

3 Admission, Registration & Educational Costs

Admissions: Becoming a Río Hondo Student

Students who are high school graduates or individuals 18 years of age or over who show evidence that they can benefit from instruction may apply and will be admitted to Río Hondo College. All classes are open to those who meet the necessary prerequisites. No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by Río Hondo College. See Non-Discrimination Policy in Chapter 2 and Administrative Procedure 3410.

Who May Apply

You may be eligible for admission to Río Hondo College if you are:

- A high school graduate or GED recipient
- Not a high school graduate but over 18 years of age
- A current high school student who is recommended by the school principal or designee for advanced academic or vocational classes, has the approval of the student's parent(s), and meets the college's special admissions criteria. (High school students may apply, but are LIMITED to 11 UNITS of non-remedial coursework per session.)
- A current K-8 student who is recommended by the school principal via a letter recommendation listing the course/s they are requesting to register for college-level courses which include advanced academic or vocational classes, has the approval of the student's parent(s), and meets the college's special admissions criteria. (K-8 students may apply, but are LIMITED to one college-level/non-remedial course per session.)

Student Classification

Students are classified according to the following classifications for the purpose of registration:

New Student: A student who has never enrolled in a credit course at any college, including Río Hondo, or has only enrolled as a K-12 Enrichment Student.

Returning Student: A returning student is a student who did not register the previous semester but has registered in the past. Students who are returning after an absence of a semester or more (not including summer) must submit a new application for admission online.

Continuing Student: A continuing student is a student who attended the previous semester. To be classified as a continuing student with registration priority privileges, a student must maintain continuous enrollment (enrolled in at least one course each semester, not including summer).



Enrichment Student: An enrichment student is a student who is currently enrolled in grades K-12 or is home-schooled.

- **Permission**
A Dual Enrollment Petition must be submitted to the college. The petition must be signed by an approved designee by the school or district; the parent(s) of the student; and the student. A school or district must submit a designee letter to the Río Hondo College Admissions Office that lists the names of the individuals who are authorized to sign the petition, and must be signed by the Principal.
- **Parameters**
Students in K-12 may enroll in classes for college credit. Permission to enroll must be obtained in advance from their school and a parent or guardian.
 - **High School Students:** Are limited to 11 units of non-remedial college-level coursework each term.
 - **K-8:** Are limited to one course of non-remedial college-level coursework each term.

Interested K-12 students may obtain information from the Admissions webpage at <http://www.riohondo.edu/admissions/>. Additional information may be obtained by calling or visiting the Admissions and Records Office.

Residence Requirements

If asked, a student must provide proof of California residency (or in some cases, parent residency) for the past 12-24 consecutive months. If the student is unable to document proof of California residency, he/she may still enroll but must pay nonresident fees. To establish residency, a student must be able to prove eligibility, through physical presence and intent to make California their state of residency for one (1) year and one (1) day prior to the first day of the term. Federal law precludes some visa types

from establishing residency. Selected exemptions from nonresident fees are provided in law: such as certificated public school employees, agricultural workers, military personnel and their dependents. If you feel that you might qualify for an exemption or have questions about residency, please contact the Admissions and Records Office.

Nonresident Students – Legal Requirements-Education Code Section 76140 requires that tuition be charged to students who are not residents of the State of California and who attend public community colleges within the state.

The nonresident/international student fee of \$265.00 per unit (subject to change) plus a per unit enrollment fee is charged each semester/ summer session. Tuition charges must be paid at the time of registration.

The Admissions and Records Office should be consulted concerning the determination of residence.

AB540 Students

On October 12, 2001, Governor Davis signed into law Assembly Bill 540 which added a section to the California Educational Code, section 68130.5. Section 68130.5 created an exemption from payment of nonresident tuition for certain nonresident students who have attended high school in California and received a high school diploma or its equivalent.

1. The laws do not grant California residency.
2. Students exempt from paying nonresident tuition pursuant to section 68130.5 do not become residents and may not be eligible for state-funded programs which require residency.
3. Students who meet the exemption requirements and who are unlawful immigrants are not eligible for any federal financial aid programs. Many private sources have created scholarships specific to students not eligible for traditional financial aid programs.
4. Students exempted from paying nonresident tuition pursuant to section 68130.5 are not eligible for the Governor's Merit Scholar Programs because these scholarships are only available for California residents.
5. Students must meet all requirements in section 68130.5 (a) (1) – (4) to be eligible for the exemption.
 - a. The student must have graduated from a California high school which he/she attended for three or more years. There are no provisions for partial attendance (e.g. two years and 7 months). The law does not require consecutive attendance nor require that the student attend the last three years in California (in the case of four-year high schools).
 - b. Such attendance could be at multiple California high schools.
 - c. The law does not distinguish between public and private high schools. There is no time limit on how far in the past the student might have attended a California high school.
 - d. The student must have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent thereof (e.g., a GED or a high school proficiency exam).
 - e. Except for nonimmigrant aliens, any nonresident student who meets the first two requirements shall

be exempted from nonresident tuition even if he or she is a US citizen or lawful immigrant.

- f. If the student has filed an application with the INS to legalize status, the student may already be eligible for resident fee status if the student has resided in California for more than one year and one day since the time of INS application. (See Title 5 Section 54045.)

6. Students who are nonimmigrant aliens (the most common being the F series student visas and B series visitor visas) are not eligible for this exemption. (A full description of nonimmigrant alien classifications may be found in paragraph 15 of subsection (a) of Section 1101 of Title 8 of the U.S. Code.) People who entered the country as nonimmigrant aliens but subsequently have gone out of status are not eligible for this exemption until they apply to INS to change their status to something other than nonimmigrant.

The following Assembly Bills allow undocumented students to qualify for in-state tuition at California Community College and the California State University campuses:

Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540), passed in 2001, grants students meeting certain criteria an exemption from paying nonresident tuition at California Community Colleges.

Assembly Bill 2000 (AB 2000) passed in 2014. This is an expansion of AB540. It increases the scope of student eligibility for students who graduated early from a California High School with the equivalent of three or more years of credits. If a student graduates early, they must have attended CA elementary or secondary schools for a cumulative total of 3 or more years. It allows students meeting the criteria below to pay in-state tuition, the same as resident students.

Senate Bill 68 (SB 68) passed in 2017. This public postsecondary education exemption from nonresident tuition was approved by the governor and filed with the Secretary of State on October 5, 2017. This legislation amended Education Code, section 68130.5, changing the criteria for students eligible for a nonresident tuition exemption, as previously defined in Assembly Bill 540 (2001). Senate Bill 68 expands the requirements of AB 540/ AB 2000 to include attendance at California Community Colleges and attainment of an associate's degree.

The California Dream Act (Assembly Bills 130 and 131) were signed into law in 2011. Together these bills compose the California Dream Act and give AB 540 / AB 2000 students the right to apply for state financial aid, including Cal Grant A & B Entitlement awards, Cal Grant C awards, institutional grants and community college fee waivers.

International Students

Students from outside the United States are welcome to pursue higher education at Río Hondo College. The college values the presence of students from diverse cultures on the college campus. Río Hondo College is a Student & Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) approved institution to admit F-1 students. The International Student Program admits new and transfer students every semester who meet the requirements. All F-1 visa students must be accepted by the International Student Specialist before registering.

After being accepted to the college, all students must take an assessment test to determine level of English, Math and Reading. Each student is expected to register and complete 12 units in both the Spring and Fall semester with an overall grade point average of 2.0.

International students pay out of state fees which are subject to change without prior notice. Financial Aid is not available; students are expected to be financially independent. It is mandatory that all international students provide proof of health insurance coverage, by an approved insurance company, while attending Río Hondo College.

A Counselor is available to help students with a variety of issues; educational planning, choosing a major, graduation requirements, transfer requirements to 4-year colleges and Universities, tutoring and communication with a professor.

For information regarding the International Students Program, please visit the website at www.riohondo.edu/admissions/international-students/ or call (562) 463-7643.

Admissions Requirements for Overseas Students

- International Student Application
- Application processing fee of \$40.00 (non-refundable)
- Copy of Passport
- English Proficiency must be met by one of the following methods
 - English is the students primary language
 - TOEFL 45iBT
 - IELTS 5
 - iTep 3
- Bank Certification (original bank statement or a letter from a bank, on bank letterhead, signed by a bank official, showing a minimum \$20,000 USD available to the student)
- 18 years of age by the time the semester begins

Admissions Requirements for Transfer Students

- International Student Application
- Application processing fee of \$40.00 (non-refundable)
- Copy of Passport, Student Visa, I-94 and I-20 form
- English Proficiency must be met by one of the following methods:
 - College Level English Completed (official college transcripts must be submitted)
 - TOEFL 45iBT
 - IELTS 5
 - iTep 3
 - Completion of appropriate level of English at an approved Language School (see list of institutions and minimum level required www.riohondo.edu/international-students)
- Bank Certification (original bank statement or a letter from a bank, on bank letterhead, signed by a bank official, showing a minimum \$20,000 USD available to the student)
- 18 years of age by the time the semester begins

Open Enrollment Policy

The policy of this district is that, unless specifically exempted by statute or regulation, every course, course selection, or class, reported for state aid, whenever offered or maintained by the district, shall be fully open to enrollment and participation by any person who has been admitted to the college and who meets such prerequisites as may be established pursuant to regulations contained in Title 5.

Unit Limitations

Students are limited to 18 units per session (15 units for summer) unless they receive approval from a counselor for additional units. Students must meet with a counselor and complete a Unit Overload form. High School students are limited to 11 UNITS of non-remedial college-level coursework. K-8 students are limited to one non-remedial college-level course.

Adding/Dropping Classes

Adding Classes: Students may add classes (including a change of section of the same course) during or after the assigned registration time, prior to the semester/course start. See the Admissions page on our website for more information on important dates and deadlines. The class add must be processed via AccessRío, and students who complete this process are officially enrolled in the class.

If the class and wait list are full, the student must attend class on the first day of instruction and request an add code from the instructor. If the instructor provides an add code, the student can then use the add code to register for the class via AccessRío by the published deadline.

Dropping Classes: It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw (drop) from classes prior to the drop deadline. Students must drop before the "Last day to Drop with a Refund" to avoid fees or drop before the "Last day to Drop With a "W" to avoid receiving a failing grade.

Student-Initiated Withdrawal: While it is the student's responsibility to withdraw by the deadline, an instructor may drop a student with poor attendance. To find the drop deadlines for a particular course consult the online Class Schedule and click on the CRN number of the course. There students will find information on critical dates for the specific course, including drop dates.

The student must withdraw from the class via Access Río by the established deadline. Failure to follow through with the drop procedure may result in the student receiving a failing grade. Students may contact the Admissions and Records Office if they need assistance in withdrawing from class(es).

Instructor-Initiated Withdrawal: A student may be withdrawn before the drop deadline (75% of course length) by the instructor of the course if the student is no longer participating in the course. Definitions of non-participation shall include, but are not limited to, excessive unexcused absences. While an instructor may drop a student from class for poor attendance, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw if the student is no longer attending the class.

There are five types of course withdrawal notations:

1. Withdrawal with a refund – A student who withdraws from a course before the published deadline to drop with a refund (10% of the course) will not be responsible for the fees for the course and no notation will be on their student record (transcript) for the dropped course.

2. Withdrawal without receiving a "W" – A student who withdraws from a course after the refund deadline and before the published deadline to drop without a "W" (30% of course length) will receive no notation on their student record (transcript) for the dropped course. A student is still responsible for enrollment fees. A student who withdraws from all classes prior to the "drop without a 'W'" deadline will no longer be classified as a continuing student for priority registration purposes.

3. Withdrawal with a “W” – A student who withdraws from class between 30% to 75% of the course length (after the drop without a “W” but before the drop deadline) will receive a “W” notation on their student record (transcript). The “W” is not used to calculate a student’s grade point average (GPA) but may affect academic progress and result in progress probation/dismissal.

4. Military Withdrawal “MW” – A student serving as an active or reserve U.S. military serviceperson who receives orders compelling a withdrawal from courses may request a military withdrawal. Upon submission and verification of such orders, a student can petition to withdraw from classes with a “MW” notation on the student’s transcript. Military withdrawals are not counted in progress probation and dismissal calculations. Military withdrawal petitions are available in the Admissions and Records Office. A Military Withdrawal is eligible for a full refund.

5. Excused Withdrawal “EW” – A student may submit a petition to withdraw from a course(s) due to specific events beyond their control which affects their ability to complete a course(s). These events may include a job transfer outside the geographical region, an illness in the family where the student is primary caregiver, the student is subject to immigration action, or other extenuating circumstances. The excused withdrawal “EW” notation is not counted in progress probation and dismissal calculations. An Excused Withdrawal is not eligible for a refund.

Evaluation of Transcripts

All students enrolled at Río Hondo College should have official transcripts from their high school on file.

Students with previous coursework from a regionally accredited college/university should have official transcripts from all colleges attended sent directly to Río Hondo College. Hand carried transcripts are not accepted. These transcripts can verify completion of prerequisite courses and assist the counselors in working with the student. Official transcripts from all regionally accredited colleges are required for evaluation towards a certificate, associate degree, or meeting general education requirements for transfer.

Transcripts from foreign universities must be evaluated by an approved credential evaluation service.

All transcripts must be sent directly to the Admissions and Records Office. Transcripts become the property of the college and cannot be returned to the student, copied, or forwarded to another institution.

Student Equity and Achievement Program

In 2018, the SEA Program was established and merged funding for three initiatives: the Student Success and Support Program; the Basic Skills Initiative; and Student Equity. Integrating these efforts into a single program advances our goal of demolishing once and for all the achievement gaps for students from traditionally underrepresented populations.

The SEA Program requires the implementation of a Guided Pathways framework offering a clear path to a stated goal, to provide all students with an education plan based on that goal, and provide access to transfer-level English and math. Students identified as matriculating are referred to core services: placement, orientation, and counseling.

Non-matriculating students are exempt from participating in core services, but they are advised to access these services if they decide to pursue a degree or certificate.

A student is expected to participate in these services unless the student requests an exemption from a particular service. Exemption forms may be obtained in the Counseling Department. All students are strongly encouraged to participate in the process.

Military Veteran students must participate in all matriculation components as required by the Veterans Administration (VA).

Five Steps to Becoming a Río Hondo College Student

Included in the following section are the Five Steps to becoming a Río Hondo College student.

Non-Exempt Students:

All new non-exempt students (“non-exempt” refers to students seeking an AA-T/AS-T degree, a certificate or transfer) are required to complete Placement (Assessment, if needed), Orientation, and Educational Plan (prior to registration for classes). A hold may be placed on a student’s registration if they fail to complete their Placement, Orientation, and Educational Plan. Non-exempt students who do not complete their Placement, Orientation and Educational Plan will receive an immediate hold on their registration.

Step 1: Application

Río Hondo College uses Open CCC for application processing. To submit an application for admissions log on to www.riohondo.edu and click the “Apply Now” button.

Step 2: Orientation

Orientation to the college is an important part of the matriculation process and should be completed prior to the first semester of coursework. It provides students with information on college services, registration procedures, course placement, and recommended courses to register for in the first semester. Students can complete the online orientation through the AccessRío student portal.

Step 3: Placement

All students will have the opportunity to enroll in transfer-level English and Math. Students are asked to complete the Placement Tool which can be obtained through the AccessRío student portal.

In order to successfully complete the Placement Tool students will need their high school grade point average, highest level high school English course completed, as well as highest level of high school math course completed.

Depending on the results and information that is submitted through the Placement Tool students may be placed into a support class for both English, ESL and math, as an added support course. Students meet with a Counselor after completing the Placement Tool to gather more information about the student’s academic history and educational goals. Counselors will consider factors such as student’s English skills, coursework taken at another college, study skills, or the need for special services. As a result of the meeting with the Counselor, the initial placement, based only on default placement rules, may change. Taking into consideration both high school achievement information and other factors revealed in the counseling meeting, the Counselor will determine the final course placement.

Students are encouraged to take the highest level course that they feel comfortable with. Basic skills courses are still available. If needed, a student can also complete the placement process by meeting with a counselor for placement.

In accordance with AB 705, Río Hondo College no longer administers an assessment for placement. K-8 students who do not have a high school GPA are asked to take an assessment for courses that require appointment to take an assessment. For information, please contact the Río Success Lab at (562) 463-7226 or visit LR-130.

Step 4: Educational Plan

The Educational Plan process is designed to support students with the finest academic advisement and counseling possible. Placement information assists the counselor in outlining a useful and clear educational plan for the student's educational goals. Students can schedule an appointment throughout each semester and during the summer. For more information, please contact the Student Success and Dream Center at (562) 463-6650 or visit LRC 101.

Step 5: Registration

Upon completing steps 1-4, a student can register online on dates specified online under the admissions and records link.

Registration Appointments – The appointment time established for each student is the date and time the student can begin using the AccessRío online registration system for a given semester.

Students can find their registration appointment times by logging into their AccessRío account under Student, Registration and then clicking on Registration Status.

All new students are encouraged to participate in the components of admission, orientation, placement, and educational planning. However, exemptions for these components may be granted if certain criteria are met. (See Matriculation Exemptions.) All new, non-exempt students who are unable to complete the placement process before their first semester of attendance may enroll; however, they must complete placement prior to registering for their second semester at the college. Students who have not completed the placement process may be unable to register for certain courses that require prerequisites.

College Responsibilities

In the Student Success and Support Program process, the college has certain responsibilities. The college, to support student success, agrees to provide:

- Processing applications for admission
- Placement
- Orientation to college programs and services
- Counseling/advising to provide assistance in developing an educational plan
- Follow-up and referral to services

Student Responsibilities

In the Student Success and Support Program process, the student also has certain responsibilities. The student, to support his/her own success, has the responsibility to:

- Express a broad educational intent upon admission
- Complete the Placement Tool or meet with a counselor and provide information to support placement

- Declare a specific educational goal by the time 12 semester units are completed
- Meet with a counselor to develop an educational plan within the same semester
- Participate in counseling/advisement
- Attend class, complete assignments, and maintain progress toward a defined goal
- Drop classes he/she no longer wishes to attend.

Student Rights

In accordance with the matriculation agreement, the student has the right to:

- Challenge placement decisions and any prerequisite or corequisite by completing the appropriate form, which can be obtained from the Counseling Department.
- You may file a complaint of unlawful discrimination with the Dean of Student Affairs Office.

Matriculation Exemptions

Students who meet one of the following exemption criteria for any of the matriculation components, may obtain an exemption form from the Counseling Department. Military students must participate in all matriculation components as required by the VA.

A. Placement, Orientation, and Counseling

– All students are encouraged to participate in these components; an exemption may be granted according to one of the following criteria:

- Students who are enrolled only in activity, skill building, or personal growth classes (e.g., acting, physical fitness, ceramics) or job skills training (e.g., computer literacy, accounting, brake service), or
- Students who have already completed an AA/AS degree or higher. Military students must participate in all matriculation components as required by the VA.

B. Placement

– Further placement exemption may be granted according to one of the following criteria:

- Students who have successfully completed the equivalent of ENGL 035 or ENGL 101 at another community college or university do not have to complete the Placement Tool for English, however this does not exempt them from Math.
- Students who have successfully completed the equivalent of MATH 020 or higher at another community college or university are exempt from completing the Placement Tool for Math, however, this does not exempt them from English.

C. Orientation

– All students must complete the online orientation; an exemption may be granted according to one of the following criteria:

- Students who are concurrently enrolled at a four-year college or university, or
- Students who have previously participated in a Río Hondo College orientation.

Assessment Retest Policy

English, Reading and Math assessment scores are valid for two years. After two years, students are advised to re-test or, when applicable, complete the Placement Tool. For more information, visit the Río Success Lab located in LR-130.

Placement Appeals Procedure

All students have the right to appeal a placement via an assessment. An assessment placement appeal requires written documentation and an explanation of alternative coursework, background, or abilities that adequately prepare the student for the course. An Assessment Placement Appeals form can be obtained from the Counseling Department or the appropriate division office (either Communications and Languages or Math and Sciences). Reasons for appealing an assessment placement may include one or more of the following:

- the course recommended is not reasonably available, or
- the student believes the recommended course is not valid or necessary for success in the next course level for which it is required, or
- the student believes the placement results are discriminatory or are being applied in a discriminatory manner, or
- the student has the documented knowledge or ability to succeed in the next level course without taking the recommended course by the appropriate division office.

Upon filing the Assessment Placement Appeals form, the student may enroll in the desired class. If the appeal is not upheld, the student will be required to drop the class. The district will ensure that the appeal process is finished, and the student is notified in writing within five (5) working days. Students wishing to appeal this decision should contact the Dean of Counseling or designee.

RHC Prerequisite/Corequisite/Advisory Definitions

The college REQUIRES students to meet prerequisite/corequisite requirements before taking the course in question.

Prerequisites – A course prerequisite indicates that the preparation or previous coursework is considered necessary for success in the desired course. In order for a prerequisite requirement to be met, the prerequisite course must be passed with at least a satisfactory grade. If a prerequisite course is taken at Río Hondo College, the grade of “P” or a minimum grade of “C” is required.

Corequisites – A course corequisite indicates another course that must be taken concurrently (at the same time) with the desired course.

Prerequisites/corequisites that are listed in the college catalog include:

- Courses for which specific prerequisites/corequisites have been validated,
- Sequential coursework in a degree-applicable program, and

- Courses in which a prerequisite/corequisite is necessary for transfer to a four-year college.

Questions about prerequisites/corequisites are best resolved with a counselor or instructor prior to the first day of class. If students are attempting to meet a prerequisite/corequisite through the placement process, they may appeal (challenge) their placement results.

Advisories – A course advisory indicates that if students have the designated preparation or previous coursework, they are likely to perform better academically in the course or program in question because of that experience or preparation. Unlike prerequisites or corequisites, advisories do not require that students have the suggested preparation; rather, it is strongly recommended.

Clearing a Prerequisite

If a student believes he/she has met a prerequisite at another institution, he/she can see a counselor for a prerequisite clearance. Students must provide evidence of meeting the prerequisite using documentation such as an academic transcript. See a counselor for details.

Prerequisite/Corequisite Challenge Procedure

All students have the right to challenge any prerequisite or corequisite. A prerequisite or corequisite challenge requires written documentation that should include an explanation of alternative coursework and/or background or abilities that adequately prepares the student for the course. A Prerequisite/Corequisite Challenge form can be obtained from the Counseling Department, division offices or at www.riohondo.edu under Academic divisions, Career & Technical Education, Counseling. The link will be at bottom of the page.

Reasons for challenging a prerequisite may include one or more of the following:

1. A prerequisite/corequisite is not reasonably available (must be made prior to the first week of the semester) or the student believes the prerequisite/corequisite is not valid or necessary for success in the course or which it is required, or
2. The student believes the prerequisite/corequisite is discriminatory or being applied in a discriminatory manner, or
3. The student has the documented knowledge or ability to succeed in the course without meeting the prerequisite/corequisite.

Upon filing the Prerequisite/Corequisite Challenge form, the student may enroll in the challenged class. If the challenge is not upheld, the student will be required to drop the class. The district will ensure that the challenge process is finished, and the student is notified in writing within five (5) working days. Students wishing to appeal this decision should contact the Dean of Counseling or designee.

Educational Costs

Enrollment Fee – Students who have established legal residence in California must pay the enrollment fee established under state law and subject to change without notice. These fees will be waived at the time of enrollment if the student can demonstrate he/she qualifies under the

exempt criteria specified by the State of California. Out-of-state and international students must pay nonresident tuition fees of \$307.00 per unit for Fall/Spring terms and \$290.00 per unit for Summer term, plus the \$46.00 a unit fee as required under state law (fees subject to change).

College Services Fee – The Associated Students of Río Hondo College is funded through the college services fee. The fee is \$7.00 for day, evening, and off-campus students during the fall and spring semesters and \$4.00 for summer sessions. The fee is automatically assessed at the time of registration. A waiver form is available in the Admissions and Records Office.

GO RIO Fee – This fee was approved by the Associated Students of Río Hondo College to subsidize costs of the GO RIO bus program. The fee is \$11.00 for Spring and Fall terms only. A waiver form is available in the Office of Government and Community Relations. Students must meet eligibility criteria to qualify for the GO RIO fee waiver.

Student Parking Fee – Under provision of Education Code 72247, a Student Parking Fee program has been established. This fee provides for the use of student parking lots, better traffic flow during peak hours, parking lot security, and use of the tram service.

The student parking fee for day and evening students during the fall/spring semesters is \$43.20. The fee for summer sessions students is \$23.20. Motorcycle parking is \$13.50 for fall/spring semesters; \$8.70 for summer sessions. There is daily parking \$3.00/day and meter parking \$0.25 for 15 minutes available. **Note: A non-refundable \$3.20 mailing fee is included in the online permit fee.**

Student Health Fee – Río Hondo College provides a health services program, as approved by the Board of Trustees, for students who formally register at Río Hondo College, are currently enrolled, and pay a \$21 health fee (\$18.00 for summer). Antibiotic medication and women-wellness laboratory tests are available for a nominal fee. Fee-exempted students include those who document religious reasons. A full refund will be made only if requested in writing prior to the semester refund deadline.

Student Representation Fee – This \$2.00 fee provides support for students or representatives who may be stating their positions and viewpoints before city, county, and district government, and before offices and agencies of the state and federal government. Students may refuse to pay this fee on religious, political, or moral grounds by submitting a refusal in writing to the Office of Student Life and Leadership prior to registration.

Books – Students are required to purchase all books and supplies needed for their courses. Book costs will vary from semester to semester. Often purchasing used books can reduce this amount.

Scholarships

A variety of scholarships are available to Río Hondo College students. For more information, contact the Río Hondo College Foundation at (562) 908-3476 or go online to www.riohondo.edu/foundation to view scholarship opportunities.

Enrollment/Fees Refunds

Resident Students

Resident students who drop by 10% of the course will receive a refund. Refunds are automatic and do not require any paperwork to be submitted. Please check the Río Hondo web site, under the Admissions Important Dates and Deadlines, link for specific deadline dates. Any enrollment fee refund is subject to a once-per-semester service charge of \$10.00. Last day to drop with a refund deadline may vary. Please visit the online Class Schedule and click on the course CRN for specific dates for each course.

Nonresident Students

Nonresident students who drop by 10% of the course section will receive a refund. Refunds are automatic and do not require any paperwork to be submitted. Any enrollment fee refund request is subject to a once-per-semester service charge of \$10.00. Last day to drop with a refund deadline may vary according to the course begin and end dates. See Important Dates and Deadlines on the Admissions and Records webpage for specific dates.

The nonresident student will receive a 50% refund of out-of-state fees if the request for a refund is received in Admissions and Records during the third or fourth week of the fall/spring semester or during the second week of the summer session. No refunds will be granted after the fourth week of the fall/spring semester or after the second week of the summer session. Please check the Admissions webpage under Fees & Refunds www.riohondo.edu/admissions/fee-refunds/ for specific deadline dates.

In the event that law mandates other fees and law does not prescribe the refund policy, the refund of such fees shall be in the same manner as the refund of health, college services, and parking fees.



2 College Policies & Procedures

Current Río Hondo College Board Policies and Administrative Procedures can be found on the web site: www.riohondo.edu/board/policies.htm.

Academic Freedom Philosophy

The maintenance of freedom of speech, publication, religion, and assembly (each of which is a component of intellectual freedom) is the breath of life in a democratic society. The need is greatest in fields and institutions of higher learning, where the use of reason and the cultivation of the highest forms of human expression are the basic methods for maintaining those freedoms. Society has come to rely upon colleges and universities as a principal means of acquiring new knowledge and new techniques, of conveying the fruits of past and present learning to the community, and of transmitting these results to generations to come. Without freedom to explore, to criticize existing institutions, to exchange ideas, and to advocate solutions to human problems, faculty members, staff and students cannot perform their work and cannot maintain their self-respect. Society suffers correspondingly. The liberty that is needed requires a freedom of thought and expression within colleges and universities, freedom to carry the results of honest inquiry to the outside, and a freedom to influence human affairs in the same manner as other informed persons do. Nor is the value of freedom lessened because error at times arises from its exercise. Learning, intellectual development, and social and scientific progress takes place on a trial-and-error basis, and even the unsound cause or hypothesis may call forth the truth that displaces it. (Board Policy 4030).

Access to Student Records

All currently enrolled or former students have the right of access to any records relating to them and maintained by the College. Students may inspect and review records during regular business hours in the Office of Admissions and Records. Requests for access to records will be granted no later than five working days following date of request. Qualified personnel will be present to interpret records for students.

College personnel may also permit access to student's records to any person for whom the student has executed written consent specifying the records to be released and identifying the party to whom the records may be released. College personnel will notify the recipient of such records that the transmission of information to third parties is prohibited. (Administrative Procedure 5040)

Student Records

Privacy Act - All student records at Río Hondo College are kept in accordance with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Students may request access to those campus records that personally identify the student; the student may challenge the accuracy of the record or the appropriateness of its retention in the campus records. Student consent is needed for the release of records covered by the Act to outside parties (e.g., prospective employers) except for those agencies entitled to access under the provisions of the Act (e.g., campus officials, other schools, federal educational and auditing officers and requests in connection with the application of receipt of financial aid).

These provisions apply to records received and used after November 1, 1974. A student may request a report summarizing the number of records he/she has requested or given consent to be released. Complaints as to procedure or improper release of record information may be filed with the Office of Education, HEW FERPA, DHEW, 330 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

Children on Campus

Except when children are enrolled in the Child Development Center, other instructional programs in the District, and/or attending public events under the supervision of a parent or guardian, bringing children on campus while attending classes is not permitted. Parents and guardians must be aware that the ultimate responsibility for the safety of the children in their care rests with them and no liability can be accepted by the District nor any of its agents or staff for the consequences of children being on campus.

Computer Usage

Each computer user is responsible for the use of computing resources in an effective, efficient, and lawful manner.



Computing resources and equipment are college property, and the college retains the right to monitor systems and limit access. Users of computing resources must abide by the rules/policies established by the department responsible for the supervision of the equipment. Each user must understand and acknowledge that his/her freedom to access and display information is limited to authorized academic and administrative uses. No person may use computer resources for any illegal act, including the possession or use of programs, files, or instructions for violating system security or violation of copyright law. Computer resources may not be used to intimidate or create an atmosphere of harassment based upon any protected class/category (gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, creed, sexual orientation, or other categories as applicable). (Administrative Procedure 3720)

Student Complaints/ Grievance Procedures

The District provides a prompt and equitable means of resolving student grievances and complaints. A grievance is an alleged wrongful act by a Río Hondo College staff or faculty member which has an adverse effect upon a student's academic or personal status right or privileges as a student at Río Hondo College. Students are protected against capricious, arbitrary, unreasonable, unlawful, false, malicious or professionally inappropriate evaluations or behavior by a faculty member, a staff member, an administrator or an official of the College or another student. Student complaints may be classified as grievances and fall into one of two categories: Academic, or Non-Academic. Students are encouraged to follow the Río Hondo College Complaint and Grievance process. Issues that are not resolved at the campus level may be presented to the State Chancellor's Office using their complaint process.

This procedure does not apply to any matters for which a specified method of complaint resolution is provided by law or by District policy, such as: Student disciplinary actions, which are covered under separate Board policies and Administrative Procedures (BP 5500, AP 5500); Police citations (i.e. "tickets"); complaints about citations must be directed to the County Courthouse in the same way as any traffic violation; or Complaints of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, including grade grievances

based on this type of allegation. These types of complaints are covered under separate Administrative Procedures (AP 3435).

For more information regarding student complaints and grievance procedures, please contact the Office of Student Affairs located in SS204 or visit: http://www.riohondo.edu/student_affairs/complaints-grievances.

Directory Information

This is to serve as public notice that the following information is regarded by Río Hondo Community College District as Directory Information, and may be released for distribution unless a stop action is initiated by a student on the Río Hondo College Directory Information Denial of Release form available in the Admissions and Records Office. A new form must be completed each year. Directory information includes: a student's name, whether or not he/she is currently enrolled, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees and awards received. (Board Policy 5040)

A request for directory information will be denied to any parties, not otherwise entitled to the information by law, if the college determines that such release is not in the best interest of the student. Further information may be obtained from the Admissions & Records Office. (Board Policy and Administrative Procedure 5040)

Hazing

The California Legislature moved hazing from the educational codes and amended the Penal Code to include hazing in order to close legal loopholes and to deter students. Section 245.6 of the California Penal Code, which went into effect on January 1, 2007, reads: It shall be unlawful to engage in hazing. "Hazing" means any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or student body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury. Hazing can be defined as any action or activity which does not contribute to the positive development of a person; which inflicts or intends to cause physical or mental harm or anxieties; which may demean, degrade or disgrace any person regardless of location, intent or consent of participants. Hazing can also be defined as any action or situation, which intentionally

endangers a student seeking admission into or affiliation with any student organization. The term "hazing" does not include customary athletic events or school-sanctioned events. A violation of this section that does not result in serious bodily injury is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100), nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year, or both. (Board Policy 5500)

Non-Discrimination Policy

Río Hondo Community College District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of national origin, religion, age, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race or ethnicity, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, military and veteran status, or because he or she is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics, or based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in any program or activity. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to Dean of Student Affairs, Student Services Building, 2nd Floor, Room SS204, (562) 908-3498.

Río Hondo Community College District recognizes its obligation to provide program accessibility for all persons with disabilities in a manner that does not discriminate in the delivery of those services. The College makes reasonable accommodations for students, employees and members of the community who may be participating in campus activities. (Administrative Procedure 3435)

Inquiries regarding federal laws and regulations concerning nondiscrimination in education or the District's compliance with those provisions may also be directed to:

Office of Civil Rights
United States Department of Education
50 Beale Street, Ste. 7200
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 486-5555

or

Department of Fair Employment & Housing
1900 Mariposa Mall
Suite 130
Fresno, CA 93721

Póliza contra la Discriminación

El Distrito del Colegio de Río Hondo cumple con todas las reglas y reglamentos federales y estatales y no discrimina a base de origen nacional, religión, edad, género, identidad sexual, expresión sexual, raza o etnicidad, color, condición médica, información genética, ascendencia, orientación sexual, estado civil, discapacidad física o mental, embarazo o por ser militar y veterano de las fuerzas armadas o porque él o ella son percibidos tener una o varias de las características precedentes o basado en la asociación con una persona o el grupo con uno o varios de estas características reales o percibidas. Esto se mantiene verdadero para todos los estudiantes que están interesados en participar en programas educativos incluyendo programas de carrera y educación técnica y/o actividades extraescolares. (AP 3435)

Para más información sobre esta póliza y/o procedimientos de agravio, pueden ser dirigidas al Decano, Asuntos Estudiantiles, ubicado en el edificio de Servicios para el Estudiante, segundo piso, cuarto SS-204, (562) 908-3498.

El Distrito del Colegio de Río Hondo reconoce su obligación de proveer programas con accesibilidad para todas las personas con discapacidades en una manera que no discriminar en la entrega de aquellos servicios. El Colegio hace modificaciones razonables para estudiantes, empleados, y miembros de la comunidad quienes participen en actividades del colegio. (AP3435)

Preguntas o información sobre leyes federales y reglamentos contra la discriminación en la educación o el cumplimiento del Distrito con aquellas provisiones también pueden ser dirigidas a:

La Oficina de Derechos Civiles
Departamento de Educación de los EEUU
50 Beale Street, Ste. 7200
San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 486-5555

o

El Departamento de Empleo Justo Y Vivienda
1900 Mariposa Mall, Suite 130
Fresno, CA 93721

Registered Sex Offender Information

Offenders are required to register with the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Department prior to applying to Río Hondo College.

Once registered, the offender is required to meet with the Dean of Students Affairs with appropriate documentation from the Sheriff's Department.

For further information, call the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Department at (562) 222-5533 or the Dean of Student Affairs at (562) 908-3498.

Information concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained from the Whittier Police Department, 13200 Penn St., Whittier, CA 90602 or by calling (562) 567-9200. Sex offenders are required to register with the police in the jurisdiction in which they reside.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual Harassment is offensive, unwelcome sexual attention. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, California statutes, Río Hondo Community College District Board policy BP 3430.

Definition – Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. submission to the conduct is made a term or condition of an individual's employment, academic status, or progress;
2. submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as a basis of employment or academic decisions effecting the individual;
3. the conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact on the individual's work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work or educational environment; or
4. submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the community college.

This definition encompasses two kinds of sexual harassment.

1. *Quid pro quo* sexual harassment occurs when a person in a position

of authority makes educational or employment benefits conditional upon an individual's willingness to engage in or tolerate unwanted sexual conduct.

2. Hostile environment sexual harassment occurs when unwelcome conduct based on sex is sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to alter the conditions of an individual's learning or work environment, unreasonably interfere with an individual's academic or work performance, or create an intimidating, hostile, or abusive learning or work environment. The victim must subjectively perceive the environment as hostile, and the harassment must be such that a reasonable person of the same gender would perceive the environment as hostile.

Sexual harassment can consist of virtually any form or combination of verbal, physical, visual or environmental conduct. It need not be explicit, nor even specifically directed at the victim. Sexually harassing conduct can occur between people of the same or different genders. The standard for determining whether conduct constitutes sexual harassment is whether a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim would perceive the conduct as harassment based on sex.

Examples – Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to the following misconduct:

1. **Verbal:** Inappropriate or offensive remarks, slurs, jokes or innuendoes based on sex. This may include, but is not limited to, inappropriate comments regarding an individual's body, physical appearance, attire, sexual prowess, marital status, or sexual orientation; unwelcome flirting or propositions; demands for sexual favors; verbal abuse, threats or intimidation of a sexual nature; or sexist, patronizing or ridiculing statements that convey derogatory attitudes about a particular gender.
2. **Physical:** Inappropriate or offensive touching, assault, or physical interference with free movement. This may include, but is not limited to, kissing, patting, lingering or intimate touches, grabbing, pinching, leering, staring, unnecessarily brushing against or blocking another person, whistling or sexual gestures.

3. **Visual or Written:** The display or circulation of offensive sexually oriented visual or written material. This may include, but is not limited to, posters, cartoons, drawings, graffiti, reading materials, computer graphics or electronic media transmissions.
4. **Environmental:** An academic or work environment that is permeated with sexually-oriented talk, innuendo, insults or abuse not relevant to the subject matter of the class. A hostile environment can arise from an unwarranted focus on sexual topics or sexually suggestive statements in the classroom. An environment may be hostile if unwelcome sexual behavior is directed specifically at an individual or if the individual merely witnesses unlawful harassment in his or her immediate surroundings. The determination of whether an environment is hostile is based on the totality of the circumstances, including such factors as the frequency of the conduct, the severity of the conduct, whether the conduct is humiliating or physically threatening, and whether the conduct unreasonably interferes with an individual's learning or work.

If you believe that you are a victim of sexual harassment, contact the District Title IX Compliance Officer in room A113, or (562) 908-3405.

Hostigamiento Sexual

Hostigamiento sexual es acoso sexual, ofensivo y mal recibido.

Hostigamiento sexual es una forma de discriminación sexual, lo cual viola el Título VII del Acto de los Derechos Civiles de 1964, a como se han enmendado, Título IX de los Enmendamientos de Educación de 1972, estatutos del Estado de California, y política de la Junta del Distrito del Colegio de Río Hondo BP 3430.

Definición – Hostigamiento sexual puede ser acoso sexual mal recibido, solicitudes de favores sexuales, y otro comportamiento implícitamente sexual con tal que:

1. sometimiento al comportamiento se presenta como requisito o condición del empleo del individuo, de la categoría o estado académico del individuo o de adelantamiento del individuo;

2. sometimiento al comportamiento, o rechazo del comportamiento, del hostigador se presenta como criterio de empleo o de decisiones académicas en cuanto al individuo;
3. el comportamiento tiene el intento de resultar en impacto negativo en el trabajo del individuo o en los estudios académicos del individuo, o tiene el intento de crear un ambiente de intimidación y hostilidad en el empleo o en los estudios; o
4. sometimiento al comportamiento, o rechazo del comportamiento, del hostigador se usa como criterio de cualquier decisión en cuanto al individuo y los beneficios o servicios, lauros del colegio, programas, o actividades que se presentan en o por el colegio.

Esta definición incluye dos clases de hostigamiento sexual.

1. *Quid pro quo* hostigamiento sexual ocurre cuando una persona con puesto de autoridad presenta beneficios educativos o de empleo como dependientes en el sometimiento del individuo a participar en o tolerar comportamiento sexual mal recibido.
2. Ambiente hostil hostigamiento sexual ocurre cuando comportamiento mal recibido, implícitamente o explícitamente sexual, es bastante severo o intruso para que se cambien las condiciones del ambiente de empleo, o de estudios, del individuo, o para que se impida excesivamente el trabajo del individuo o los estudios del individuo, o para que se crea un ambiente, de empleo o educativo, de intimidación, hostilidad y abuso. El individuo como víctima tiene que percibir personalmente el ambiente como hostil, y el hostigamiento tiene que ser de tal manera que una persona razonable del mismo sexo percibiría el comportamiento como hostigamiento sexual. Hostigamiento sexual incluye cualquier combinación de comportamiento verbal, físico, o visual, o de control a través del ambiente de empleo o educativo. El hostigamiento sexual no tiene que ser explícito, ni tiene que ser específicamente dirigido al víctima. Hostigamiento sexual puede ocurrir entre personas del mismo sexo o de diferentes sexos. El criterio para determinar si comportamiento es hostigamiento

sexual es si una persona razonable del mismo sexo percibiría el comportamiento como hostigamiento sexual.

Ejemplos – Hostigamiento sexual incluye, pero no se limita a, mal comportamiento como:

1. **Verbal:** palabras impropias o ofensivas, menosprecios, chistes o burlas o insinuaciones sexuales. Esto incluye, pero no se limita a, comentarios impropios en cuanto al cuerpo del individuo, la apariencia física, atavío, valentía sexual, estado civil, o preferencia sexual del individuo; flirteo o solicitudes mal recibidas; demandas de favores sexuales; abuso verbal, amenazas intimidación de tipo sexual; o sexismo, comentarios arrogantes que ponen en ridículo a un sexo, o que expresan actitud derogatoria contra un sexo.
2. **Físico:** contacto físico impropio o ofensivo, asalto, o impedimento físico del movimiento de una persona. Esto puede incluir, pero no se limita a, besando, caricias físicas, tocando íntimamente, agarrando a mano, pellizcando, mirando con lascivia, ojeando, pasando ligeramente por encima o impidiendo el paso de otra persona, silbando o haciendo ademanes o gesticulaciones sexuales.
3. **Visual o escrito:** mostrando, diseminando, o manifestando materia, visual o escrita, ofensiva y de sentido sexual. Esto puede incluir, pero no se limita a, carteles, caricaturas, diseños, dibujos, graffiti, materia para leer, gráficas en la computadora, y materia transmitida electrónicamente.
4. **Ambiente:** el ambiente de empleo o el ambiente académico que esté lleno de expresiones verbales de sentido sexual, insinuaciones, insultos o abusos verbales que no pertenecen al tema de la clase. Un ambiente hostil se puede realizar con enfoque impropio en temas sexuales o con comentario implícitamente sexual en la clase. Un ambiente puede ser hostil si el comportamiento sexual mal recibido es específicamente dirigido a un individuo o si el individuo solamente observa el hostigamiento ilícito en el ambiente. La determinación del ambiente como hostil se basa en el conjunto de todas las circunstancias, inclusive

elementos como la frecuencia del comportamiento, la severidad del comportamiento, si el comportamiento menosprecia o amenaza, y si el comportamiento impide excesivamente el empleo del individuo o los estudios del individuo.

Si usted cree que usted ha sido víctima de hostigamiento sexual, llame a, Oficial de Título IX del Distrito, en la oficina A113, o de teléfono fuera del colegio, llame al número (562) 908-3405.

Sexual Misconduct Information and Title IX Compliance

OTHER MISCONDUCT OFFENSES (Will fall under TITLE IX when gender-based)

- Threatening or causing physical harm, extreme verbal abuse, or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person;
- Discrimination, defined as actions that deprive other members of the community of educational or employment access, benefits or opportunities on the basis of gender;
- Intimidation, defined as implied threats or acts that cause an unreasonable fear of harm in another;
- Hazing, defined as acts likely to cause physical or psychological harm or social ostracism to any person within the college community, when related to the admission, initiation, pledging, joining, or any other group-affiliation activity (as defined further in the Student Code of Conduct);
- Bullying, defined as repeated and/or severe aggressive behavior likely to intimidate or intentionally hurt, control or diminish another person, physically or mentally (that is not speech or conduct otherwise protected by the 1st Amendment).
- Violence between those in an intimate relationship to each other;
- Stalking, defined as repetitive and/or menacing pursuit, following, harassment and/or interference with the peace and/or safety of a member of the community; or the safety of any of the immediate family of members of the community.

PRIVACY AND REPORTING:

The District Title IX Compliance Officer is responsible for the purposes of initiating notice and/or investigation of sexual misconduct. The District Title IX Officer may assign deputy investigators, who are members of the investigative team, to investigate allegations of gender-based discrimination and/or sexual misconduct. The deputy investigators

will use discretion on how they act in response to notice of gender-based discrimination. Understanding that different people on campus have different reporting responsibilities and varied abilities to maintain confidentiality, the District Title IX Officer will assign deputy investigators depending on the situation and the parties involved.

To Report Gender-Based Discrimination, sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, non-consensual sexual intercourse, or sexual exploitation, please contact:

Loy Nashua
Executive Dean, Student Affairs
lnashua@riohondo.edu

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING:

If you want the details of the incident be kept confidential, you should speak with on-campus professional staff in the Student Health and Psychological Services Office, campus confidential advocate, or off-campus rape crisis resources who can maintain confidentiality.

Reporting to those who can maintain the privacy of what you share—You can seek advice from certain individuals who are not required to tell anyone else your private, personally identifiable information unless there is cause for fear for your safety, or the safety of others. These are individuals who the college has not specifically designated as “responsible employees” for purposes of putting the institution on notice and for whom mandatory reporting is required, other than in the stated limited circumstances. If you are unsure of someone’s duties and ability to maintain your privacy, ask them before you talk to them.

NON-CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING OPTIONS:

You are encouraged to speak to officials of the institution to make formal reports of incidents (deans, vice presidents, or other administrators with supervisory responsibilities, campus security, and human resources). The College considers these people to be “responsible employees.” Notice to them is official notice to the institution. You have the right and can expect to have incidents of sexual misconduct to be taken seriously by the institution when formally reported, and to have those incidents investigated and properly resolved through administrative procedures. Formal reporting means that only people who need to know will be informed of the report, and information will be shared only as necessary with investigators, witnesses, and the accused individual.

Federal Statistical Reporting

Obligations: Certain campus officials have a duty to report sexual misconduct for federal statistical reporting purposes (Clery Act). All personally identifiable information is kept confidential, but statistical information must be passed along to campus law enforcement regarding the type of incident and its general location (on or off-campus, in the surrounding area, but no addresses are given) for publication in the annual Campus Security Report. This report helps to provide the community with a clear picture of the extent and nature of campus crime, to ensure greater community safety. Mandated federal reporters include: student/conduct affairs, campus law enforcement, coaches, athletic directors, student activities staff, human resources staff,



advisors to student organizations and any other official with significant responsibility for student and campus activities. The information to be shared includes the date, the location of the incident (using Clery location categories) and the Clery crime category. This reporting protects the identity of the victim and may be done anonymously.

Federal Timely Warning Reporting Obligations: Victims of sexual misconduct should also be aware that college administrators must issue immediate timely warnings for incidents reported to them that are confirmed to pose a substantial threat of bodily harm or danger to members of the campus community. The College will make every effort to ensure that a victim's name and other identifying information is not disclosed, while still providing enough information for community members to make safety decisions in light of the danger. The reporters for timely warning purposes are exactly the same as detailed above.

Standards of Student Conduct

The Río Hondo College campus is an academic community dedicated to teaching and learning. In order that teaching and learning may take place in an atmosphere of respect for one another and for each other's ideas and beliefs, Río Hondo College has guaranteed certain fundamental rights to its students and faculty.

Río Hondo College students are part of a community in which ideas will be explored in a mature spirit of understanding and mutual respect. Only in this mature spirit can the college meet its obligations to those it serves.

All students are required to abide by the Standards of Conduct (Board Policy and Administrative Procedure 5500) and failure to do so may result in disciplinary action such as a verbal or written reprimand, probation, suspension and/or expulsion. The following conduct shall constitute good cause for discipline, including but not limited to the removal, suspension or expulsion of a student.

- A. Fighting, causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical injury to another person.
- B. Possession, sale or otherwise furnishing any firearm, knife, explosive other dangerous object, including but not limited to any facsimile firearm, knife or explosive, unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student has obtained written permission to possess the item from a District employee, which is concurred with by the Superintendent. (Administrative Procedure 3530)
- C. Unlawful possession, use, sale, offer to sell, furnishing, or being

under the influence of any controlled substance listed in California Health and Safety Code Section 11053 *et seq.*, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind; or unlawful possession of, or offering, arranging or negotiating the sale of any drug paraphernalia, as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.

- D. Drinking, possessing, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages on campus or at any college sponsored event
- E. Committing or attempting to commit robbery or extortion.
- F. Causing or attempting to cause damage to District property or to private property on campus.
- G. Stealing or attempting to steal District property or private property on campus, or knowingly receiving stolen District property or private property on campus.
- H. Willful or persistent smoking in any area where smoking has been prohibited by law or by regulation of the college or posting of a District.
- I. Committing sexual harassment as defined by law or by District policies and procedures.
- J. Engaging in harassing or discriminatory behavior based on



- disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, sex, religion, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or any other status protected by law.
- K. Engaging in intimidating conduct or bullying against another student through words or actions, including direct physical contact; verbal assaults, such as teasing or name-calling; social isolation or manipulation; and cyber bullying.
- L. Hazing, as defined as any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or student body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by the college, which is likely to cause serious bodily danger, or personal degradation, or disgrace, resulting in physical or mental harm.
- M. Willful misconduct that results in injury or death to a student or to District personnel or which results in cutting, defacing, or other injury to any real or personal property owned by the District or on campus.
- N. Disruptive behavior, willful disobedience, habitual profanity or vulgarity, or the open and persistent defiance of the authority of, or persistent abuse of, college personnel.
- O. Cheating, plagiarism (including plagiarism in a student publication), or engaging in other academic dishonesty.
- P. Dishonesty; forgery; alteration or misuse of District documents, records or identification; or knowingly furnishing false information to the District.
- Q. Unauthorized entry upon or use of District facilities.
- R. Lewd, indecent or obscene conduct on District-owned or controlled property, or at District sponsored or supervised functions.
- S. Engaging in expression which is obscene, libelous or slanderous, or which so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on College premises, the violation of lawful District administrative procedures, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the District.
- T. Persistent, serious misconduct where other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct.
- U. Unauthorized preparation, giving, selling, transfer, distribution, or publication, for any commercial purpose of any contemporaneous recording of an academic presentation in a classroom or equivalent site of instruction, including but not limited to handwritten or typewritten class notes, except as permitted by any district policy or administrative procedure.
- V. Knowingly accessing and without permission altering, damaging, deleting, destroying, or otherwise using any data, computer system or computer network in order to either (a) devise or execute any scheme or artifice to defraud, deceive or extort, or (b) wrongfully control or obtain money, property or data.
- W. Knowingly accessing and without permission taking, copying or making use of any data from a computer, computer system, or computer network, or taking or copying any supporting documentation, whether existing or residing internal or external to a computer, computer system or computer network.
- X. Knowingly and without permission using or causing the use of computer services.
- Y. Knowingly accessing and without permission adding, altering, damaging, deleting or destroying any data, computer software, or computer programs which reside or exist internal or external to a computer, computer system or computer network.
- Z. Knowingly and without permission disrupting or causing the disruption of computer services or denying or causing the denial of computer services to an authorized user of a computer system or computer network.
- AA. Knowingly and without permission providing or assisting in providing a means of accessing a computer, computer system or computer network in violation of this section.
- BB. Knowingly and without permission accessing or causing to be accessed any computer, computer system, or computer network.
- CC. Knowingly introducing any computer contaminant, commonly called viruses or worms, into any computer, computer system, or computer network.
- DD. Sexual assault on any District personnel, District vendor, District visitor or student, upon off-campus grounds or facilities maintained by the District, or upon grounds or facility maintained by affiliated student organizations.
- EE. The obstruction or disruption, on or off-campus, of the District's educational or administrative process or any other District function.
- FF. The violation of any previous order issued by the District president that is not inconsistent with any of the other provisions of this policy. This order may be given by its publication in the student newspaper or by notice on an official bulletin board designated for this purpose.
- GG. Attempting to perform any previously identified act that constitutes a cause for disciplinary action.
- HH. Violation of District policies or regulations including those concerning the formation and registration of student organizations, the use of college facilities, or the time, place and manner of public expression.
- II. Failure to comply with directions of District officials acting in the performance of their duties.
- JJ. Soliciting or assisting another to do any act which would subject a student to expulsion, suspension, probation, or other discipline pursuant to this policy.
- KK. Any other cause not previously listed which is identified as a good cause by the College or the Hearing Panel.
- LL. Engaging in intimidating conduct or bullying against another student through words or actions, including direct physical contact;

verbal assault, such as teasing or name-calling; special isolation or manipulation; and cyber bullying.

Students who engage in any of the above are subject to the procedures outlined in AP 5520.

Mental Health Clearance

A student who is removed from campus as a result of erratic, dangerous and/or threatening behavior described in the Student Code of Conduct (AP 5500); and/or determination by a public safety officer that the student poses a threat to himself/herself or the general public may be required, before the student is readmitted to campus, to provide documentation from a licensed mental health professional* stating that the student will no longer engage in the behavior which gave rise to the student's removal from campus and that the student's continued presence on campus is not a threat to himself/herself or others before the student is readmitted to campus.

The mental health professional must be licensed by the State of California and credentialed to render a professional opinion on matters of this nature. The

student is responsible for any expenses related to obtaining this mental health clearance.

*The documentation for re-admittance shall be provided to the Dean of Student Affairs by a non-Río Hondo College District California licensed mental health professional.

Río Hondo College's Policy on Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Río Hondo College wants to provide a quality education for you. We believe that creating a learning environment which is free of drug and alcohol abuse is important. The college's standard of conduct (Board Policy 5500) clearly prohibits the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol by students on campus or as part of any of its activities.

What the College will do:

If you violate these policies, you may be subject to corrective action, up to and including suspension or expulsion. It is important to note that the College is prepared to impose disciplinary action as it deems fit. State laws may be applicable.

If you want help . . .

Río Hondo College has some resources to assist you in breaking out of drug and alcohol abuse. Call (562) 692-0921:

- Student Health and Psychological Services
Rm SS230, ext. 3438

- Counseling Center
Rm SS104, ext. 3410

This information is provided to all students per requirements of the Drug Free School and Communities Act Amendments of 1989. (P.L. 101-226)

