

Palm Beach State College

Discipline In The Classroom

The purpose of this information is to let instructors know about policies and procedures concerning disruptive behavior in the classroom. Students need to be aware of their rights to receive a quality education as well as the Student Code of Conduct.

The classroom should be a place where faculty teach and students learn unhindered by disruptive behavior. Unfortunately, we are finding students who seem to be less respectful of the learning process. However, it is not the intent to suppress lively interaction within the classroom or to dictate classroom management.

Florida Statute Title XLVIII, Chapter 1006.61 and Palm Beach State Board Rule 6Hx-18-3.35 state:

Any person who accepts the *privilege* extended by the laws of this state of attendance at any public postsecondary educational institution shall, by attending such institution, be deemed to have given his or her consent to the policies of that institution, the State Board of Education, and the laws of this state. Such policies shall include prohibition against disruptive activities at public postsecondary educational institutions.

The District Board of Trustees adopted this policy:

Students or personnel who intentionally act to impair, interfere with, or obstruct the orderly conduct, process and functions of the College, either on or off campus, shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by College authorities. Disruptive conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. Violence against any member or guest of the College community.
- b. Deliberate interference with academic freedom of speech (including not only disruption of a class but also interference with the freedom of any speaker invited by any section of the College community to express his views).
- c. Theft or willful destruction of College property or of the property of members of the College.
- d. Forcible interference with the freedom of movement of any member or guest of the College.
- e. Obstruction of the normal processes and activities essential to the College community.

Campus Procedures

General Classroom Discipline Guidelines

1. Information on class syllabus (below is suggested wording):

Students are expected to maintain proper decorum in the classroom. Palm Beach State College is an institution of higher education that promotes the free exchange of ideas. However, students must adhere to the rules set forth by the instructor. Failure to comply with classroom rules may result in dismissal from the class and/or the College.

2. Faculty Procedure

- a. read or inform students of classroom management policies
- b. if disruptive behavior occurs, warn student immediately
- c. document all occurrences of disruption and corrective action taken
- d. if disruptive behavior continues, warn student (depending upon how serious, ask student to leave class)
- e. suggest after class meeting with student (it is important to tell the student how his/her behavior should be corrected)
- f. if disruption continues, Adjunct Professors should refer student to Department Chair, full-time Professors refer students to Associate Deans (student should not return to class until resolved)
- g. if the disruption is of a serious nature or the student refuses to comply, call security to intervene

3. Department Chair Procedure

- a. determine whether problem is resolvable
- b. determine whether to transfer student to another section
- c. determine whether student should be referred to Dean of Students

4. Dean of Student Services Procedure

- a. if above procedures have been followed, student will not be allowed to return to class
- b. if before 60% of classes, student will be allowed to withdraw
- c. if after 60% of classes, student will not be eligible to withdraw (unless from College). The instructor may issue a grade of 'F.'