

# BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

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## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

AREA: Academic Affairs  
NUMBER: Policy 2.38  
SUBJECT: Civil Classroom Behavior

Blue Mountain College seeks to develop a classroom environment where truth may be carefully examined and learned. The College also seeks to foster a dynamic environment of higher learning where all students develop analytical skills, learn to think critically and communicate effectively, promote inquiry, pursue knowledge, and prepare for productive careers. While the College is committed to the fundamental principles of freedom of speech, including controversial positions taken in the classroom, all types of speech and behavior must be balanced with principles of appropriate classroom behavior. Furthermore, course instructors have a right to establish clear expectations in this regard, and students share the responsibility for maintaining an appropriate, orderly learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to the behavioral expectations outlined by the instructor (either in the syllabus or at the time the behavior occurs) may be subject to discipline in accordance with the procedures to this policy. This policy applies to classrooms as well as student interactions with instructors in labs, offices, and other campus learning environments.

### Responsibilities of Students and Faculty

Students have the responsibility of complying with behavioral standards. Faculty members have a professional responsibility to set reasonable limits on the expression of opinions while treating students with dignity, respect, and understanding while guiding classroom activities. At the classroom level, clear guidelines for behavior and early intervention are the foundation for an intellectually stimulating experience for students and instructors alike. Instructors are encouraged to include in their syllabi guidelines for classroom behavior. Instructors who state these guidelines early and enforce them at the first appearance of disruptive behavior prevent minor episodes of classroom misconduct from escalating into serious confrontations and help transgressors avoid the more serious consequences of such actions.

### Examples of Improper Behavior

Examples of improper behavior in the classroom (including the virtual classroom of e-mail, chat rooms, discussion boards, telephone, and web activities associated with courses) may include, but are not limited to, the following:

#### Level I Improper Behavior:

- Chronically entering class late or leaving early;
- Dressing in a manner which is not consistent with good taste and generally accepted standards;
- Wearing caps/hats in the classroom;
- Wearing clothing on which is printed inappropriate words, phrases;
- Use of tobacco products;
- Monopolizing discussion;
- Persistent speaking without permission;
- Engaging in activities not related to the class;

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- Distractive talking;
- Sleeping in class;
- Inappropriate use of electronic devices including computers, tablets, cell phones, or pagers;
- Audio or video recording of classroom activities or the use of electronic devices without the permission of the instructor;
- Eating/drinking in class without permission;

## Level II Improper Behavior:

- Refusal to comply with reasonable instructor directions;
- Disputing authority and arguing with faculty and other students;
- Employing insulting language or gestures;
- Verbal, psychological, or physical abuse;
- Threats of any kind;
- Harassment;
- Physical altercations;
- Destruction of property; and
- Any behavior that puts the health or safety of the instructor or other students in the classroom in jeopardy.

Students and instructors are expected to follow the procedures which accompany this policy when a concern about student behavior in the classroom arises. This policy does not replace or preclude any College policies or local, state or federal laws concerning unlawful behaviors, whether inside or outside the classroom, including those concerning the health and safety of class members or the instructor.

Some disruptive students may have emotional or mental disorders. Although such students may be considered disabled and are protected under the Rehabilitation Act/ADA, they are held to the same standards of conduct as any student.

SOURCE: Board of Trustees: October 04, 2013: