

# 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](http://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.

