has been filed, a summons or indictment has been issued, or an arrest has occurred for a crime of violence.

All persons are encouraged to report code violations to a College official as soon as possible. Charges must be filed within sixty days of the incident or of the identification of the person having allegedly committed the violation. Students continue to be subject to city, state, and federal laws while at the college. Violations of city county, state, and/or federal laws may also constitute violations of the code. The college reserves the right to proceed with disciplinary action under the code, independently of any criminal proceedings and impose sanctions for code violation, whether or not the criminal proceedings are resolved or is resolved in the student's favor.

Any student found to have engaged, or attempted to engage, in any of the following conduct while within the College's jurisdiction will be subject to disciplinary action by the college. Prohibited Conduct may include but is not limited to academic misconduct, endangering health or safety of others, sexual misconduct, destruction of property, possession of dangerous weapons, dishonest conduct, theft, failure to comply with College authority, use or possession of drugs or alcohol, unauthorized presence, disorderly or disruptive conduct, hazing, abuse of discipline proceedings, misuse of computing resources, violation of college rules, and riotous behavior.

Prohibited conduct – any student found to have engaged, or attempted to engage, in any of the following conduct while within the college's jurisdiction will be subject to disciplinary action by the college.

A complete copy of the student code of conduct and procedural guidelines can be obtained from the Vice President for Academics.

Drug and Alcohol Health Risks

The following is a summary of the various health risks associated with alcohol abuse and use of specific types of drugs. This summary is not intended to be an exhaustive or final statement of all possible consequences to your health of substance abuse, but rather is intended to increase your awareness of the grave risks involved in this kind of behavior.

ALCOHOL

Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely. Low to moderate doses of alcohol may increase the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts. Moderate to high doses of alcohol may cause marked impairment in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Very high doses may cause respiratory depression or death. If combined with other depressants, dependency may occur. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions. Alcohol withdrawal can be life threatening. Long-term consumption of large quantities of alcohol can lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and the liver. Females who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. These infants have irreversible physical abnormalities and intellectual disabilities. In addition, research indicates that children of alcoholic parents are more at risk than other youngsters of becoming alcoholics.

NARCOTICS

Narcotics are drugs that relieve pain, often induce sleep, and refer to opium, opium derivatives, and synthetic substitutes. Opioids and morphine derivatives can cause drowsiness, confusion, nausea, feelings of euphoria, respiratory complications, and relieve pain. These include: codeine, fentanyl and fentanyl analogs, heroin, morphine, opium, Oxycodone HCL, and hydrocodone bitartrate, acetaminophen.

STIMULANTS

These drugs speed up the body's nervous system and create a feeling of energy. They are also called "uppers" because of their ability to make you feel very awake. Stimulants have the opposite effect of depressants. When the effects of a stimulant wear off, the user is typically left with feelings of sickness and a loss of energy. Constant use of such drugs can have very negative effects on the user. In order to prevent extreme negative side effects of these drugs and the impact they have on life; drug treatment centers are often recommended. Stimulants include: cocaine, methamphetamines, amphetamines, Ritalin, and Cylert.

DEPRESSANTS (Sedatives)

Depressants slow down activity in the central nervous system of your body. These drugs are also called "downers" because they slow the body down and seem to give feelings of relaxation. Depressants are available as prescription drugs to relieve stress and anger, although drowsiness is often a side effect. The "relaxation" felt from these drugs is not a healthy feeling for the body to experience. To stop abuse of this drug, drug treatment is suggested. Depressants include: barbiturates, benzodiazepines, Flunitrazepam, GHB (Gamma-hydroxybutyrate), Methaqualone, alcohol, and tranquilizers.

HALLUCINOGENS

When taking hallucinogens, switching emotions is frequent. These drugs change the mind and cause the appearance of things that are not really there. Hallucinogens affect the body's self-control, such as speech and movement, and often bring about hostility. Other negative side effects of these drugs include heart failure, increased heart rate, higher blood pressure, and changes in the body's hormones. Hallucinogens include: LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), Mescaline, and Psilocybin.

CANNABINOIDS

These drugs result in feelings of euphoria, cause confusion and memory problems, anxiety, a higher heart rate, as well as staggering and poor reaction time. Cannabinoids include hashish and marijuana.

Preventing Abuse

Effectively deal with peer pressure

The biggest reason individuals start using alcohol and drugs is because their friends utilize peer pressure. No one likes to be left out, and people find themselves doing things they normally wouldn't do, just to fit in. In these cases, you need to either find a better group of friends that won't pressure you into doing harmful things, or you need to find a good way to say no. Prepare a good excuse or plan ahead of time to keep from giving into tempting situations.

Deal with life pressure

People today are overworked and overwhelmed, and often feel like a good break or a reward is deserved. But in the end, alcohol and drugs only make life more stressful; and many all too often fail to recognize this in the moment. To prevent using alcohol and drugs as a reward, find other ways to handle stress and unwind. Take up exercising, read a good book, volunteer with the needy, and/or create something. Anything positive and relaxing helps take the mind off using alcohol and drugs to relieve stress.

Seek help for mental illness

Mental illness and substance abuse often go hand-in-hand. Those with a mental illness may turn to alcohol and drugs as a way to ease the pain. Those suffering from some form of mental illness, such as anxiety, depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder should seek the help of a trained professional for treatment before it leads to substance abuse.

Examine the risk factors

If you're aware of the biological, environmental, and physical risk factors you possess, you're more likely to overcome them. A history of substance abuse in the family, living in a social setting that glorifies alcohol and drug abuse and/or family life that model's alcohol and drug abuse can be risk factors.

Keep a well-balanced life

People take up alcohol and drugs when something in their life is not working, or when they're unhappy about their lives or where their lives are going. Look at life's big picture, and have priorities in order.

Drug and Alcohol Counseling or Rehabilitation Services

The Campus Counseling Center is available for students that need help with:

- Depression
- Home/work/school related anxiety and stress
- Relationship problems
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Sexual abuse or rape
- Sexual issues
- Life Issues

Help is just a text away! Text NSCHELP to 419-591-6487! Available 24/7. No charge.

If it is determined that a student needs resources beyond what the Campus Counseling Center can provide, staff will assist students with locating appropriate off campus resources. The following resources represent examples of some of the external partners that are located in our service area:

[Arrowhead Behavioral Health Alcohol Detox Treatment Program](#)

[Defiance Inpatient Drug and Alcohol Rehab Facilities](#)

Recovery.org

[Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio](#)

[Wood County ADAMHS](#)

Federal and State Law

Legal Sanctions

Legal sanctions that are in violation of local, state, or federal law can include probation, fines, driver's license suspension, participation in substance abuse programs, community service hours, ineligibility to possess a firearm, potential ineligibility to receive federal benefits such as student loans and grants, and/or incarceration. Please refer to the links provided in this section for any updates to this information. Any legislative updates or revisions to these statutory or regulatory legal sanctions are outside of the College's control.

Federal law

Federal law provides strict penalties for violation of federal drug laws. Certain federal laws may apply to unlawful manufacture, possession, and trafficking of alcohol as well. Penalties range from fines to prison terms. To view the most up-to-date offenses and penalties, visit the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration website: <https://www.dea/diversion.usdoj.gov/21cfr/21usc/index.html>.

State and local law

State law and local law also provide penalties for violations of laws relating to the unlawful manufacture, sale, use, or possession of controlled (and/or imitation of) controlled substances and alcohol. In addition, states and localities have laws relating to underage drinking, driving while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol and/or illicit drugs. Sanctions for violations may range from local citation to state law felonies. Penalties may range from small fines to prison terms, depending on the violation and past criminal history of the individual.

Ohio law:

Chapter 2925: Drug Offenses <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/2925>

Chapter 3719: Controlled Substances <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3719>

Chapter 4301 Liquor Control Laws <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/4301>

Drug Convictions and Student Financial Aid Eligibility

Under federal regulations, students convicted for a drug offense that occurred during a period of enrollment while they were receiving Title IV Federal Student (Financial) Aid, lose eligibility for that aid. Federal Student Aid includes grants, loans, and work assistance otherwise provided to eligible college students under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. The period of non-eligibility begins on the date of the conviction and remains in effect until the student has met certain rehabilitation requirements.

The prohibition on federal aid applies to any student who has been convicted of any offense under any Federal or State law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance as defined by Section 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act [21 U.S.C. § 802(6)]. Laws regulating distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages are not included within the definition of "controlled substance." For additional information regarding suspension of eligibility for financial aid drug-related offenses can be found at:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/criminal-convictions#drug-convictions>

Other financial aid programs, including certain state programs, may also limit eligibility for students convicted of a drug offense.

Annual Notification of the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Plan and Biennial Review

A) *Employee Notification*

Notification of the information contained in the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Plan will be distributed on at least an annual basis to all employees of the college via email on or before July 1st. The Drug and Alcohol Prevention Plan will also be readily available for all employees by contacting the Human Resources Office. The notification is also provided to all employees upon hire via the new hire employment paperwork.

B) *Student Notification*

Notification of the information contained in the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Plan will be distributed on at least an annual basis to all students via email on or before July 1st. The notification is provided to students who enroll after the annual distribution, via the College's Consumer Information Handbook. The Drug and Alcohol Prevention Plan will also be readily available for all employees by contacting the Vice President of Academics Office.

C) *Biennial Review*

Northwest State Community College conducts a biennial review of the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Plan in all even years. The review is conducted to determine its effectiveness and implement changes to the program if they are needed and to ensure that the disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced. The review is certified by the President and includes the results of the review, a description of the methods and analysis tools that were used to conduct the review, and a list of the responsible departments who conduct the review. Any interested party may request a hard copy of the Biennial Review by contacting the Vice President of Academics.

D) *Oversight Responsibility*

The Campus Security Department and the Vice President of Academics shall have main oversight responsibility of the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Plan including, but not limited to: updates, coordination of information required in the prevention plan, coordination of the annual notification to employees and students, and the biennial review.

Senate Bill 40 (SB40) Fostering Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act Compliance and Expressive Activities and Harassment Policy

Northwest State Community College (NSCC) believes that the right of expression is as necessary as the right of inquiry and that both must be preserved as essential to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge and truth. To that end, NSCC does not prohibit any member of the campus community from engaging in noncommercial expressive activity on campus, so long as the individual's conduct is lawful and does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the institution.

NSCC has adopted a policy on harassment (Policy 17-05) Expressive Activities and Harassment (Effective 8/27/21) as follows:

Policy No. 17-05: EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITIES AND HARASSMENT

Effective Date: 08/27/2021

This policy applies to Northwest State Community College students, student groups, faculty, staff and employees.

(A) This policy applies to Northwest State Community College students, student groups, faculty, staff and employees.

(B) Ohio Revised Code 3345.0212 requires each public college in Ohio to adopt a policy on harassment that is consistent with and adheres strictly to the definition of harassment in section 3345.0211 of the Ohio Revised Code.

(C) Northwest State Community College believes that the right of expression is as necessary as the right of inquiry and that both must be preserved as essential to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge and truth. However, NSCC's commitment to freedom of expression does not extend to harassment. Under section 3345.0211, harassment is defined as conduct and/or expression that is:

(1) not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I of the Ohio Constitution (Unprotected Expression);

(2) unwelcome; and

(3) so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies an individual equal access to the individual's education program or activity.

(D) Expression (either in person, in writing or by telecommunication) must meet all three elements to be actionable under this policy. This policy applies to alleged harassment that takes place on Northwest State Community College's property (owned, leased, or controlled premises), at Northwest State Community College's sponsored events, and in connection with a Northwest State Community College's recognized program or activity.

(E) Students should report alleged violations of this policy to the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. Faculty and Staff should report alleged violations of this policy to the Vice President for Human Resources & Leadership Development. See below for details.

(F) This policy shall not be construed to impair any right or activity, including speech, protest, or assembly protected by the U.S. Constitution.

(G) Nothing within this policy shall be interpreted as preventing Northwest State Community College from restricting expressive activities that the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution or Article I, Sections 3 and 11 of the Ohio Constitution does not protect. Further nothing in this policy shall be interpreted as restricting or impairing the University's obligations under federal law including, but not limited to, Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title

IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 as addressed through its non-discrimination and Title IX policies.

(H) The President may adopt procedures to administer this Policy.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding NSCC's SB40 FORUM Act Expressive Activities policies:

- Cassie Rickenberg, Vice President of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs, crickenberg@northweststate.edu, 419.267.1233, room C110
- Katy McKelvey, Vice President of Human Resources & Leadership Development and Deputy Title IX Coordinator, kmckelvey@northweststate.edu, 419.267.1327, room A106A

Reports of alleged violations of the Expressive Rights and Harassment Policy may be submitted electronically via this link: https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?NorthwestStateCC&layout_id=0

Anti-Hazing Policy 3358: 14-5-23

Overview

Northwest State Community College ("NSCC" or "College") prohibits hazing as defined in this policy. The College will investigate and respond to all reports of hazing as outlined in this policy.

Philosophy

NSCC is committed to a safe and respectful campus environment that aligns with our institutional values. It is the College's belief that learning and working occurs in environments where learners, employees, and visitors feel safe, secure, and welcome.

The College acknowledges that as part of the higher education experience that learners and some employees participate in various extra- and co-curricular groups and organizations with different purposes and processes for affiliation. The College supports traditions within organizations that match the College's core values. Hazing is antithetical to our institutional mission and has no place at NSCC.

The College recognizes that a student organization or group may belong to a national oversight organization that also holds students accountable to expectations and standards (e.g., the national organization for a local fraternity chapter). NSCC is committed to partnering with these outside affiliates to address hazing allegations and will communicate with them as appropriate.

Definitions

1. Hazing

As defined in Ohio Revised Code 2903.31, hazing is defined as:

"doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act or initiation into any student or other organization or any act to continue or reinstate membership in or affiliation with any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person, including coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse, as defined in section 3719.011 of the Revised Code."

Hazing is a form of power-based violence. Hazing can occur with power differentials in all types of relationships regardless of membership status, including an initiate, an individual seeking reinstatement, a current member, or a current student with inactive status. In part, hazing is an attempt to exert control or influence from one person to another. What constitutes hazing is a dynamic and changing set of circumstances that requires a situational response.

Therefore, NSCC further defines hazing to include:

- a. Any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental, emotional, or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into, or affiliation with, any student organization or group regardless of the person's consent to participate.
- b. Brutality of a physical nature including but not limited to paddling, whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, or exposure to the elements.
- c. Coerced consumption, including but not limited to any food, alcoholic beverage, liquid, drug, or any other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm.
- d. Acts intended to cause mental stress, including but not limited to sleep deprivation, transportation or abandonment, confinement to a small space, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in embarrassment, any forced activity that is designed to shame or humiliate, or any action of harassment (as defined in the "Student Code of Conduct").
- e. Coerced activities, including but not limited to violation of local, state, or federal laws, violation of College policies, rules, or regulations, and personal servitude.
- f. Acts of sexual harassment and other sexual misconduct as defined by NSCC POLICY [14-3-35](#).

2. Members of the College community

Faculty, staff, learners, volunteers (e.g., advisors and volunteer coaches), organizations, groups, alumni, and consultants are members of the College community for purposes of this policy.

3. Organization

An organization consists of a number of persons who are associated with each other and have registered with the College as a student organization (such as clubs, club sports, or fraternities and sororities).

4. Groups

A group consists of a number of persons who are associated with the College and each other, but who have not registered, or are not required to register, as a student organization (including but not limited to athletic teams, musical or theatrical ensembles, academic or administrative units, and clubs not registered as student organizations).

Scope

The College holds students accountable for their behavior both on and off-campus and addresses behavior that is a violation of the "Student Code of Conduct." This policy applies to hazing that takes place between two or more people who are affiliated with the institution regardless of if it occurs at sanctioned or non-sanctioned events. This policy applies to student organizations, groups, and individuals and is effective from matriculation to commencement, including breaks in the academic year.

Outcomes and consequences

Hazing is a serious offense of the College "Student Code of Conduct" and, therefore, is subject to the full range of sanctions (reprimand, disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion). In addition, other educational activities may be required as conditions of the sanction. An individual, organization, or group may be subject to other outcomes in accordance with the applicable outside constituents, academic processes, group in which the student is involved, or their governing bodies. The College has the right to act regardless of the actions of a governing body.

Hazing as defined, as well as some of the specific acts involved, may also violate local, state, or federal laws or regulations; for example, the use of force (including the threat of force) may subject the perpetrator to criminal charges of simple, felonious, or aggravated assault. Punishment upon conviction or plea will be as the court decides, and is independent of any decisions made by the College under this policy.

The victim/s of any hazing may file a civil action against one or more individual perpetrators, or against the local or governing organization. Such suits may result in sanctions as the court directs, independent of any decisions made by the College under this policy.

Individuals who participate in hazing or recklessly permit the hazing of another may also face criminal penalties in accordance with Ohio Revised Code sections [2903.31](#) and [2903.311](#). These penalties are in addition to sanctions imposed by the College under this policy.

Reporting

1. Duty to report

Immediately upon learning of potential hazing, all employees, volunteers, advisors, consultants, and alumni have a duty to report any alleged violation of hazing. This obligation extends to reporting what someone tells you and/or what you observe. Each mandated reporter must report to the College and to law enforcement. Student employees have a duty to report violations of this policy of which they become aware in the course of their duties when these duties include responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of other members of campus community or if they have supervisory, evaluative, grading, or advisory responsibility over other members of the campus community.

Separate from and in addition to any administrative duty to report hazing, Ohio Revised Code section [2903.0311](#) states that "[n]o administrator, employee, faculty member, teacher, consultant, alumnus, or volunteer of any organization, . . . who is acting in an official and professional capacity shall recklessly fail to immediately report the knowledge of hazing to a law enforcement agency in the county in which the victim of hazing resides on in which the hazing is occurring or has occurred."

Further, section [2921.22](#) of the Ohio Revised Code requires any person who knows that a felony has been or is being committed to report it to law enforcement. It is a criminal offense to knowingly fail to make the report. If you suspect or have knowledge of criminal activity occurring on College property, call the NSCC Police Department ("NSCC PD"). NSCC Police Department may be reached by dialing 419-267-1452. The NSCC Police Department is located in A191 in the Atrium. Persons who wish to report crimes or other incidents at other College sites or from their homes should contact the police department of jurisdiction by calling 9-1-1. Incidents that occur off-campus or at a regional campus should be reported to local law enforcement by calling 9-1-1 or the nonemergency telephone number specific to that jurisdiction.

2. Filing a report of violation of this policy

The Vice President of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs ("VPEMSA") serves as the recipient for any complaint or report of hazing. If the report involves criminal conduct, the VPEMSA shall notify law enforcement. If the report involves allegations of sexual misconduct, the provisions of NSCC [POLICY 14-3-35](#) may also apply. In certain instances, the VPEMSA will notify other appropriate agencies, such as children's services.

Walk-in or mail:

Vice President of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs
Northwest State Community College
22600 State Route 34
Archbold, Ohio 43502
Telephone: 419-267-1349

Submit an incident report:
[NSCC Incident Reporting Form](#)

3. Anonymous complaints

The College is committed to reviewing all reports of hazing. Anonymous reports are accepted; however, the College's ability to obtain additional information may be compromised and the ability to investigate anonymous reports may be limited.

4. Rights of the reporting party

In order to encourage reporting of alleged hazing, the reporting party may not face conduct referrals for action under the "Student Code of Conduct" with respect to his or her own unlawful or prohibited use of alcohol or drugs during the incident when the alleged hazing occurred. Further, if the reporting party is found to have violated the "Student Code of Conduct" with respect to hazing, then the act of reporting will be taken as a mitigating factor during the selection of sanction.

Investigation process

The VPEMSA will review all reported allegations of hazing, and where appropriate, investigate. The VPEMSA shall coordinate the investigation of all hazing allegations. When appropriate, other College offices may handle certain aspects of the College response, such as Title IX, College human resources, or an academic college/department, etc. Additionally, the VPEMSA will assess the need for interim measures will also be assessed (e.g., partial or full cease and desist of organizational activities). Every effort will be made to complete the investigation in a timely manner. The hazing allegation will be investigated and resolved in keeping with the "Student Code of Conduct" process for student respondents. When a formal conduct charge is made against an organization, the national or oversight organization, if any, shall be notified. Criminal investigations resulting from a report to law enforcement will be handled by the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Community Education

In addition to posting this policy as part of the policy manual, the College will provide a link to this policy to each recognized organization within the College. The College is further committed to educating all NSCC learners, faculty, staff, and volunteers, about what hazing is, how to recognize it and steps to address it. All learners, employees, and volunteer advisors and coaches are required to complete hazing education as part of being a member of our community. Further, all recognized organizations must conduct mandatory training on hazing for any volunteer who has contact with students.

Further Guidance

Any learner who does not complete the educational program may not participate in any organization or group on campus including groups/organizations, athletics teams, intermural sports, and/or musical ensembles until the training is complete. Continued failure to complete the training may result in a referral to the community standards process.

For all others, failure to comply will be addressed through the appropriate College disciplinary process based on an individual's classification. Disciplinary action may vary, up to and including termination of employment or the individual's volunteer position.

Policy Prohibiting Harassment and Discrimination

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

Policy statement: Northwest state community college ("NSCC" or "the college") is committed to maintaining a workplace and academic environment free of discrimination and harassment. Therefore, the college shall not tolerate discriminatory or harassing behavior by or against trustees, employees, vendors, customers, students, or other persons participating or attempting to participate in a college program or activity. "Attempting to participate" extends mandated protections against person who are applicants for admission or employment or who are determined by the administration of this policy to be otherwise accessing the College's educational program.

(A) Employees and students are expected to assist in the college's efforts to prevent discrimination or harassment from occurring. Administrators, supervisors, and employees who have been designated to act on behalf of the college are specifically responsible for identifying and taking proper action to stop such behavior when they see it occurring and to report it to the reporting structure of the college as identified in this policy.

(B) While the college does not tolerate any form of discrimination or harassment, the Non-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Policy and related procedures are intended to cover discrimination and harassment based on a protected class. Protected classes for purposes of this policy are age, ancestry, color, disability, familial status, gender, genetic information (GINA), military or veteran status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation, or any other bases under the law. "Antisemitism" is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jewish people. Many Jewish people hold their identity of being "Jewish" as both a religion and a race (or as their religion or race), although Jewish people can be from anywhere in the world and may or may not be actively practicing Judaism. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property and toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. Antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identity, affiliation, or faith, is strictly prohibited at NSCC. Like many other forms of civil rights abuses, acts against actual or perceived Jewish persons are illegal and in violation of our policies. In reviewing, investigating, or deciding whether antisemitism has occurred in violation of this policy, in accordance with Ohio Executive Order 2019-05D, NSCC shall take into consideration the definition of antisemitism set forth above for purposes of determining whether the alleged act was motivated by discriminatory antisemitic intent. Through this and related policies, the college acknowledges and complies with its duties under Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Clery Act, as amended, by the 2013 Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, The Pregnant Worker's Fairness Act (PWFA) and the Providing Urgent Maternal Protections (PUMP) for Nursing Mothers Act and relevant state and local laws, by setting forth comprehensive frameworks for receiving, processing, investigating, and resolving complaints.

(C) Anyone who is subjected to conduct that creates an intimidating or hostile environment, regardless if the conduct is based on a protected class, shall report the conduct to a person outlined in section (E) of this rule. If human resources determines that the conduct alleged to be creating an intimidating or hostile environment is not based on a protected class, the report may be referred for remediation according to the relevant policy.

(D) Reports of sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating or domestic violence, stalking, or sexual harassment ("sexual misconduct") are governed by the college's sexual misconduct policy governing student

and employees (policy 3358:14-3-35 or the sexual misconduct policy), which establishes separate procedures for reporting and resolving allegations of Sexual Misconduct against students and employees pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (as well as provides for resolution options when the reported behavior is sexual misconduct, but does not rise to meet the jurisdictional requirements of title IX through non-title IX resolution procedures which sit in that same policy.) For more information on the title IX policy, including definitions of the sex-based prohibited conduct and reporting options, please visit the [NSCC Title IX Website](#) or refer to the sexual misconduct policy governing students and employees.

(E) In furtherance of these expectations, all employees are required to participate in required training.

(1) Definitions of discrimination/harassment. As used in this policy, the following terms are defined and will be adhered to as follows:

(a) Discrimination – occurs when an adverse employment action is taken and is based upon a protected class. Discrimination may occur in several forms, such as:

(i) Disparate treatment - when a person, or a group of people are treated less favorably than another person or group of people on the basis of a protected class.

(ii) Disparate impact - when a college policy, practice or decision is based on neutral factors that have an adverse impact on a protected class.

(b) Harassment* – (1) Unwelcome, protected class-based physical non-verbal or verbal conduct that (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that (3) it unreasonably interferes with, denies, or limits an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from the college's education and employment programs and activities; and (4) is based on power differentials (quid pro quo) or the creation of a hostile environment. *This definition does not include sex-based harassment/discrimination ("sexual misconduct"). To understand how the college defines sexual misconduct and to report incidents of sexual misconduct, see policy 3358:14-3-35.

(i) Hostile Work Environment - occurs when the conduct at issue is sufficiently severe or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, abusive or offensive environment regarding employment or academic decisions for a person in a protected class. A single instance of discrimination may be sufficient to create a hostile work environment.

(2) Discrimination/harassment indicators and examples

(a) Examples of discrimination/harassment include, but are not limited to the following:

(i) Conduct that explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's or group's employment or academic achievement; unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance or learning ability; and/or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work, or academic environment when that person belongs to a protected class;

(ii) Verbal behaviors or comments, slurs, jokes, recordings, videos, music and personal references or use of negative terms used to identify someone in a protected class;

(iii) Non-verbal, offensive, graphic communication (i.e. obscene hand or finger gestures), bullying, demeaning, insulting, intimidating, or suggestive written material, email, posters, graffiti, cartoons, other electronically transmitted messages or use of social media which are directed at someone because of a protected class;

(iv) Any other conduct that has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, offensive work environment, or unreasonably interferes with a person's work or academic environment based on a protected class.

(3) Consequences of discrimination/harassment

(a) Employees - any employee found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

(b) Students - any student found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to review and resolution in accordance with the student code of conduct policy 3358:14-5-08 and may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance therewith.

(4) Reporting responsibilities and filing a complaint

(a) Anyone who believes that an administrator, any employee, supervisor, student, or non-employee's behavior constitutes discrimination or harassment has a responsibility to report the behavior/action as soon as it is known so that the College may administer this policy.

(i) Allegations can be made by individuals who are directly involved in, who observe, or who receive reliable information that discrimination/harassment may have occurred.

(b) Complaints involving employees: In cases of alleged discrimination/harassment in employment or if the victim or alleged perpetrator is an employee, the complaint may be made to any of the following:

(i) an employee of human resources;

(ii) the institution's Title IX Coordinator; or

(iii) an employee of the NSCC police department.

(c) Complaints involving students: In cases of alleged discrimination/harassment when the victim and/or alleged perpetrator is a student, a potential student, or someone participating in a college-sponsored event or activity, the complaint may be made to any of the following:

(i) human resources;

(ii) the institution's Title IX Coordinator;

(iii) the vice president of academics;

(iv) an academic dean; or

(v) an employee of the NSCC police department.

(d) Any person designated to receive complaints under this policy who has direct or constructive knowledge of alleged discriminatory or harassing behavior must

immediately report the behavior to the office of human resources or chief student affairs officer. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

(e) Emergency: Any person seeking immediate assistance or relief from bodily danger or a threat of bodily danger should immediately contact the northwest state community college police department at 419-267-1452 or by dialing 9-1-1

(f) Reporting: Complaints made in good faith regardless of whether or not there is sufficient information to render a substantiated finding will not be held against an employee or student in any way.

(i) Any employee who knowingly or maliciously makes a false allegation of discrimination or harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

(ii) Any student who knowingly or maliciously makes a false allegation of discrimination or harassment will be subject to the process outlined by the student code of conduct policy 3358:14-5-08.

(5) Academic freedom/first amendment guidelines

(a) The college is committed to providing a safe, anti-harassing, and nondiscriminatory environment that protects the civil rights of individuals, per college policies and in compliance with state and federal law, and the college recognizes the value of academic freedom in the classroom.

(b) College policies are not intended to restrict serious discussion of controversial issues in the academic classrooms or trainings. In light of this, to minimize the potential for multiple claims that course content is discriminatory, harassing or offensive, it is recommended that in courses where such discussions occur, faculty provide a disclosure that the content covered may be controversial. However, employees and students are encouraged to file complaints in accordance with section D in this policy for reasons specified therein.

(6) Confidentiality

To the extent possible, all information received in connection with the reporting, investigation, and resolution of allegations will be treated as confidential, except to the extent it is necessary to disclose information in order to investigate, prevent or address the effects of the discrimination/harassment, resolve the complaint or when compelled to do so by law. All individuals involved in the process should observe the same standard of discretion and respect for the reputation of everyone involved in the process.

(7) Retaliation

The college, in compliance with federal, state and local law that strictly prohibits it, will not tolerate retaliation in any form against any individual who files a complaint or report, makes an allegation, or who participates in an investigation of discrimination or harassment. Retaliation is a serious violation that can subject the offender to discipline, up to and including termination of employment and/or student status, independent of the merits of the underlying allegation. Allegations of retaliation should promptly be directed to human resources or student affairs. If at any time, a party feels as though the

retaliatory conduct poses a threat to their safety or the safety of others, the party should contact law enforcement.

(8) Formal complaint procedures

Complainants may initiate formal procedures by filing a complaint with human resources (HR). HR responds to complaints in accordance with the procedures outlined below. However, there may be exceptional circumstances that justify a departure from these procedures, and, should such circumstances arise, HR will advise the parties to the complaint as soon as possible. If a complaint alleges sex-based harassment or discrimination in addition to protected class harassment or discrimination covered by this policy, HR may work in concert with the institution's Title IX Coordinator to investigate and resolve the complaint, if applicable and at their discretion. HR may work independently if it is determined that conducting two investigations makes the most sense given the specific facts of the matter alleged. Decisions made with regard to the consolidation of investigations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

(a) Filing a complaint

(i) HR and student affairs work in concert to accept and respond to complaints. Student affairs will accept student reports and will aid students in reporting to HR. A complaint must be filed with HR by any current employee or student or applicant for employment or admission who believe that they have been subject to protected class harassment or discrimination. If the complaint involves allegations of employment discrimination, it must be filed with HR within three hundred days of the most recent alleged prohibited discriminatory or retaliatory conduct. HR retains discretion to accept complaints filed outside of the three-hundred-day timeframe for good cause. A complainant may also file a formal charge of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation with a state or federal agency authorized by law to receive such complaints.

(ii) HR and/or student affairs (respectively) will also initially accept complaints in alternate written form, such as email, or verbal where the human resources department will attempt to collect the at a minimum: (1) the complainant's name and contact information; (2) the name of the respondent(s); (3) an explanation of the conduct believed to constitute protected class harassment or discrimination or an allegation of retaliation with approximate date(s) of when these actions occurred; and (4) a brief description of why the complainant believes that the alleged conduct at issue is based on one or more protected characteristics. If a reasonable accommodation or other assistance is needed to file a complaint, please contact HR.

(iii) As stated, reports of sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating and domestic violence, stalking, and/or sex-based harassment ("sexual misconduct") are governed by the sexual misconduct policy governing students and employees. However, reports of harassment or discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnant or parenting status, or other gender-based misconduct that does not rise to the level of constituting hostile environment sexual harassment as defined by Title IX will be resolved utilizing this policy and procedure.

(b) Receipt of complaint and initial assessment

(i) Upon notice of a complaint, HR/student affairs will first assess the allegations to determine whether interim measures pending resolution of the matter are appropriate. Interim measures may include, but are not limited to, a safety plan, schedule change, temporary removal of the respondent from the workplace or academic program, if warranted, and other measures, including issuance of a “no contact” directive. In making this assessment, HR/student affairs will consider the totality of the circumstances, the nature and severity of the allegations, and whether the allegations implicate a potential, ongoing safety threat to the complainant or the community. HR/student affairs will consult with college administrators, as appropriate.

(ii) From this point forward, the party alleging to be the victim of the harassment or discrimination will be called the “complainant” and the person accused of engaging in the unwanted behavior will be called the “respondent.”

(c) Evaluation of a complaint

(i) Following HR’s notice of a complaint, HR shall decide whether the complaint states a potential violation of this policy and shall notify the complainant of its decision. If the complaint lacks sufficient information for HR to make this decision, HR will contact the complainant to gather additional information.

(ii) If HR determines that the complainant’s allegations, if true, do not state a violation of college policies, an explanation of this decision shall be explained to why the complaint does not state a violation and may inform the complainant of other possible avenues of redress, such as through other college policies or offices.

(iii) If HR concludes that the complainant’s allegations do not state a policy violation, but nevertheless implicate potentially concerning behaviors, HR will advise complainants of steps that HR will take to assist them in addressing their concerns informally.

(iv) If HR concludes that the allegations of the complaint state a potential violation, HR will notify the complainant of that determination and will meet with the complainant to confirm the specific factual allegations upon which the complaint is based and to discuss the formal complaint procedures.

(v) For complaints that also implicate conduct prohibited by the sexual misconduct policy, HR will consult with the Title IX Coordinator. Generally, such complaints or reports will be investigated concurrently under the appropriate Title IX procedures, unless the Title IX Coordinator determines that doing so would unduly delay resolution of the allegations under the Title IX policy. In these situations, HR will notify complainants under which policies and procedures their reported allegations will be resolved.

(d) Investigation

(i) Notice of the investigation: As soon as practicable, HR will provide notice to the complainant and the respondent(s) of the commencement of the investigation. Such notice will: (a) name the complainant and the respondent; (b) specify the nature of the alleged harassment; (c) explain that the complaint will be investigated in accordance with these procedures; (d) identify the investigator; (e) explain the college's prohibition against retaliation; and (f) provide a copy of this policy and the complaint procedures.

(ii) Investigation overview: If HR has not already done so, HR will conduct a formal interview of the complainant and the respondent(s). During the investigation, the parties will have an equal opportunity to be heard, to submit information and corroborating evidence, to identify witnesses who may have relevant information, and to submit questions that they believe should be directed by the investigator to each other or to any witness. The investigator will notify and seek to meet separately with the complainant, the respondent, and any third party witnesses, if applicable, and will gather other relevant and available evidence and information, including electronic or other records of communications between the parties or witnesses (via voice-mail, text message, email and social media sites), photographs (including those stored on computers and smartphones), and medical records (subject to the consent of the applicable party). The investigation conducted by HR may further include, but is not limited to:

(a) Interviewing material witnesses;

(b) Reviewing relevant files and records;

(c) Comparing the treatment of the complainant to that of others similarly situated in the department or unit;

(d) Reviewing applicable policies and procedures; and/or

(e) Following up with the parties as new evidence is collected, as appropriate, and permitting the parties to provide additional information to the record.

(e) Timeframe for investigation

The investigation shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated and would not normally exceed sixty business days. This timeframe may be extended for good cause. HR will notify the parties in writing of any extension of this timeframe.

(f) Findings

(i) Upon conclusion of the investigation, HR will conduct a meeting with the complainant and respondent separately to provide a verbal outcome of the investigation will include a finding as to whether there is sufficient information, by a preponderance of the evidence, to support a finding that the respondent(s) engaged in the alleged harassment in violation of the policy.

(ii) If HR issues a finding of violation, HR will construct a letter that will include recommended action items, which may include, but are not limited to: (a) a directive to stop any ongoing discriminatory, harassing and/or retaliatory behavior/practices; (b) disciplinary or other corrective action be taken against the respondent and/or others; (c) relief be granted to the complainant, such as accommodations, reinstatement, hiring, reassignment, promotion, training, back pay or other compensation and/or benefits (specific remedies shall be fact-specific to each complaint); and/or (d) other proactive measures, such as targeted training or education.

(9) Administrative review

(a) HR retains discretion to conduct an administrative review into allegations of harassment or discriminatory conduct, in absence of a formal complaint. In determining whether to initiate an administrative review of allegations harassment or discrimination, HR will consider all known information, including: (1) the nature and the severity of the allegations; (2) whether the allegations are amenable to resolution through other channels, such as human resources intervention; (3) the history of prior complaints regarding the same individuals, department and/or area; (4) the expressed wishes, if known, of the affected individual(s); and (5) any other pertinent information.

(b) Administrative reviews will include interviewing witnesses and reviewing pertinent documents and will normally be concluded within 60 business days. This timeframe may be extended for good cause and any recommended action items will be presented to the College's Legal Counsel. The same level of confidentiality applicable in complaint investigations will apply to administrative reviews.

(10) Obligation to provide truthful information

All college community members are expected to provide truthful information in connection with any report made under this policy. Submitting or providing false or misleading information in bad faith or with a view to personal gain or to intentionally harm another in connection with a complaint under these policies is prohibited and subject to disciplinary sanction. This provision does not apply to reports made or information provided in good faith, even if the facts alleged in the report are not later substantiated.

(11) External complaints Individuals also have the right to file complaints with one of the following federal or state agencies. Please be advised that separate deadlines and time limitations for filing complaints with the external agencies may apply, and HR's investigation does not toll or otherwise suspend these deadlines or time limitations. Please contact the following agencies for more information about the applicable deadlines:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

To file a claim with the EEOC, contact the nearest local EEOC office. More information about filing a claim with the EEOC can be found at

<http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/howtofil.html>

EEOC — Cincinnati Area Office

550 Main Street
 10th Floor
 Cincinnati, OH 45202
 Phone: (513) 684-2851
 TTY: (513) 684-2074

EEOC — Cleveland District Office

1240 E 9th Street
 Suite 3001
 Cleveland, OH 44113-1454
 Phone: (216) 522-2001
 TTY: (216) 522-8441

U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights

The majority of OCR staff are working remotely. Therefore, to ensure receipt of your correspondence, please consider emailing (OCR@ed.gov) or faxing (202-453-6012) it to their office, where it will receive immediate attention. If neither of these options are available to you, mail your correspondence to the address below and we will process it as soon as conditions allow. You may also contact them at 800-421-3481 or OCR@ed.gov to confirm receipt of your correspondence.

U.S. Department of Education
 Office for Civil Rights
 Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Bldg
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20202-1100

To file a claim with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC), contact the nearest office below. More information about filing a claim with the OCRC can be found at the website. You may also check out more information at the Office of Civil Rights Commission website.

Columbus — Central Office

Rhodes State Office Tower
 30 East Broad Street, 5th Floor
 Columbus, OH 43215
 Phone: (614) 466-2785
 Toll-Free: (888) 278-7101

Columbus Regional Office

30 East Broad Street 4th Floor
 Columbus, OH 43215
 Phone: (614) 466-5928
 TTY: (614) 752-2391
 Fax: (614) 466-6250
 Counties Served: Franklin, Union,
 Madison, Delaware, Pickaway, Licking,
 Fairfield, Hocking, Muskingum, Perry,
 Athens, Morgan, Guernsey, Noble,
 Washington, Belmont, Monroe, Ross,
 Marion, Morrow

Akron Regional Office

Akron Government Building
 Suite 205
 161 South High Street
 Akron, OH 44308
 Phone: (330) 643-3100
 TTY: (330) 643-3100
 Fax: (330) 643-3120
 Counties Served: Wayne, Summit, Stark,
 Portage, Trumbull, Mahoning, Columbiana,
 Knox, Holmes, Coshocton, Tuscarawas,
 Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison

Dayton Regional Office

Point West III
 3055 Kettering Blvd, Suite 111
 Dayton, OH 45402
 Phone: (937) 285-6500
 TTY: (937) 285-6500
 Fax: (937) 285-6606
 Counties Served: Darke, Preble, Shelby,
 Miami, Montgomery, Logan, Champaign,
 Clark, Greene, Van Wert, Mercer, Allen,
 Auglaize, Hardin

Cincinnati Satellite Office

Mid-Pointe Towers
7162 Reading Road
Suite 1005
Cincinnati Ohio 45237
Phone: (513) 351-2541
Fax: (513) 351-2616
TTY: (513) 852-3344
Counties Served: Butler, Hamilton, Clermont,
Clinton, Warren, Brown, Fayette, Highland,
Adams, Pike, Scioto, Vinton, Jackson,
Lawrence, Gallia, Meigs

Toledo Regional Office

One Government Center
640 Jackson Street, Suite 396
Toledo, OH 43604
Phone: (419) 245-2900
TTY: (419) 245-2900
Fax: (419) 245-2668
Counties Served: Williams, Defiance,
Paulding, Fulton, Henry, Putnam, Lucas,
Wood, Hancock, Ottawa, Sandusky,
Seneca, Wyandot, Crawford

Sexual Misconduct Policy Governing Students and Employees

1. INTRODUCTION

Northwest State Community College (“NSCC” or “the College”) is committed to cultivating a diverse and inclusive community that recognizes the value of each individual and allows persons to learn and work in an environment free from harassment and discrimination. As part of this effort, the College will respond to sex-based harassment and discrimination and through clear policies and grievance procedures, educational programming, employee training, and sanctioning those who violate this policy, commits itself to maintaining a safe and healthy educational and employment environment. This comprehensive policy is created and implemented by the College to address allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in addition to other prohibited misconduct as identified and defined herein. This policy and the procedure herein apply to all students, employees, and third parties, including contractor and vendors of the College.

Northwest State Community College is public, two-year postsecondary institution and an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer that serves the community by providing access to excellent and affordable education, training, and services that will improve the lives of individuals and strengthen communities. NSCC has a strong institutional commitment to the achievement of excellence and diversity among its faculty and staff. Northwest State Community College does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, color, religious creed, national origin, physical or mental disability, protected veteran status, age, or any other characteristic protected by law with regard to any employment practices, including recruitment, advertising, job application procedures, hiring, upgrading, training, promotion, transfer, compensation, job assignments, benefits, and/or other terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, provided the individual is qualified, with or without reasonable accommodations, to perform the essential functions of the job. NSCC’s good faith efforts and policies are designed to ensure that this commitment is maintained. **For complaints related to discrimination on the basis of any protected class besides sex, please contact Human Resources and refer to Policy 14-3-19, Non-Discrimination-Anti-Harassment Policy (herein the “Title VII Policy”).** When an allegation of sex-based harassment and harassment or discrimination on the basis of another protected class is reported, the College will use this policy as well as Procedure 14-3-35 (herein the “Title IX Procedure” or “Sexual Misconduct Procedure”) to resolve the complaint. The College retains the right to conduct one investigation into all allegations and to consolidate complaints, although different procedures may be used to resolve complaints that allege more than one form of prohibited conduct. This is further discussed in sections throughout this document.

Northwest State Community College prohibits all forms of sex and gender-based harassment, as well as the offenses of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking (collectively referred to in this policy as “Sexual Misconduct” and also constitutes “Prohibited Conduct” under this policy.) These offenses may also be prohibited by Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S. C. § 1681 et seq. (“Title IX”), by the Clery Act and Section 304 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (“VAWA”), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes. This Policy prohibits a broad continuum of behaviors, some of which are not prohibited under Title IX or other laws. Their inclusion in this Policy reflects the College’s standards and expectations for a respectful working and learning environment where everyone is free to work and learn safely.

The College will investigate and attempt to resolve all complaints of Sexual Misconduct in a prompt, fair and impartial manner. The College will treat all individuals involved with dignity and respect. All processes are driven by objective fact-finding and approached from a neutral standpoint, including the presumption that a Respondent is not responsible for a violation of this policy prior to a finding that supports that.

With this in mind, members of the College community are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that respects the inherent dignity of all people and refrains from any form of harassment or discriminatory

practices, including all forms of Sexual Misconduct as defined in this policy. This policy has been developed to reaffirm these principles, to provide explicit information regarding when and how the College will respond to allegations of sex-based Prohibited Conduct, and to provide accountability for conduct that violates this policy.

Inquiries regarding the application of this policy and the respective grievance procedures used to resolve complaints may be referred to the College's Title IX Coordinator/Team, to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both. Further, complaints regarding employment discrimination may also be referred to the Federal and state agencies noted further in this document.

1.1 DEFINITIONS

1.1.1 COMPLAINANT

"Complainant" means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct as defined by this policy.

1.1.2 RESPONDENT

"Respondent" means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct as defined by this policy.

1.1.3 PARTY

"Party" means either the Complainant(s) or Respondent(s) in an investigation or action relating to a report of Prohibited Conduct.

1.1.4. CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES

"Confidential Resources" are designated by Colleges and Universities to provide Complainants with emergency and ongoing support and to advise the Complainant on options for reporting violations of this policy. Northwest State Community College does not have any on-campus confidential resources (this is a contracted off campus service.) Persons seeking confidential resources should seek support off campus (see On and Off-Campus Resources Chart in Appendix B.)

1.1.5. TITLE IX COORDINATOR

The "Title IX Coordinator" is responsible for overseeing the College's response to reports of Sexual Misconduct on campus and oversees the College's centralized response to ensure compliance with Title IX and the Clery Act (VAWA) as it relates to the accurate reporting of and response to sexual harassment and the VAWA offenses. The Title IX Coordinator is also responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures and remedies. The Title IX Coordinator or the President may delegate responsibilities under this policy to a designee, who will be appropriately trained per the requirements of Title IX and VAWA. For purposes of this policy, any reference to the Title IX Coordinator should be read as the "Title IX Coordinator or other designee."

How to contact the College's Title IX Coordinator:

Title IX Coordinator,
Northwest State Community College
In person by visiting the Title IX Office at: Human Resources Department,
Building A, 1st Floor, Suite 106
In writing by email: titleix@northweststate.edu
Or by calling: 419-267-1488

Reports may generally be made in person when the College is normally open between 8am and 4pm Monday through Thursday and anytime 24 hours a day/7 day a week via email, by sending written correspondence through the U.S. mail, or by using the online reporting form, which may be

accessed [here](#). In an emergency or to receive an immediate response, contact law enforcement by dialing 9-1-1 from wherever you are. *Correspondence to the Title IX Coordinator via telephone, email or the online reporting form will not result in an immediate response. Responses from the Coordinator will be as prompt as possible and can generally be expected within 2 business days of the outreach.

1.1.6. INVESTIGATOR

The “Investigator” is the person assigned to conduct the investigation upon the signing of a Complaint and a request for a Formal Resolution Process. The Investigator may be a Title IX Coordinator, an employee, or a contracted service provider.

1.1.7. DECISION-MAKER

The “Decision-Maker” is the person or persons that will make the determination of responsibility for Emergency Removal and at the conclusion of an Informal or Formal Resolution Process or following an appeal. The Decision-Maker will provide the determination in writing and cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or the Investigator on a case arise out of the same facts or circumstances. In the case of an Appeal, the Decision-Maker will be different from the person or person who made the initial determination. The Decision-Maker may be an employee or a contracted service provider. The College retains the right to establish a pool of cross-trained individuals who may serve in the capacity as an Investigator or one of the Decision-Makers, however, a decision-maker would never hold more than one position during a particular complaint.

1.1.8. TITLE IX PERSONNEL

“Title IX Personnel” include all individuals whose duties include resolution of reports and complaints of student and employee violations of this policy. All Title IX personnel shall receive annual training as required by Title IX and the Clery Act as amended by VAWA. Employees falling under this description include without limitation the Title IX Coordinator(s), Investigators, Decision-makers, members of the NSCC Police Department and any contracted service providers of the College with any of the responsibilities outlined herein.

1.1.9. RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYEES

Every College employee must report conduct that could constitute sexual harassment/sex discrimination/sexual misconduct under this policy and are considered “Responsible Employees.” A Responsible Employee must attend required training and take all appropriate action to prevent sexual misconduct, discrimination and harassment, to correct it when it occurs, and must promptly report it to the institution’s Title IX Coordinator.

Ohio has both civil and criminal laws to protect children from abuse and neglect. The College requires all faculty, staff, and volunteers, who in the course of their duties, witnesses child abuse or neglect on campus or who have information that would lead a reasonable person to believe that a minor on campus faces a substantial threat of such abuse or neglect must immediately contact NSCC Police Department. Please see the section entitled “Minors on Campus” in this policy information regarding the protection of children on campus.

1.1.10. ADVISOR OF CHOICE

An “Advisor of Choice” means the person of the Complainant or Respondent’s choosing who accompanies them to any meeting or disciplinary proceeding in which they are required to be present. This person can provide support, advise and/or counsel. During the investigatory stage of the process, the Advisor is not permitted to act on behalf of their Party with regard to answering questions or providing evidence on behalf of a Party. They may not be disruptive, nor may they unnecessarily delay the investigation due to their personal availability. During the Live Hearing portion of the Title IX process, the Advisor of Choice is responsible for conducting the cross-

examination during a live hearing pursuant to the Title IX grievance processes. Cross-examination in this setting is limited to the other Party and witnesses. The Advisor cannot make opening or closing statements, ask questions of their own advisees, object to questions, or engage in advocacy other than that permitted herein. An Advisor is permitted in a Non-Title IX grievance process; however, their role is restricted to that during the investigatory stage as described above.

The College will not restrict the choice of an advisor and the advisor can be anyone of the Party's choosing, although the College may remove an Advisor if they become disruptive or otherwise hinders a fair and equitable process. The involvement of an Advisor may not result in undue delay of any meeting or proceeding. During the Title IX live hearing, if a Party does not have an Advisor, the College will appoint one on behalf of the Party without fee, i.e., free of charge. In this capacity, the Advisor will be appointed for the sole purpose of conducting cross examination of the other Party and witnesses. Employees of the College may serve in this capacity, however, are not required to serve as advisors of choice and may choose to decline serving in this capacity.

1.1.11. CLERY ACT COMPLIANCE-CSAS AND STATEMENT ON VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY

A "Campus Security Authority" ("CSA") is a designated College official who has an obligation to report certain crimes reported to them to the reporting structure of the institution as required by the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act). In most cases it is possible for a CSA to fulfill his or her responsibilities while still maintaining victim confidentiality. Except in reference to a report to the Title IX Coordinator, a report to a CSA does not result in a Complaint for purpose of triggering an investigation or Informal or Formal Resolution Process.

Education records are maintained in accordance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). All documentation related to a student's complaint, investigation, and resolution are protected by FERPA and for students, constitutes an educational record. Non-identifying information may be shared with the NSCC Police Department in order to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. A Complainant's name will never be publicly published nor does the College house identifiable information regarding status as a crime victim in the Daily Crime Log or online. Victims may request that directory information on file be removed from public sources by request. To request removal of directory information, employees should contact HR and students should contact the Registrar.

1.1.12. SCOPE AND JURISDICTION

This policy governs the conduct of: College students, regardless of enrollment status; faculty; staff; and third Parties (i.e., non-members of the College community, such as vendors, alumni/ae, visitors, or local residents).

Third Parties are both protected by and subject to this policy. A third-party may make a report of a suspected violation of this policy committed by a member of the College community. A third-party may also be permanently restricted from the College or subject to other restrictions for failing to comply with this policy.

This policy applies to conduct that occurs on College property (i.e., on campus). This policy also applies to conduct that occurs off College property (i.e., off campus) when the conduct is associated with a College-sponsored program or activity, such as travel, research, wellness activities sponsored by the College, internship programs or when such conduct may have a continuing adverse effect or could create a hostile environment on campus. Judgments about these matters will depend on facts of an individual case.

All actions by a member of the College community that involve the use of the College's computing and network resources from a remote location, including but not limited to accessing College owned email accounts, will be deemed to have occurred on campus. On-line and/or social media conduct may violate this Policy if it meets the definition of Prohibited Conduct. Online postings are in the public sphere and are not private. These postings may subject an individual to allegations of Sexual Misconduct or other misconduct. The College does not regularly search for this information nor does it monitor any particular social media site, but it may take action if and when such information is brought to our attention. The College strictly prohibits the misuse of computer/computing resources and such behavior is in violation of the Student Code of Conduct as well as the employee handbook. The College will view any Report of online Sexual Misconduct with the Respondent's free speech rights in mind.

Individuals are encouraged to report any violation of this policy as soon as possible in order to maximize the College's ability to respond promptly and effectively. Reports and Complaints may be made at any time without regard to how much time has elapsed since the incident(s) in question.

If the Respondent is no longer a student or employee at the time of the report or Complaint, the College may not be able to take disciplinary action against the Respondent, but it will still seek to meet its Title IX or other legal obligations by offering supportive measures for the Complainant and taking steps, if necessary and possible, to end the prohibited behavior, prevent and address its recurrence, and address its effects.

For Title IX to apply, the incident must be reported while the Parties are all associated with the College (as current students or employees) and must have occurred on property owned or controlled by the College, and within the United States. Additionally, during the time the misconduct is reported to have occurred, the College must have had substantial control of the Respondent and the context of the misconduct.

1.1.13. SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AT NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND TITLE IX

This policy governs Prohibited Conduct that constitutes sex-based harassment and/or sex-based discrimination, however, the government defines "sexual harassment" differently in certain settings.

Additionally, this policy covers behaviors that fall outside of the jurisdiction required for response by Title IX. The College will determine whether an allegation should proceed utilizing the grievance processes mandated by Title IX or the College's grievance process for non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct, based on the constellation of facts and circumstances surrounding the report or Complaint and the following factors:

- a. applicable law
- b. what is reported to have occurred
- c. the status of the Complainant as student, employee, or third-party
- d. the status of the Respondent as student, employee or third-party
- e. the context in which the harassing behavior is reported to have occurred
- f. whether or not the reported behavior occurred within the United States; and/or
- g. whether there are continuing effects of such reported behavior on campus or within the College's educational programs or associated activities.

The Title IX Coordinator is the College official designated to evaluate reports to determine which law(s) attach, what threshold each law holds under the various laws, and which grievance process to utilize to resolve such reported behavior.

2. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

As outlined above, the College prohibits behaviors that fall outside the scope of conduct prohibited by Title IX. If a report constitutes behavior as described below, the College will determine which grievance

process to utilize to resolve the Complaint.

For purposes of this policy, all of the following definitions constitute conduct to be “on the basis of sex.” The College will treat attempts to commit any Sexual Misconduct as if those attempts had been completed when providing notice to a Respondent of the allegations and in the investigation and resolution process. This, in no way, means the College is prematurely judging a Respondent’s guilt in the matter and only after determining that the preponderance of the evidence standard has been met, will a finding of responsibility be rendered.

2.1. DEFINITIONS OF PROHIBITED CONDUCT

2.1.1. QUID PRO QUO SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is made implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of instruction, employment, or participation in any College activity or benefit; or
- Submission to or rejection of these behaviors by an individual is used as a basis for evaluation in making academic or personnel decisions.

To reach the threshold for a claim under Title IX, the person conditioning the provision of the aid, benefit, or service must be an employee.

2.1.2. HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, or other unwelcome verbal, electronic or physical conduct of a sexual nature when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work or academic performance; i.e. it is sufficiently serious, pervasive or persistent as to create an intimidating, hostile, humiliating, demeaning, or sexually offensive working, academic, or social environment under both a subjective and an objective standard.

Gender-based harassment is a form of discrimination that includes verbal, written, or physical behavior, directed at someone, or against a particular group, because of that person’s or group’s sex, gender identity, actual or perceived sexual orientation, or based on gender stereotypes, when that behavior is unwelcome and has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the individual’s work or educational performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, or demeaning environment for employment, education or associate activities of the College.

Such conduct does not need to be directed at or to a specific individual in order to constitute sexual harassment but may consist of generalized unwelcome and inappropriate behaviors or communications based on sex, gender identity, actual or perceived sexual orientation, or gender stereotypes. Determination of whether alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment requires consideration of all the circumstances, including the context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

To reach the threshold for a claim under Title IX, the conduct must be determined to be unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the College’s education program or activity as well as meet the required jurisdictional elements.

An evaluation of when an offense meets the definition for Title IX will be determined by the Title IX Coordinator based on the constellation of facts and circumstances surrounding the report or Complaint.

2.1.3. NON-CONSENSUAL SEXUAL PENETRATION

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 the consent of the victim.

2.1.4. NON-CONSENSUAL SEXUAL CONTACT

The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity. Private body parts for purposes of this Policy are breast, buttocks, and groin.

2.1.5. INCEST

For purposes of this Policy, incest means sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law. In Ohio, this includes sexual contact between persons who are brothers and sisters, parents, and children, including stepparents, stepchildren, and adopted persons, as well as aunts/uncles with nieces/nephews and between grandparents and grandchildren.

2.1.6. STATUTORY RAPE

Statutory rape means sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent, which in Ohio is 18 years of age. If a person is 18 years of age or older, then it is a crime and a violation of this policy for that person to have sexual contact (including oral sex) with a person who is under 16 years of age. In such a case (where the accuser is between 13 and 16 years old), the actor is guilty of the crime of "Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a Minor," in violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 2907.04(A).

2.1.7. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed

- by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim.
- by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common.
- by a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner.
- by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred;
- by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred.

According to Section 16 of title 18 of the United States Code, the term "crime of violence" means

o an offense under Ohio State law that has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another, or

o any other offense that is a felony in Ohio and that, by its nature, involves a substantial risk that physical force against the person or property of another may be used in the course of committing the offense.

Domestic violence, as defined by Title IX, is considered relationship violence and must be “on the basis of sex.” For purposes of this Policy, Domestic Violence does not include acts that meet the definition of domestic violence under Ohio law that are based solely on cohabitation (e.g. roommates) or family relationship (e.g. parent/child). While non-relationship violence would not necessarily be addressed using this policy, it could still be counted for purposes of Clery Act reporting and may be addressed under other College policies or grievance procedures. If you need information on how to obtain a Protection from Abuse Order in the State of Ohio, please see Appendix C of this policy.

2.1.8. DATING VIOLENCE

Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the reporting Party’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 dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse.

2.1.9. STALKING

Stalking is defined as engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person’s safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

i. *For the purposes of this definition—*

A. Course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts which the stalker 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.

B. Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.

Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

To reach the threshold for a claim under Title IX, the stalking behavior must be determined to be based on sex. Non-sex-based stalking complaints will be resolved using this policy’s definitions but under the Non-Title IX Resolution Procedures by status of the Respondent as Student or Employee.

2.1.10. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Any act whereby one person violates the sexual privacy of another or takes unjust or abusive sexual advantage of another who has not provided consent, and that does not constitute another offense as defined above. Examples may include acts such as recording, photographing, streaming or otherwise transmitting, viewing or distributing intimate or sexual images or sexual information without the knowledge and consent of all Parties involved; voyeurism (i.e., spying on others who are in intimate or sexual situations), knowingly transmitting a sexually transmitted infection to another, or facilitating the sexual harm/abuse of another person. Sexual exploitation, when it does not in and of itself constitute sexual harassment, will be resolved using the institution’s non-Title IX grievance process.

2.1.11. RETALIATION

Retaliation is any attempt to seek retribution against an individual or group of individuals involved in making a good faith report, filing a Complaint, participating in a disciplinary process, or opposing in a reasonable manner an action believed to constitute a violation of this policy. Retaliation can take many forms, including abuse or violence, threats, coercion, and intimidation. Actions in response to a good faith report or response under this policy are considered retaliatory if they have a materially adverse effect on the working, academic or College controlled environment of an individual or if they hinder or prevent the individual from effectively carrying out their College responsibilities. Any individual or group of individuals can engage in retaliation and will be held accountable under this policy.

Allegations of Retaliation will proceed under Student Conduct or the Title VII policy depending on the status of the Respondent as student or employee and may be resolved prior to an allegation of Sexual Misconduct.

2.2. DEFINITION OF CONSENT

Voluntary, informed, uncoerced agreement through words and/or actions freely given, which a reasonable person would interpret as a willingness to participate in mutually agreed-upon sexual acts. Consensual sexual activity happens when each partner willingly and affirmatively chooses to participate. Indications that consent is not present include:

- when physical force is used or there is a reasonable belief of the threat of physical force, including when one person overcomes the physical limitations of another person.
- when coercion is present. Coercion means the improper use of pressure to compel another individual to initiate or continue sexual activity against the individual's will. Coercion may include intimidation, manipulation, and/or blackmail. Words or conduct may constitute coercion if they wrongfully impair another individual's freedom of will and ability to choose whether to engage in sexual activity.
- when a person is incapable of making an intentional decision to participate in a sexual act, which could include instances in which the person is in a state of incapacitation, which could be permanent or temporary. Evaluations of capacity will be viewed in hindsight using a reasonable person standard.

Important points regarding consent include:

- Consent to one act does not constitute consent to another act.
- Consent on a prior occasion does not constitute consent on a subsequent occasion.
- The existence of a prior or current relationship does not, in itself, constitute consent.
- Consent can be withdrawn or modified at any time.
- Consent is not implicit in a person's manner of dress.
- Accepting a meal, a gift, or an invitation for a date does not imply or constitute consent.
- A person's lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the use or threat of force does not constitute consent.
- Silence and passivity do not necessarily constitute consent.
- Initiation by someone who a reasonable person knows or should have known to be deemed incapacitated is not consent.
- A person's consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not constitute consent to engage in sexual activity with another.

A person cannot consent to sexual activity if that person is unable to understand the nature of the activity or give knowing consent due to circumstances, including without limitation when a person is incapacitated or not of legal age.

A person who is asleep or unconscious is considered incapacitated and unable to consent. Additionally, a person may be incapacitated due to a temporary or permanent mental or physical disability.

In the context of this policy, incapacitation is the state in which a person's perception or judgment is so impaired that he or she lacks the cognitive capacity to make or act on conscious decisions. The use of drugs or alcohol can cause incapacitation, which is a state beyond mere intoxication. An individual who is incapacitated is unable to consent to a sexual activity. Engaging in sexual activity with an individual who is incapacitated (and therefore unable to consent), where a person knows or ought reasonably to have understood that the individual is incapacitated, constitutes Sexual Misconduct and is a violation of this Policy.

3. REPORTING

Any person may report an incident of Sexual Misconduct as defined by this policy however Employees must report. The College encourages anyone who experiences or becomes aware of Sexual Misconduct to immediately contact one of the options listed below including law enforcement, school administrators and off campus confidential options. Reports may be made by the person who experienced the Sexual Misconduct or by a third-party, including, but not limited to, a friend, family member, advisor, or faculty member. Reports to the Title IX Coordinator may be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed below, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the listed telephone number or electronic mail address, or by physical mail to the office address.

A Complainant may pursue some or all of these reporting options at the same time (e.g., one may simultaneously pursue a Formal Resolution Process with the College and a criminal complaint). When initiating any report, a Complainant does not need to know whether they wish to request any particular course of action, nor how to label what happened. Before or during any grievance process, Complainants and other reporting persons are encouraged to consult a Confidential Resource.

3.1 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING OPTIONS

No offices on campus are designated as Confidential Resources. Therefore, an individual who is not prepared to make a report, or who may be unsure how to label what happened, but still seeks information and support, is strongly encouraged to contact an off campus Confidential Resource.

3.2 LAW ENFORCEMENT - THE NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergency medical assistance and campus safety/law enforcement assistance are available both on and off campus. Individuals are encouraged to contact law enforcement and seek medical treatment as soon as possible following an incident that poses a threat to safety or physical well-being or following a potential criminal offense.

At the Complainant's request, the Title IX Coordinator will assist the Complainant in contacting campus and/or local law enforcement and will cooperate within the extent permitted by law with law enforcement agencies if a Complainant decides to pursue the criminal process. The Complainant also has the right to decline the notification of law enforcement.

Immediate Health and Safety: Contact the Northwest State Community College Police Department or dial 9-1-1

Northwest State Community College Police Department may be reached by dialing 419-267-1452.

The NSCC Police Department is located in A191 in the Atrium.

Persons who wish to report crimes or other incidents at other College sites or from their homes should contact the police department of jurisdiction by calling 9-1-1.

3.3 TITLE IX COORDINATOR

Any individual who may have been subjected to a violation of this policy, and who is considering making a Complaint under this policy, is encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator.

In light of the College's obligation to make reasonable efforts to investigate and address conduct prohibited by this policy, College community members are required to notify the Title IX Coordinator of suspected violations and cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report under this policy.

Title IX Coordinator,

Northwest State Community College

In person by visiting the Title IX Office at: Human Resource Department,
Building A, 1st Floor, Suite 106

In writing by email: titleix@northweststate.edu

Or by calling: 419-267-1488

3.4 OTHER AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Any individual may also access resources located in the local community. These organizations can provide crisis intervention services, counseling, medical attention, and assistance in interfacing with the criminal justice system. If accessing these resources, individuals are encouraged to clarify whether the resources are confidential. Please see Appendix B for a list of resources.

Medical Resources

Forensic Medical Exams and Physical Health Services

In the State of Ohio, evidence may be collected even if you chose not to make a report to law enforcement. It is important that a victim of sexual assault not bathe, douche, smoke, change clothing or clean the bed/linen/area where they were assaulted if the offense occurred within the past 96 hours so that evidence as may be necessary to the proof of criminal activity may be preserved. In circumstances of sexual assault, if victims do not opt for forensic evidence collection, health care providers can still treat injuries and take steps to address concerns of pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted disease. Victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence are encouraged to also preserve evidence by saving text messages, instant messages, social networking pages, other communications, and keeping pictures, logs and/or other copies of documents, if they have any, that would be useful to College administrators/investigators or police.

Although the College strongly encourages all members of its community to report acts of violence to law enforcement, it is the victim's choice whether or not to make such a report and victims have the right to decline involvement with the police. The NSCC Police Department or the Title IX Coordinator will assist any victim with notifying local police if they so desire. Information about how to contact local police may also be located at the rear of this policy under "Off Campus Resources."

As time passes, evidence may dissipate or become lost or unavailable, thereby making investigation, possible prosecution, disciplinary proceedings, or obtaining protection from abuse orders related to the incident more difficult. If a victim chooses not to make a complaint regarding an incident, they nevertheless should consider speaking with the NSCC PD or local law enforcement to preserve evidence in the event that the victim changes her/his mind at a later date.

***If you need help and are not sure if you would like to report or are not sure where to go to get forensic services or other help, contact the Ohio Sexual Violence Helpline at 844-OHIO-HELP.** The Ohio Sexual Violence Hotline is a 24/7 confidential resource providing advocacy and support for survivors of sexual violence across Ohio. Staffed by trained advocates, the helpline provides:

- * Confidential emotional support
- * Crisis Response
- * Information about options and local resources available to survivors and co-survivors, or their friends and family.

A crucial component of the helpline's advocacy efforts is to listen to and empower survivors with information and options throughout the healing process. The Ohio Sexual Violence Helpline aims to ensure that no matter where in Ohio a survivor is located, they will have 24-hour access to support and links to resources and options in their local community.

You may also call 9-1-1 and ask for the nearest Hospital with Forensic Nurses so that you may receive care or proceed to the nearest emergency room and tell them you need evidence recovered from your body due to sexual violence. The emergency room will help you by either performing that service within their facility or by directing you to the closest facility with SANE/FNE services.

3.5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

All members of the College community may also contact the Office for Civil Rights (a division of the United States Department of Education) to file a complaint pertaining to Title IX.

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Headquarters

400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-1100
Customer Service Hotline #: (800) 421-3481 | Facsimile: (202) 453-6012
TTY#: (800) 877-8339 | Email: OCR@ed.gov | Web: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>

Regional Office for the States of Michigan and Ohio,

Office for Civil Rights, *Cleveland Office*

U.S. Department of Education
1350 Euclid Avenue
Suite 325 Cleveland, OH 44115
Telephone: (216) 522-4970
Facsimile: (216) 522-2573
Email: OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov

3.6 ANONYMOUS REPORT

An individual may report an incident without disclosing their name, identifying the Respondent, or requesting any action. Please note that choosing to make an anonymous report can significantly limit the ability of the College to respond. This information will be used for statistical purposes as well as for enhancing understanding of our campus climate so that we may strengthen sexual misconduct response and prevention efforts.

3.7 ONLINE REPORT

NSCC has an online form that may be used by students, employees, faculty, vendors, visitors or other concerned parties to share information related to an alleged incident(s) of sexual misconduct, discrimination based on a protected class, including harassment, and retaliation for making a report or participating in an investigation of the same. This form may be submitted anytime 24 hours a day 7 days a week. This form should not be used if you need immediate assistance.

Title IX Incident Reporting Form
See "Appendix A" for Reporting Form

3.8 MANDATORY REPORTING

Every College employee must report conduct that could constitute sexual harassment/sex discrimination/sexual misconduct under this policy to the Title IX Coordinator and are considered "Responsible Employees." In emergency situations, if there is a suspected crime in progress, or imminent or serious threats to the safety of anyone, faculty and staff members should immediately dial 911 or 419-267-1452 to reach campus police.

The College is committed to responding to all alleged violations of this policy. Upon receiving a report of Sexual Misconduct, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly, within two business days, contact the Complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, provide a written explanation of rights and options, and explain to the Complainant the process for filing a Formal Complaint. The Coordinator will also explain if Informal Resolution is an option if a Formal Complaint is filed. *A Complainant must file a Formal Complaint and ask the College to take action to access available Informal and Formal Resolution options.

3.9 PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Issues of privacy and confidentiality play important roles in this policy and may affect individuals differently. Privacy and confidentiality are related but distinct terms. “Confidentiality” refers to the circumstances under which information will or will not be disclosed to others. “Privacy” refers to the discretion that will be exercised by the College in the course of any investigation or disciplinary processes under this policy.

Requests for confidentiality or use of anonymous reporting may limit the College’s ability to conduct an investigation or resolve an allegation using the College’s disciplinary proceedings.

Individuals involved in investigations or disciplinary proceedings under this policy are encouraged to exercise discretion in sharing information in order to safeguard the integrity of the process and to avoid the appearance of retaliation. While discretion regarding the process is important, Complainants and Respondents are not restricted from discussing and sharing information with others who may support or assist them in presenting their case.

In some circumstances, the reporting responsibilities of College employees, or the College’s responsibility to investigate, may conflict with the preferences of the Complainant and/or Respondent with regard to privacy and confidentiality. Therefore, all individuals are encouraged to familiarize themselves with their options and responsibilities, and make use of off-campus Confidential Resources, if applicable, in determining their preferred course of action.

Medical and counseling records are privileged and confidential documents that the Parties will not be required to disclose.

The College has an obligation to make reasonable efforts to investigate and address Complaints or reports of violations of this policy. In all such proceedings, the College will take into consideration the privacy of the Parties to the extent possible.

In cases involving students, the Title IX Coordinator may notify other College employees of the existence of the Complaint for the purpose of overseeing compliance with this policy and addressing any concerns related to educational and College sponsored events. While not bound by confidentiality, these individuals will be discreet and will respect the privacy of those involved in the process.

Any additional disclosure of information related to the Complaint or report may be made if consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), or the Title IX requirements.

3.10 SUPPORTIVE MEASURES

Upon receipt of a complaint or report of a violation of this policy, the College will provide reasonable and appropriate supportive measures. Supportive measures mean individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the Complainant or the Respondent before or after the filing of a complaint or where no complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the College’s program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other Party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all Parties or the College’s educational environment, or deter sexual harassment.

Supportive measures may include:

- Access to counseling services and assistance in arranging an initial appointment;
- Rescheduling of exams and assignments;
- Change in class schedule, including the ability to transfer course sections or withdraw from a course;
- Change in work schedule or job assignment;

- Imposition of a mutual on-campus "no contact order," an administrative remedy designed to curtail contact and communications between two or more individuals; and/or
- Any other remedy that can be used to achieve the goals of this policy.

NSCC will maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the Complainant or Respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the recipient to provide the supportive measures. In cases that meet the definition and jurisdiction of Title IX, Supportive Measures will also be non-punitive and non-disciplinary.

Any supportive measures will not disproportionately impact the Respondent. Requests for supportive measures may be made by or on behalf of the Complainant to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for ensuring the implementation of supportive measures and coordinating the College's response with the appropriate offices on campus.

All individuals are encouraged to report concerns about the failure of another to abide by any restrictions imposed by a Supportive Measure. The College will take immediate action to enforce a previously implemented measure and disciplinary penalties can be imposed for failing to abide by a College-imposed measure utilizing the disciplinary process deemed appropriate by the Title IX Coordinator.

3.10.1 INTERIM REMOVAL

In connection with this policy, in circumstances seriously affecting the health or well-being of any person, or where physical safety is seriously threatened, or where the ability of the College to carry out its essential operations is seriously threatened or impaired, an authorized representative may summarily suspend, dismiss, or restrict any person from the College. Prior to taking action against a student in response to an allegation that arises from a complaint under the jurisdiction of Title IX, the College will undertake an individualized safety and risk analysis and provide written notice to the Party. In all such cases involving students, actions taken will be reviewed promptly, typically within one week, by the appropriate College authority and removals subject to Title IX will include an opportunity for redress (appeal) by the Respondent. Complaints involving employees as the Respondent will be subject to the leave provisions that rest within Human Resources and could involve placing the employee on administrative leave (with or without pay) depending of the nature of the reported offense, the determination of an ongoing risk to public safety, and/or other factors as determined by Human Resources.

3.11 RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

The Title IX Coordinator will ensure that the Complainant receives an explanation of rights and options written in plain language with concise information. The written notification of rights and options will include the following:

- The importance of obtaining and preserving forensic and other evidence;
- The right to report or not report the alleged incident to the College, law enforcement or both, including information about the survivor's right to privacy and which reporting methods are confidential;
- The right to request and receive assistance from campus authorities in notifying law enforcement;
- The right to request and receive assistance in obtaining and enforcing a campus-issued order of protection or no contact order;
- The right to speak to and receive assistance from on and off campus Confidential Resources and other organizations that provide support and services to victims and survivors;
- The right to assistance from the College in accessing and navigating campus and local health and mental health services, counseling, advocacy services, legal assistance, financial aid services and

immigration/Visa assistance;

- The right to Supportive Measures with or without the filing of a formal Complainant, no matter where the incident is reported to have occurred and that the College will consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to available supportive measures including without limitation changes to academic, living, dining, working, and transportation situations;
- The right to request a Formal or Informal Resolution Process if cause is found to proceed under this Policy and a summary of the appropriate complaint resolution procedures;
- Contact information for all of the people and organizations listed herein; and
- Complainants have the right to request an end to the process except as set forth in this Policy.

In the event that a Complaint is filed, the Complainant and the Respondent will receive a written notification of rights and options regarding the adjudication process, to include the following:

- The right for Complainants and Respondents to be treated equitably by the College which includes providing remedies to a Complainant where a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the Respondent, and by following a grievance process that complies with this policy;
- The right to a fair, impartial, proceeding that begins promptly and is completed within reasonably prompt timeframes;
- The right to a resolution process that is consistent with the College's policies, transparent to the Complainant and Respondent, and in which the burden of proof and of gathering evidence rests with the College and not the Parties;
- The right to a Support Person of the Party's choosing during the grievance process and to an Advisor of the Party's choosing for any hearing under the Title IX Grievance process. If a Party does not have an Advisor present at the hearing, the College will provide without fee or charge, an advisor of the College's choice for purposes of conducting cross examination;
- The right to reasonable accommodations during any hearing, such as not being in the same room as the other Party;
- The right to an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence—including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence—and provide that credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness;
- The right to a determination regarding responsibility made at the conclusion of the resolution process and that the College makes no prior presumption of responsibility; and
- The right not to be retaliated against for filing a Complaint and/or for participating in an Informal or Formal Resolution Process.

3.12 AMNESTY /IMMUNITY

In order to encourage reports of conduct that is prohibited under this policy, the College may offer leniency with respect to other violations which may come to light as a result of such reports, depending on the circumstances involved. The Title IX Coordinator will make the determination on behalf of the College.

3.13 TIMELY WARNING

If the College receives a report of a Clery reportable crime that has occurred within the institution's Clery reportable geography, the institution will assess the report for purposes of sending a Timely Warning Notice (TWN). A TWN will be sent for reports that constitute a serious and continuing threat to the campus community and College officials will issue these according to College policy as if reflected in the institution's Annual Security Report. In all cases of sexual misconduct, the Title IX Coordinator will be notified. NSCCPD, as required by law, may also be required to complete an incident report, and publicly disclose the reported statistic of sexual misconduct in the annual security report less personally identifying information. In addition, the College may also share non-identifying information, including

data about outcomes and penalties, in aggregate form. At no time will the College release the name or other personally identifiable information of the Complainant to the general public without the express consent of the Complainant or as otherwise permitted or required by law.

3.14 OPTIONS FOR PROCEEDING THROUGH COLLEGE PROCESS

3.14.1 INFORMAL AND FORMAL COMPLAINTS

To initiate the informal resolution process or formal resolution process, a Complainant must file a Complaint. A Complaint means a written statement filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging Prohibited Conduct against a Respondent and requesting resolution of the alleged behavior. A complaint may be completed by the Complainant in person or submitted by email, mail or by phone to the Title IX Coordinator.

3.14.2 NO COMPLAINT

Complainants have the right not to file a complaint, yet they are highly encouraged to seek medical attention and counseling. Complainants who wish to file a complaint at a later date, may do so by utilizing any of the options outlined in this policy. However, please note that a delay in reporting could create obstacles to the College's process for stopping harassment and/or discrimination, remedying its effects, and preventing recurrence as well as potentially weakening evidence that could be useful in determining whether Prohibited Conduct occurred, in obtaining an order of protection or for the State in being able to proceed with a criminal proceeding external to the College.

3.14.3 COLLEGE-INITIATED COMPLAINTS

In limited cases, the Title IX Coordinator may initiate a complaint without a request by the Complainant upon receipt of a report of Sexual Misconduct. The Title IX Coordinator will initiate the complaint when the Title IX Coordinator, in his or her discretion, determines that a grievance process is warranted given the reported behavior. A Complainant retains standing as a Complainant even in cases where the Title IX Coordinator initiates the complaint. If the Title IX Coordinator initiates a complaint, they will advise the Complainant that they have done so and will provide the rationale to the Complainant regarding why they proceeded.

3.14.4 DISMISSALS

If the Title IX Coordinator determines that the complaint, even if substantiated, would not rise to the level of a violation of this policy, the Title IX Coordinator may dismiss the complaint or refer the complaint to another office for review. A case may also be dismissed for not meeting the threshold and jurisdictional requirements for Title IX, however, a dismissal of a case for purposes of Title IX, does not preclude the College from utilizing this policy for non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct and referring the matter for Non-Title IX Resolution.

If at any time during the investigation or hearing a Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the formal resolution process or withdraw any allegations therein; the Respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the recipient; or specific circumstances prevent the recipient from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations, the College may dismiss the complaint and end the formal resolution process. The decision as to whether to dismiss the complaint will be determined by the Title IX Coordinator based on the stated goals of this policy. Upon a dismissal permitted pursuant to this section, the College will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and reason(s) therefor simultaneously to the Parties.

Either party may appeal the College's dismissal of a Complaint or any allegations by submitting a written appeal within 5 business days of the dismissal. Appeals may follow the grounds outlined in

the Appeals section of this policy. If the appeal is denied, the dismissal of the complaint will remain in effect.

3.14.5 CONSOLIDATIONS

The Title IX Coordinator has the discretion to consolidate multiple complaints or reports into a single investigation if evidence relevant to one incident might be relevant to the others. Where a grievance process involves more than one Complainant or more than one Respondent, references in this section to the singular “Party,” “Complainant,” or “Respondent” include the plural, as applicable. If a case involves violations of other College policies, the Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with other school administrators, will determine which grievance process to use or if different grievance processes would be more appropriate.

4. RECORD-KEEPING AND ANNUAL REPORTS

The College will keep for 7 years, the following:

- All information obtained as part of each Sexual Misconduct investigation, including any determination regarding responsibility and any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript; any disciplinary sanctions and/or remedies; any appeal, including the result of the appeal; and any informal resolution and the result therefrom.
- All information regarding any action taken, including supportive measures, and a rationale as to why a Complaint was not filed. If a Complainant was not provided supportive measures, a rationale must be provided as to why supportive measures were not provided.
- All training materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, Investigators, Decision Makers, and those who facilitate the informal resolution process.

Generally, information from a student’s discipline file is not released without the written consent of the student. However, certain information may be provided to individuals within or outside the College who have a legitimate legal or educational interest in obtaining it. Typically, the information that is released to those outside of the College is limited to information associated with findings of “in violation” which resulted in a suspension or expulsion (discipline file). Please refer to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

Personnel files are the property of the College and will not be shared without a subpoena.

5. EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND TRAINING OF TITLE IX PERSONNEL

5.1 TRAINING FOR THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY

The College engages in comprehensive, intentional, and integrated programming, initiatives, strategies, and campaigns intended to reduce and eliminate sexual misconduct or other forms of prohibited conduct which:

- are culturally relevant, inclusive of diverse communities and identities, sustainable, responsive to community needs, and informed by research, or assessed for value, effectiveness, or outcome;
- consider environmental risk and protective factors as they occur on the individual, relationship, institutional, community and societal levels; and
- include primary prevention and awareness programs directed at incoming students and ongoing prevention and awareness campaigns directed at current students.

Risk Reduction means options designed to decrease perpetration and bystander action, and to increase empowerment for victims in order to promote safety and to help individuals and communities address conditions that facilitate violence. Experiencing Sexual Misconduct or other forms of prohibited conduct is never the victim’s fault. Only abusers are responsible for the abuse they perpetrate. However, the following are some strategies to reduce risk of victimization. For

example, The [Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network](https://www.rainn.org/) (RAINN) has created a list which can be found by clicking here: <https://www.rainn.org/safety-prevention>.

Bystanders play a critical role in the prevention of sexual and relationship violence. The College promotes a culture of community accountability where bystanders are actively engaged in the prevention of violence without causing further harm. Individuals may not always know what to do even if they want to help. Below is a list of some ways to be an active bystander. If you or someone else is in immediate danger, dial 911, if a person is yelling at or being physically abusive towards another and it is not safe for you to interrupt.

- Watch out for your friends and fellow students/employees. If you see someone who looks like he or she could be in trouble or need help, ask if he or she is ok.
- Confront people who seclude, hit on, attempt to make out with, or have sex with people who are incapacitated.
- Speak up when someone discusses plans to take sexual advantage of another person.
- Believe someone who discloses sexual assault, abusive behavior, or experience with stalking.
- Refer people to on or off campus resources listed in this policy for support in health, counseling, or with legal assistance.

5.2 TRAINING OF TITLE IX PERSONNEL

The College will require that the Title IX Coordinator, Investigators, and Decision-Makers and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process receive annual training per the requirements of Title IX and the Clery Act-VAWA, and do not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally, or an individual Complainant or Respondent. The annual training provided includes but is not limited to the following: the definition of sexual harassment, including an understanding of educational program or activity; how to conduct an investigation and grievance process including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes; how to serve impartially, including avoiding prejudgment about the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias; the technology to be used at a live hearing; issues of relevance, including questioning, and investigative reports.

6. DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS AND INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

The College makes every reasonable effort to accommodate individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA). In compliance with this commitment, NSCC employs an Accessibility Services department to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations and auxiliary aides for access and participation in college sponsored classes, services, and programs.

Students with a disability who desire an accommodation regarding this Policy must request an accommodation with the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will make a determination regarding the request after consultation with Accessibility Services and notify the appropriate Parties. An Individual will not be considered to have a disability allowing for an accommodation unless and until the student has met with Accessibility Services and been noted as a person to whom accommodations should be provided. Information about Accessibility Services at Northwest State Community College may be found at <https://northweststate.edu/accessibility-services>.

Employees with a disability should provide the required documentation to Human Resources.

Any employee or student who is party to a complaint of sexual misconduct who is a non-native English speaker and who requires interpretive assistance, please make a request to the Title IX Coordinator so an interpreter may be arranged.

7. FREE SPEECH AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The College is committed to providing a safe, anti-harassing, and nondiscriminatory environment that

protects the civil rights of individuals, and the college recognizes the protections of academic freedom in the classroom.

This policy is not intended to restrict serious discussion of controversial issues in a training or academic situation. In order to prevent claims that course content is discriminatory, harassing, or offensive, it is recommended that participants in such discussions are provided with a disclosure that the content may be controversial.

8. MINORS ON CAMPUS

The College is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for minors. Faculty, staff, students, student employees, and volunteers are therefore expected to hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct when interacting with minors.

The College requires all faculty, staff, and volunteers, who in the course of their duties, witnesses child abuse or neglect on campus or who have information that would lead a reasonable person to believe that a minor on campus faces a substantial threat of such abuse or neglect must immediately take the following actions:

1. Call 911 if abuse is occurring now, if a child is injured (including bruising or complaining pain), or if you believe there is an immediate risk of such abuse occurring in the near future (including a child discloses they are being abused by someone in the home or by a family member, caregiver, coach or other trusted adult.) Also call the NSCC Police Department at 419-267-5511 and advise that you have contacted local police to respond for a child in need of help.
2. If you do not believe there is an imminent threat, call Children Services Agency at 1-855-O-H-CHILD (855-642-4453), which is a 24-hour automated telephone directory that will link callers directly to a child welfare or law enforcement office in their county. Municipal or county peace officers can be contacted as an alternative to Children Services by dialing the non-emergency number. Also call the NSCC Police Department at 419-267-5511 and advise that you have contacted the Children's Services Agency for suspected child abuse or neglect.
3. If in doubt as to what to do, call the NSCC Police Department at 419-267-5511. The NSCC Police Department must also notify the Title IX Coordinator, who will notify other individuals at the College as appropriate.

If consultation is needed regarding reporting, or if there are questions on the process or other support needed, please contact the NSCC Police Department. NSCC expects parents or guardians to provide supervision over minors on campus unless they are involved in a College program or activity sponsored by the College. Parents or guardians should not leave minors unsupervised on College property. The College will follow Ohio state law and the directions of law enforcement officials when suspected abuse of a minor is reported.

9. REVISION AND INTERPRETATION

The Policy is maintained by Human Resources and was most recently approved by the Board of Trustees on August 28, 2020. NSCC reserves the right to review and update the Policy in accordance with changing legal requirements and specific needs of the College.

Any questions of interpretation regarding the Policy shall be referred to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator's determination is final.

All reports received by the College after this date will be administered in accordance with the procedures described under this Policy.

10. RELATED POLICIES

10.1 STUDENTS:

- Family Education and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Student Code of Conduct
- Procedure 14-3-35: Sexual Misconduct Resolution Procedure for Students and Employees

10.2 EMPLOYEES:

- Employee Code of Conduct
- Policy 14-3-19: Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy
- Procedure 14-3-35: Sexual Misconduct Resolution Procedure for Students and Employees

APPENDIX A: HOW TO CONTACT THE TITLE IX TEAM

To report harassment or discrimination based on a protected category other than sex, as noted in this policy, please contact Human Resources. To report acts of Prohibited Misconduct that are based on sex (Sexual Misconduct), please contact the Title IX Coordinator or the Deputy Title IX Coordinator as identified in the chart below.

| Name | Title | Email Address | Telephone Number | Physical Location | What can I report? |
|----------------------|---|--|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Shannon Floyd | Title IX Coordinator | titleix@northweststate.edu | 419-267-1319 | C100H | Any form of Prohibited Conduct involving learners, employees or third parties. |
| Katy McKelvey | Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Employees and Third Parties | kmckelvey@northweststate.edu | 419-267-1225 | A106-Human Resources Suite | Any form of Prohibited Conduct involving employees or third parties. |
| Brittany Chamberlain | Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Employees and Third Parties | bchamberlain@northweststate.edu | 419-267-1425 | A110-Human Resources Suite | Any form of Prohibited Conduct involving employees or third parties. |
| Renee Bostelman | Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Learners | rbostelman@northweststate.edu | 419-267-1334 | C140C | Any form of Prohibited Conduct involving learners. |

To contact the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights:

Headquarters

400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-1100
Customer Service Hotline #: (800) 421-3481 | Facsimile: (202) 453-6012
TTY#: (800) 877-8339 | Email: OCR@ed.gov | Web: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>

Regional Office for the States of Michigan and Ohio, Office for Civil Rights, *Cleveland Office*

U.S. Department of Education
1350 Euclid Avenue
Suite 325
Cleveland, OH 44115
Telephone: (216) 522-4970
Facsimile: (216) 522-2573
[Email: OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov)

APPENDIX B: ON AND OFF CAMPUS RESOURCES

Upon receipt of a report of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, NSCC will provide written notification to students and employees about existing assistance with and/or information about obtaining resources and services including counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid and assistance in notifying appropriate local law enforcement. These resources include the following on and off campus as noted below:

| ON CAMPUS | Type of Services Available | Service Provider | Contact Information |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Counseling | Free counseling services for all NSCC students | Center for Child & Family Advocacy | Text NSCCHELP to 419.591.6487 or call to schedule an appointment |
| Counseling for Employees | Employee Assistance Program | Harbor Symmetry Wellness | 419.475.5338 or 800.422.5338 |
| Health | Not available on campus | | |
| Mental Health | Free counseling services for all NSCC students: Depression, stress, anxiety, or other issues | Center for Child & Family Advocacy | Text NSCCHELP to 419.591.6487 or call to schedule an appointment |
| Victim Advocacy | Free crisis intervention, information & referrals, and personal counseling to all NSCC Students | Center for Child & Family Advocacy | Text NSCCHELP to 419.591.6487 or call to schedule an appointment |
| Legal Assistance | Not available on campus | | |
| Visa and Immigration Assistance | Not available on campus | | |
| Student Financial Aid | Assistance with applying for grants, scholarships, federal work study, and student loans. | Financial Aid Office | 22600 State Route 34, Archbold, OH 43502 Office C110 finaid@northweststate.edu Phone: 419-267-1333 Fax: 419-267-5587 |
| NSCC Food Pantry | The NSCC Food Pantry offers food staples and personal care products free of charge to | NSCC Food Pantry | 22600 State Route 34, Archbold, OH 43502 Office C110 foodpantry@northweststate.edu Phone: 419-267-1333 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| | current students and staff | | Fax: 419-267-5587 |
| Campus Police Department | | A191 (in the Atrium) | Dial 419-267-1452 |
| | | | |
| OFF CAMPUS | Type of Services Available | Service Provider | Contact Information |
| Counseling | Individual, Couples, and Family Therapy | The Center for Child and Family | 419-592-0540 |
| Counseling for Employees | Employee Assistance Program | Harbor Symmetry Wellness | Phone: 419-475-5338 or 800-422-5338 |
| Health | The SART Clinic of Northwest Ohio's mission is to provide a consistent, competent and caring response to survivors of sexual or domestic violence assaults. Our team is comprised of healthcare providers, victim advocates, law enforcement agencies and prosecuting attorneys. Survivors decide if they wish to work with all of the members of the SART clinic or only a portion, but our multidisciplinary team provides an overall therapeutic approach to a survivor's journey of recovery. | The SART Clinic of Northwest Ohio | During Business Hours: 419-592-0540 After hours/weekends: 1-800-782-8555 or 419-782-1100 |
| Mental Health | Individual, Couples, and Family Therapy | The Center for Child and Family | 419-592-0540 |
| Victim Advocacy | The CCFA assists victims of all crimes. The victim advocate program of the Center for Child and Family Advocacy was established to respond to the needs of adults who are residents of Defiance, Fulton, and Henry counties and are victims of domestic violence. The victim advocate is a | The Center for Child and Family | Henry County: 419-592-0540 Defiance County: 419-782-1314 Fulton County: 419-335-4255 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | trained professional who is available to offer emotional support and practical assistance to victims of all crimes and their families. In addition to emotional support, this service includes referrals to community justice and law enforcement systems. | | |
| Legal Assistance | The CCFA assists victims of all crimes. The victim advocate program of the Center for Child and Family Advocacy was established to respond to the needs of adults who are residents of Defiance, Fulton, and Henry counties and are victims of domestic violence. The victim advocate is a trained professional who is available to offer emotional support and practical assistance to victims of all crimes and their families. In addition to emotional support, this service includes referrals to community justice and law enforcement systems. | The Center for Child and Family | Henry County: 419-592-0540 Defiance County: 419-782-1314 Fulton County: 419-335-4255 |
| Visa and Immigration Assistance | <p>Visa Assistance; Passport Information, Embassy Information</p> <p>Citizen and Immigration Assistance</p> | <p>U.S. Department of State</p> <p>U.S. Department of Homeland Security</p> | <p>https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html</p> <p>https://www.dhs.gov/topic/citizenship-and-immigration-services</p> |
| Student Financial Aid | Assistance with applying for grants, scholarships, federal work study, and student loans. | Financial Aid Office | <p>22600 State Route 34, Archbold, OH 43502 Office C110</p> <p>finaid@northweststate.edu Phone: 419-267-1333 Fax: 419-267-5587</p> |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Community Financial Aid for Anyone in Need of Help | Community Financial Aid, Housing Assistance, Food Assistance, Childcare Assistance, and employment Assistance | Ohio Department of Job and Family Services | https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocomm_root/1000OurServices.stm#FA-2 |
| Henry County Sheriff's Department | Law Enforcement Assistance | | 123 E. Washington St., Napoleon, OH 43545 Phone: 419-592-8010 |
| Maumee City Police (Toledo Satellite Campus) | Law Enforcement Assistance | | 109 E Dudley St., Maumee, OH 43537 Phone: 419-897-7040 |
| Other State Resources | Variable | | Ohio Domestic Violence Network 1.800.934.9840 https://www.odvn.org/category/for-survivors/ National Domestic Violence Helpline https://www.thehotline.org/ Ohio Sexual Violence Helpline 844-OHIO-HELP https://www.ohiosexualviolencehelpline.com/ |

APPENDIX C: PROTECTION ORDERS AND COLLEGE ISSUED “NO CONTACT” DIRECTIVES

C-1 NO CONTACT DIRECTIVES

Often times, a no contact letter will be given to the Complainant and Respondent by the College until the conclusion of the investigation. This will prohibit communication between the parties, including contact verbally, in writing, through technology or third parties. If you have been the victim of domestic or dating violence, stalking or sexual abuse, you may also want to consider obtaining an order of protection from the State of Ohio. Violations of institutional no contact directives will be handled as a separate violation of the Student Code of Conduct (or through HR for employees) and the College reserves the right to resolve those charges prior to the completion of the investigation into the Prohibited Conduct claim. The College encourages Complainants to contact law enforcement for violations of Ohio issued orders of protection.

C-2 PROTECTION ORDERS

NSCC complies with Ohio law by recognizing court orders that mandate protection from abuse. For example, any person who obtains an order of protection from Ohio or any state in the U.S. should provide a copy to the NSCC Police Department and the Office of the Title IX Coordinator. A Complainant may then meet with a police representative or the Title IX Coordinator (or designee) to develop a Safety Action Plan, which is a plan for campus police and the victim to reduce risk of harm while on campus or coming and going from campus. This plan may include, but is not limited to escorts, special parking arrangements, providing a temporary cellphone, changing classroom location, or allowing a student or employee to complete assignments/work from home, etc.

The College cannot apply for a legal order of protection, no contact order or restraining order for a victim from the applicable jurisdiction(s). The victim is required to apply directly for these services through Ohio Courts or with the help of law enforcement. NSCC can and does issue institutional “No Contact” directives to prevent contact between parties, which are enforceable as a violation of College. Any Complainant may request an institutional directive by contacting the Title IX Coordinator or investigator assigned to their complaint.

A Protection Order is granted by a Judge and orders the defendant (Respondent) to stay away from you. The defendant should not enter your home or approach you at your place of work or school. If the defendant violates the protection order, a new charge could be filed, and the defendant could be arrested.

Although the Judge may grant the Protection Order, it does not guarantee your safety. It is important for you to be careful and take steps to ensure your safety as much as possible. The College can assist you with creating a Safety Action Plan, which is a plan to provide for your safety while on campus. You may contact off campus service providers, including Lutheran Social Services 24-hour crisis hotline by dialing 614-224-HOME (4663) to find support in creating an off-campus safety plan, connecting with advocates, and even finding a support group.

The law (2919.27 and 3113.31 Ohio Revised Code) states that protection orders issued anywhere in the State of Ohio are enforceable throughout the state - if they are current and still valid. Comparable protection orders issued in other states may also be valid in Ohio. If you hold an out of state order, you may also bring a copy of that document into the NSCC PD or the Title IX Coordinator to develop a Safety Action Plan.

C-3 ARE ALL PROTECTION ORDERS THE SAME?

No. There are four different kinds of protection orders in Ohio. Municipal (Criminal) court may issue a Domestic Violence Temporary Protection Order (DVTPO) or a Criminal Protection Order (CRPO) depending on the type of charge and your relationship to the defendant. Civil (Domestic) Court issues Civil Protection Orders (CPO) if you are a family or household member of the defendant. If you are being stalked, Common Pleas Court may issue a Civil Stalking or Sexually Orientated Offense Protection Order (SSOOPO).

C-4 WHAT IS A CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER?

A CPO is issued by the Domestic Relations Court to protect victims of domestic violence. A CPO is intended to prevent further domestic violence. It orders someone who has been abusive to do or not to do certain things in the future.

You should consider requesting a CPO - even if you have a DVTPO from a criminal court - because a CPO lasts longer.

A petition for a Civil Protection Order (CPO) can be filed with the Domestic Relations Court. You may want to contact your own attorney, Capital Family Advocacy Clinic ((614) 645-6232), or Legal Aid ((614) 224-8374) to see if you qualify for a Civil Protection Order. You do not have to be getting a divorce to ask for a CPO.

The CPO (Civil Protection Order) may include the following orders:

- a. Direct the abuser to stop the abuse;
- b. Grant possession of the residence or household to you and/or other family member, to the exclusion of the abuser; or order the abuser to vacate the premises, or (if the abuser has the duty to support order the abuser to provide suitable, alternative housing;
- c. Award temporary custody and establish temporary custody orders with regard to minor children (if no other court has determined custody and visitation rights);
- d. Require the abuser to maintain support if the abuser customarily provides for or contributes to the support of the family or household, or if the abuser has a duty to support under the law;
- e. Require counseling;
- f. Require the abuser to refrain from entering the residence, school, business, or place of employment of the victim or other family members; and/or
- g. Grant any other relief that the court considers fair, including, but not limited to, ordering the abuser to permit the use of a motor vehicle to the victim, and ordering a fair apportionment of household and family personal property.

C-5 WHAT IS A CIVIL STALKING OR SEXUALLY ORIENTATED OFFENSE PROTECTION ORDER?

A SSOOPO is issued by the General Division of Common Pleas Court specifically to protect victims of stalking. A SSOOPO orders someone who has been engaging in stalking behavior to end that behavior. For additional information on stalking, please call (614) 645-6232. Who can get a Criminal Protection Order?

If you are **not** considered a household or family member according to O.R.C. 2919.25, then you may request a Protection Order if any of the following charges are filed on your behalf.

- Felonious Assault
- Aggravated Assault
- Assault
- Aggravated Menacing

- Menacing by Stalking
- Menacing
- Aggravated Trespass

If you **are** considered a household or family member according to O.R.C. 2919.25, then you may request a Protection Order if an offence of violence is filed on your behalf.

Offense of violence include but are not limited to:

- Domestic Violence
- Felonious Assault
- Aggravated Assault
- Assault
- Menacing by Stalking
- Aggravated Trespass
- Criminal Damaging/Endangering
- Criminal Mischief
- Burglary
- Endangering Children

Contact the Archbold Police Department for more information at 419-445-9991 (non-emergency).

C-6 HOW DO I GET A CRIMINAL PROTECTION ORDER?

- a. A criminal charge must have been filed against the defendant,
- b. The crime must be specified by statute (ORC 2919.26/2903.213),
- c. You must be the victim of the crime,
- d. Your relationship with the defendant must comply with the law (see [Who are considered family and household members](#))?

If you need assistance with understanding more about protective orders, shelters for battered persons, area resources and supports, and/or your rights, please visit the Victim Services Directory through the Office of the Attorney General for the State of Ohio by clicking [here](#) and locating your applicable county.

APPENDIX D: PROHIBITIONS AGAINST CONSENSUAL SEXUAL, ROMANTIC, OR INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVING PERSONS WITH POWER DIFFERENTIALS

Consensual sexual relationships include romantic, intimate, or sexual relationships in which both parties agree to participate in the relationship. The College recognizes that consensual sexual relationships are generally not problematic, except when the relationship may compromise the integrity of the College, create the potential for the abuse of authority, or create the inability to remain impartial. Consensual sexual relationships may also create a third-party perception that a subordinate is receiving preferential treatment.

1. Consensual sexual relationship misconduct among employees:
 - The College strictly prohibits consensual sexual relationships between administrators, supervisors, deans or chairpersons and the employees they supervise professionally advise, counsel, or employees over whom they have direct impact on the employee's terms and conditions of employment. **The College also recognizes that some employees may be married or significantly engaged with employees who then become subordinates. If an employee finds themselves in a relationship with an employee for whom they now have an evaluative relationship, the supervising employee shall contact HR and report the relationship so that determinations regarding who would need to evaluate or supervise the subordinate employee may be made.
2. Consensual sexual relationship misconduct with students:
 - The College strictly prohibits consensual sexual relationships between faculty members and the students or student employees enrolled in a class or class sequence(s) taught, advised, counseled, or supervised by the faculty member, or over whom the faculty member has direct impact on the student or student employee's academic enrollment or success.
 - The College strictly prohibits consensual sexual relationships between administrators, supervisors, deans, chairpersons or employees and the student or student employees whom they advise, counsel, or supervise, or over whom they have a direct impact on the student or student employee's academic enrollment or success.
 - The college strongly discourages all employees or faculty members from engaging in consensual sexual relationships with students as long as the student is considered to be in an active status as a student, even if the student is not currently enrolled in a class.

D-1 CONSEQUENCES OF ENGAGING IN INAPPROPRIATE CONSENSUAL SEXUAL, ROMANTIC, OR INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS

1. Any employee or faculty member who is engaged in a consensual sexual relationship that may be in violation of this policy has the responsibility to notify his/her administrator, dean or chairperson, the Human Resources Department and/or the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator about the relationship as soon as it is known that it may violate this policy.

a) The employment of the parties involved in the consensual sexual relationship in which one person has authority over or influence upon the status of the other will be modified so that the authority or influence no longer exists. This shall occur by moving one of the persons to another position, department, or supervisor, if possible. If acceptable alternative arrangements are not feasible, the relationship may not continue or employees will be subject to further disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

b) An employee who does not notify his/her administrator, supervisor, dean or chairperson that he/she is involved in a consensual sexual relationship is in violation of this policy and shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

c) If an employee and/or faculty member is found to be engaged in a consensual sexual relationship with a student that violates this policy, disciplinary action may be expedited.

d) When one person in a consensual sexual relationship of any kind clearly informs the other person that the relationship is no longer welcome, the other person should not pursue the relationship. To continue the pursuit of the relationship may become a violation of this policy, and the pursuing person will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

This policy applies to Northwest State Community College students and is in accordance with section 3345.026 of the Revised Code. Northwest State Community College's inclusive environment allows for religious expression. Faculty are expected to work with students to reasonably accommodate their religious, spiritual, and/or faith-based obligations and observances.

For additional information regarding this policy and corresponding procedure, please:

- 1) Visit <https://northweststate.edu/religious-accommodations>
- 2) See your course syllabi
- 3) Contact the Vice President for Academics

SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

This policy applies to Northwest state community college staff, faculty, and learners and is in accordance with section 3345.37 of the Revised Code. Northwest state community college is committed to raising awareness about mental health and suicide prevention across our campus community, including learners, faculty, and staff. In an effort to achieve this objective and foster the overall health, well-being, and safety of our campus community, our institution will regularly provide suicide prevention information, programming, and awareness, as well as educate campus members about suicide prevention / mental health resources and supports available on and off campus.

For additional information about NSCC's Suicide Prevention Policy and mental health resources, please see the dedicated webpage here: <https://northweststate.edu/suicide-prevention>

PERSONA NON-GRATA POLICY

(A) The board of trustees of Northwest state community college requires that the conduct of persons on campus and those attending off-campus college-sponsored events be of a responsible and appropriate nature so as to permit the college to properly pursue its educational objectives and programs and to permit college guests to enjoy a safe environment.

(B) The president of the college shall implement a procedure that regulates the behavior of persons consistent with board policy and applicable federal, state, and local laws when such behavior is deemed detrimental or dangerous to the college community. The president shall also develop proper procedures for enforcement of this policy.

(C) The president may delegate to appropriate college officials the responsibility to implement this procedure.

(D) The president shall enforce this policy through the use of appropriate college officials and the campus police department.

(E) Definitions

- (1) Persona non grata - a person who has exhibited behavior that has been deemed detrimental or dangerous to the college community and thus is no longer permitted to frequent or be present on the college campus or at college-sponsored activities (on or off-campus).
- (2) Member of the college community – any person who is a student, visitor, volunteer, faculty member, college official, or any other person employed by the college. A person's status in a particular situation shall be determined by the president or his or her designee.

STUDENT LOCATION POLICY

(A) 34 CFR 668.43(C)(3)(ii) requires an institution to have a policy to determine the location of a student at the time of initial admission and current students, which must be applied consistently, for the purpose of sending required license and certification disclosures. This policy will be used to determine prospective student / student location for purposes of Program Participation Agreement (PPA) certification and individual direct disclosures.

(B) For more information regarding this policy and what it applies to, please contact the Office of the Vice President for Academics at (419) 267-1301.

CAMPUS SAFETY & PHYSICAL SECURITY

(A) Northwest State Community College (NSCC) is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors. This policy outlines the College's comprehensive approach to campus safety and security.

(B) For more information on this policy, please contact the NSCC Campus Police Department at 419-267-1453 or visit them in the Atrium (A191).

CAMPUS ACT: PROHIBITION OF RACIAL, RELIGIOUS, AND ETHNIC HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION

(A) Northwest State Community College ("NSCC" or "the College") is committed to maintaining a workplace and academic environment free of all forms of discrimination and harassment. Therefore, the college affirms in this policy the prohibition of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, religion, and ethnic origin as well as other protected classes as identified in 3358: 14-3-19: Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment. In addition to such acts being in violation of this policy, those acts may also constitute discrimination under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and/or under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as well as Ohio law.

(B) The college prohibits discriminatory or harassing behavior by or against trustees, employees, vendors, customers, students, or other persons participating or attempting to participate in a college program or activity.

(C) The full policy may be viewed by visiting: <https://northweststate.edu/title-vi>