

SECTION 1.A: STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS

1. Freedom of Government

Students have the right to organize and maintain democratic self-government in accordance with State University of New York and Buffalo State College policies and procedures.

2. Academic Freedom and Responsibilities

Students have the right to be informed of and are responsible for maintaining the standard of academic performance expected of them in each class and/or program in which they are enrolled. Students have the right to take reasoned exception with the data or views offered in any course of study and to hold differing opinions without fear of prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation.

3. Freedom of Expression and Inquiry

Subject to reasonable limitations imposed under State University of New York or Buffalo State College policies and procedures, students and registered student organizations have the right to meet, engage in discussion, pass resolutions, distribute fliers, circulate petitions, invite speakers, and take other action by orderly means that does not disrupt the operation of the college.

4. Freedom of Communication Media

Student communication organizations are to be free of censorship and advance approval of copy. Student editors and managers are free to develop editorial policies and news coverage in accordance with generally accepted standards of responsible journalism. Such public expressions are to be taken only as the work and opinions of their author(s).

5. Freedom of Association

Students are free to organize and join associations for educational, political, social, religious, or cultural purposes, as consistent with law.

6. Freedom from Disciplinary Action without Due Process

No sanction or other disciplinary action shall be imposed on a student by, or in the name of, the college without due process. The Code of Conduct defines due process at the college.

7. Freedom from Improper Disclosure

Information about student views, beliefs, and political associations that faculty and college staff may acquire in the course of their duties at the college are to be considered confidential. Judgments of ability and character may be expressed in appropriate circumstances (e.g., letters of recommendation).

8. Right to Privacy

Students are protected from invasion of privacy and searches of their residences, except where law enforcement has probable cause, a court-ordered search warrant has been legally obtained, or where permitted by the campus residence hall license. Nothing herein shall limit the college's ability to engage in reasonable inspections to ensure the health and safety of persons and facilities.

9. Freedom from Prejudice and Discrimination

Students have a right to be free from prejudice and discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, domestic violence victim status, or criminal conviction.

10. Right to Be Informed

The college has the obligation to inform all students, within a reasonable time, of their rights, freedoms, and responsibilities. Additionally, the college has the obligation to provide both complainants and those accused of violations, within a reasonable time, information outlining the alleged violation, student conduct process, possible sanctions, and student advocacy rights.

11. Rights under Title IX

The State University of New York and Buffalo State College are committed to providing options, support, and assistance to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking to ensure that they can continue to participate in Buffalo State and SUNY-wide programs, activities, and employment. All victims of these crimes and violations have the rights listed below, regardless of whether the crime or violation occurs on campus or off campus:

- a. Make a report to local law enforcement and/or state police.
- b. Have disclosures of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault treated seriously.
- c. Make a decision about whether or not to disclose a crime or violation and participate in the conduct process and/or criminal justice process free of pressure from the institution.
- d. Participate in a process that is fair and impartial, and provides adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard.
- e. Be treated with dignity and to receive from the institution courteous, fair, and respectful health care and counseling services, where available.
- f. Be free from any suggestion that the reporting individual is at fault when these crimes and violations are committed, or should have acted in a different manner to avoid such crimes or violations.
- g. Describe the incident to as few institutional representatives as practicable and not to be required to unnecessarily repeat a description of the incident.
- h. Be free from retaliation by the institution, the accused and/or the respondent(s), and/or their friends, family, and acquaintances within the jurisdiction of the college.
- i. Be accompanied by a student conduct adviser of choice who may assist and advise a reporting individual, accused, or respondent throughout the conduct process including during all meetings and hearings related to such process.
- j. Exercise civil rights and practice of religion without interference by the investigative, criminal justice, or conduct process of the college.