



Student Handbook

Student Rights and Responsibilities



2007-2008

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Getting Started!

Welcome...

Faculty and staff at Odessa College are committed to assisting you in completing your educational goals. You may plan to learn a skill or trade and go directly into the work force, or you may plan to complete your general education requirements and transfer to a four-year institution. Some of you may be taking classes for your own personal enrichment.

Whatever your reason for being here, you are important to Odessa College.

Please use this handbook as a resource for information on services and activities that are available to you. Also in the handbook is information on your rights and responsibilities as a student.

If you are unable to find the information you need in this handbook, please ask a faculty member or other college personnel for direction. Best wishes for a successful experience here at Odessa College.

Odessa College Vision Statement

Odessa College is an institution that is student centered both in its philosophy and its operation. All components of the institution will focus on how best to serve the needs of the student: traditional, non-traditional, on-campus or off-campus. The institution will accept a student at whatever level he/she enters and will assist the student to advance as far along the learning spectrum as the student desires.

Philosophy of Odessa College

Odessa College exists for students. The college, with its faculty and staff, is committed to excellence in its services, programs, and practices. It affirms equal access to all aspects of the institution for the diverse population it serves. The institution approaches all endeavors with the highest standards of ethics and professionalism.

Equal Opportunity at Odessa College

No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by Odessa College on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including, but not limited to race, color, age, marital status, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or status as a qualified disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran.

Odessa College Mission and Purpose

Odessa College shall be a two-year institution primarily serving its local taxing district and service area and offering vocational, technical and academic courses for certification or associate degrees. Continuing education, remedial and compensatory education consistent with open-admission policies, and programs of counseling and guidance shall be provided. The college shall insist on excellence in all academic areas— instruction, research, and public service. Faculty research, using the facilities provided for and consistent with the primary function of the college, is encouraged. Funding for research should be from private sources, competitively acquired sources, local taxes and other local revenue.

The purpose of the college shall be to provide:

Technical programs up to two years in length leading to associate degrees or certificates.

Vocational programs leading directly to employment in semiskilled and skilled occupations.

Freshman and sophomore courses in arts and sciences.

Continuing adult education programs for occupational or cultural upgrading.

Compensatory education programs designed to fulfill the commitment of an admissions policy allowing the enrollment of disadvantaged students.

A continuing program of counseling and guidance designed to assist students in achieving their individual educational goals.

Work force development programs designed to meet local and statewide needs.

Adult literacy and other basic skills programs for adults.

Other purposes as may be prescribed by the Coordinating Board or the District's Board.

Admissions

Applications for admission are processed by the Admissions Office, located in Room 205 of the Student Union Building (SUB). The Admissions Office also collects and processes transcripts from high schools and other colleges and universities.

Students are required to submit to Odessa College transcripts from other colleges they have attended or a high school transcript if the student is entering OC directly from high school. These transcripts become the property of Odessa College and each student's record. If a student submits transcripts and does not enroll at Odessa College, the transcripts will be held for one year and then destroyed.

If a student was allowed to enroll under a waiver for receipt of transcripts or other required forms and does not supply the information in the time frame agreed to, personnel in the Admissions Office will place a hold on the student's record. That hold will block registration for subsequent semesters.

Re-Admission

A student at Odessa College who has gone for a calendar year or longer without enrolling for a class at OC is required to complete either a new application or a reapplication for admission before registering for class(es).

Scholarships and Student Financial Services

At OC, we believe that every student should apply for Financial Aid very early in the educational process. Every year, millions of dollars of student aid goes unclaimed and unused. The Student Financial Services (SFS) Office may be able to help **you** find ways to pay for your college education.

OC awards more than \$3.5 million annually in grants, scholarships, loans and work programs. Applications for these programs are available on the second floor of the Student Union Building. Students are encouraged to stop by and pick up a free application.

Students who receive federal financial aid must maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average and complete a specific number of hours each semester. Students who have received any type of financial assistance through Odessa College must check with the SFS Office before dropping any classes during the semester. If a student who is awarded a federal grant or loan completely withdraws prior to the 11th class week during a regular semester, the student will be responsible for repaying a portion of that grant or loan.

Please refer to sections of this handbook labeled "Grants," "Loans," "Jobs for Students," and "Scholarships"

for more information about each area.

Facilities

A number of facilities will help you organize and stay on top of your classes.

- ***LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER***

The Learning Resource Center, located in the center of the campus, contains more than 60,000 books, 380 current periodicals, 45,000 e-books, 61 subscription databases, and 5,300 media holdings to help you succeed in your coursework. Research for your papers, references to help you with your assignments, and access to the Internet on the LRC's computers will all help you in your studies. You can access information online about the LRC's services by going to the college's website at www.odessa.edu.

- ***STUDENT LEARNING CENTER***

The Student Learning Center is a very important resource for students. The SLC contains a Tutoring Center, a Basic Skills Lab, and an open-access computer lab. Free tutoring is available for OC students in credit classes in a variety of academic subjects, including math, writing, speech, and the sciences.

Both the Basic Skills lab and the open-access lab have access to the Internet, Microsoft Office XP and WordPerfect for student use. The SLC offers a variety of free workshops on test-taking techniques, time management, study skills, critical thinking, and other topics. Computer lab assistants can help students who need to set up e-mail accounts, or learn to access web-based classes. Students should obtain a tutoring appointment by calling the SLC at 335-6878.

- ***BOOKS AND SUPPLIES***

The Odessa College Bookstore is located on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Students may purchase college textbooks, art supplies, lab supplies, school supplies, backpacks, notebooks, etc., from this campus facility. In addition, the bookstore carries special OC clothing - shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, jackets and more. A selection of cards and a variety of gift items are also available. Students may purchase with cash, checks or several major credit cards.

At the end of each semester, the bookstore runs a "buyback" of textbooks. If you have books that have not been discontinued, you may sell them during the posted "buyback" period.

- ***CAFETERIA***

The OC cafeteria is located on the first floor of the Student Union Building. Meal service includes full meals, served cafeteria style, as well as a variety of short-order foods.

Students who live on-campus participate in a meal plan, and that same plan is also available to students living off-campus. A cash card to be used for cafeteria purchases can also be obtained from the Cashier's Office, located on the first floor of the Administration Building.

During times that meals are not being served, students are welcome to use cafeteria facilities for study activities.

- ***SPORTS CENTER***

The OC Sports Center is the home arena to the OC Wrangler and Lady Wrangler basketball teams. In addition to the competition arena, the facility contains racquetball courts, a community activity gymnasium, indoor and outdoor tracks, weight training facilities, a fitness center/super circuit training room, a dance room, classrooms, a tennis center and an indoor swimming pool.

Students and community members have the benefit of the classes and activities centralized at the Sports Center. Students who present a valid 10 card have access to the facility and recreational equipment. Use of the super circuit is limited to individuals who have enrolled for use of that area.

Non-students and persons who are not on the OC staff are invited to use the Sports Center. Activity cards may be purchased, and a variety of activity membership options are available. Individuals or groups may rent the facility for special events or parties. Use by individuals may not conflict with the academic purpose of the college.

- ***WiFi JAVA CYBER CAFE***

Students can relax, study, network, and use the PC's available at the College's newest campus facility, the coffee shop known as the WiFi Java Cyber Cafe. Wireless Internet is available courtesy of ClearWire, and students are welcome to use one of Odessa's three "hot spots" to check email and keep up with class assignments. Live music, literature readings, and other events will also take place at WiFi through the semester.

Dormitory and Student Housing

New student housing is available through Century Commons, a privately-operated dorm facility located on the OC campus. Century Commons features complete facilities including laundry, study and Internet lab, meeting rooms, swimming pool and barbecue areas. Dormitory units feature bed spaces for 213 students in sequestered bedrooms and unit kitchens with microwaves, ovens, and dishwashers. For more information about dorms, call Century Commons at 335-6300, or the Director of Housing and Judicial Affairs at 335-6727.

Texas Success Initiative Requirements

All students who enter a public college or university in Texas are required to demonstrate readiness for college level work. That readiness is assessed in English, mathematics and writing. Students who have exempt scores on the ACT, SAT or TAKS exams are considered to have demonstrated college readiness.

Students who have not demonstrated college readiness on the basis of other tests are required to take either the THEA test or a state-approved alternative test. The alternative test used by Odessa College is the COMPASS test. A student who passes all parts of the test is eligible to enroll in college level courses. A student who does not pass all parts of the test will be required to enroll in developmental work in the area(s) failed and may be limited as to which college courses he/she may take. Developmental work will continue until the student satisfies TSI requirements.

Some students may be exempt from the testing and/or developmental education requirements based on factors such as the program for which they are enrolled, having earned college credit at a private or out-of-state institution, etc. If a person believes that he/she is exempt from TSI requirements, he/she should consult an OC counselor.

For full detail regarding scores for exemption and developmental requirements please consult the Odessa College Bulletin/Catalog of Courses.

Passing Scores on Placement Tests

The following scores will indicate college-readiness for the tests shown:

TESTING REQUIREMENTS

All new students not exempt must test

Test	Course	Score
COMPASS (Administered by OC)	Reading skills	81
	Algebra	39
	Writing skills (objective)	59
	Writing skills (essay)	6
THEA (Administered statewide. OC is a registered testing site.)	Reading	230
	Mathematics (270 or higher required for college algebra)	230
	Writing	220
	Minimum passing score of 6 on written essay. Scores of 5 will be considered passing if the students' score on the objective section meets or exceeds minimum standards.	
ASSET (Not administered by OC. Official scores required.)	Reading	41
	Writing (objective)	40
	Writing (essay)	6
	Elementary algebra	38
ACCUPLACER (Not administered by OC. Official scores required.)	Reading	78
	Writing (objective)	80
	Written essay	6
	Elementary algebra	63

In some skill areas, OC has determined minimum scores for eligibility to enroll in college level work are higher than minimum state requirements. Please contact an advisor regarding these requirements.

Testing

The Testing Center provides a variety of testing and related services to OC students and to the community at large. Ability, career, interest, personality and placement tests are offered to individuals who wish to achieve greater self-awareness or identify strengths in order to make better life decisions.

Odessa College offers the following tests as a service to interested students, potential students and people of the surrounding communities:

ACT - American College Test SAT - Scholastic Aptitude Test

GED - General Educational Development

CLEP - College level Examination Program

THEA - Texas Higher Education Assessment

COMPASS – State-approved alternative to the THEA Test

Career Tests and Inventories

Nursing Entrance Exams

Make-up Exams

Arrangements can be made for other specialized tests.

The Testing Center is located in SUB 203. Many of the tests require the payment of a testing fee. Some of these fees are paid directly to the testing company when an individual registers to take the test. Others are paid to Odessa College. Personnel in the Testing Center should be consulted regarding fees for specific tests.

Credit by Examination

Students can earn credit for knowledge they have attained by other methods by passing an advanced standing Odessa College departmental examination, passing the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) in specific subjects, or articulating vocational/technical courses from their high school program. Odessa College will accept a maximum of 15 semester hours by these three methods. Hours gained in credit by examination must be on a parity with other credit hours taken at OC.

Academics

Odessa College offers both academic and technical courses. The designated core curriculum courses are accepted as transfer courses for public institutions of higher education in Texas. Other courses may also transfer in designated areas of study. Technical courses are designed to allow students to obtain the skills needed to go directly into the work force in a particular area.

In addition to the academic and technical classes, OC also offers special classes designed to bring students up to the level of competency necessary to be successful in college level classes. These classes are available to all students but are generally required for students who do not pass all sections of the TASP or an approved alternative exam. Called developmental courses, these courses do not transfer from one college to another. If you are uncertain about your status, please consult an OC counselor or your academic advisor for assistance in determining whether you should enroll for a developmental class.

Degrees and Certificates

Odessa College offers courses leading to the following degrees:

- Associate of Arts - structured as a transfer degree
- Associate of Science - structured as a transfer degree
- Associate of Science in General Studies structured to be either a transfer degree or a degree that combines both academic and technical classes
- Associate of Applied Science - structured to give the student technical skills for a specific area of work; transferable to many four-year colleges and universities

Odessa College also offers the opportunity for students to earn certificates of technology in the various technical programs. These certificates require courses that give students skills to move quickly into the workforce.

Please consult the Odessa College Bulletin/Catalog of Courses or the College's website (www.odessa.edu)

for specific degree-and certificate requirements.

All students should meet with a faculty advisor or an OC counselor to draw up a degree or certificate plan.

In most technical programs, students may elect to complete a certificate of completion or technology in that special program rather than earn a two-year degree.

Certificate programs are designed to allow students to learn entry-level skills in an area so they can seek employment. Many times students who earn certificates continue going to school while they are working and eventually earn their Associate's Degree.

Advising

Professional advisors, counselors, and caring faculty members are available on campus to assist students in a variety of areas. Counselors, advisors, and faculty members provide assistance with academic advising, Texas Success Initiative requirements, testing, and information, admissions and transfer information, crisis intervention and referral, career guidance, testing referrals, stress and worry reduction, decision-making skills, clarifying educational and personal goals, and other problems or concerns that interfere with the attainment of academic, vocational or personal goals. Services are free and confidential for students at OC.

Staff members also welcome requests for help or information from community members. From time to time OC counselors (OC Help Center) offer special group sessions to meet special interests and student needs.

To see someone about advisement, no appointment is needed. Students may come to the OC Help Center and the first available counselor or academic advisor will be happy to assist.

Academic Progress

Most OC degree and certificate plans require that students have a GPA of 2.0 or higher for graduation (one exception is the Nursing Program, which requires a 2.75 GPA); therefore, students are considered to be in good standing as long as they maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher on a semester or cumulative basis.

College Calendar

Odessa College follows a published calendar for each academic year. This calendar is published in the Odessa College Bulletin/Catalog of Courses, as well as in the schedule of classes that is printed for each semester.

Consult the college calendar for important dates such as registration dates, deadlines for dropping classes and filing for graduation, final exams, graduation, holidays and spring break.

Adding or dropping a class can affect a student's schedule considerably. Adds and drops can also affect whether a student is considered full time or not. Students should consult their advisor or one of the Help Center counselors for more information about adding or dropping classes.

Enrollment Verification

Provided as a service of the Registrar's Office, enrollment verification is a statement that a person is enrolled as a full- or part-time student at Odessa College for a stated semester. This verification may be required by insurance companies, loan granters, prospective employers or other entities. Since information included in enrollment verification is classified as directory information, it is released to third parties unless the student has issued direction in writing that such information not be released.

Grade Point Average

Your grade point average is calculated by dividing the number of grade points earned by the number of hours attempted. To be a student in good standing you must maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or higher. Generally, a student must have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher to be eligible for scholarships or scholastic honors.

Please refer to your Odessa College Bulletin/Catalog of Courses for specifics on computing your grade point average.

Graduation

Odessa College holds graduation ceremonies at the end of each fall and spring semester. To be eligible to participate in either ceremony a student must complete and file an application for graduation by the published deadline for the semester that course work will be completed. The degree plan should be on file at the time the application for graduation is filed in the Registrar's Office.

Graduates can make arrangements to purchase or rent caps and gowns from the Odessa College Bookstore. Class rings and invitations are also available.

Graduation Honors

A student who has completed at least 30 hours in residence at OC will be eligible for graduation with honors. A student with a GPA of 3.5 to 3.699 will be graduated **cum laude**, a student with a grade point average of 3.7 to 3.899 will be graduated **magna cum laude**, and a student with a GPA of 3.9 to 4.0 will be graduated **summa cum laude**.

Health Emergencies

Regular health care is the responsibility of the student. A person who becomes aware of the need for first aid or other health emergency on campus should contact the closest Odessa College employee. If emergency medical services are required, the employee will call 911. The EMT unit will decide and recommend whether on-premises treatment or transport to an emergency room will be required.

Charges incurred for emergency medical service are the responsibility of the individual receiving services.

Campus Mail Service

Residents of Century Commons, the OC campus dormitory, should use the following address for their campus mail:

Student name
2311 Andrews Highway
Odessa, Texas 79761

Mental and Physical Welfare

If officials of the college determine that a student's mental or physical condition prohibits the student from benefiting from instruction at the college, or if the student creates a continuing disturbance to the learning process or creates a safety hazard to himself or others, the student will be advised of the situation. Every attempt will be made to give the student the opportunity to remedy the situation in question and obtain

assistance, if needed. If the situation cannot be resolved, the student may be referred to an OC counselor or to the vice president for student services.

If the situation still cannot be resolved, an instructor may request that the student be withdrawn from the class(es) in question. When a withdrawal of this nature is made it is for the welfare of the student and the college. No special notation will be made on the student's transcript regarding the withdrawal.

Some students may be required to have certain immunizations to either be enrolled at Odessa College, or to be enrolled in some of the programs with selective admissions criteria. More information is found in the OC Catalog of Courses.

The OC Catalog also has important information for all students concerning Bacterial Meningitis. Students should read and be familiar with this important information.

Sexual Harassment

Odessa College is opposed to any and all forms of sexual discrimination or harassment within the College community and will take the steps necessary to stop such conduct. Determining what constitutes sexual harassment can vary according to individual circumstances, but it can be described in general terms as unwanted or unwelcome sexually-oriented behavior, such as physical actions or verbal comments, which adversely affects the working or learning environment of an individual.

This statement of zero tolerance for sexual harassment applies to students and College personnel alike. Odessa College's sexual harassment policy and procedures are designed to deal with complaints of sexual harassment in a reasonable and orderly fashion.

To report incidents of sexual harassment, contact the Vice President for Student Services office at 335-6684.

Activities, Sports and Intramural Activities

Students at OC enjoy participating in a wide range of activities. Students are issued activity cards which can admit them to concerts, plays and musical events on the OC campus, as well as exciting sporting events featuring the collegiate teams of the "Winningest community college in the nation" which are featured throughout both the fall and spring semesters.

All students with activity cards are invited to work out in the OC Sports Center, which features a wide variety of equipment and instructor-led classes to get everyone into top condition.

An intramural program is offered each semester, and students are encouraged to participate as individuals or to form teams.

The intramural program is coordinated out of the administrative offices at Century Commons. The intramural director may be reached by calling 335-6338.

Parking on Campus

Motor vehicles parked on the OC campus must be registered and display a valid parking permit. Permits are issued at registration and must be renewed each semester.

Campus driving and parking regulations are printed and distributed to students when vehicles are registered. Students are reminded to park only in areas designated for student parking. Tickets are issued for vehicles that are parked out of the appropriate zone. Outstanding tickets can cause a hold to be placed on student accounts, which will both prevent students from registering for subsequent semesters and block

students' access to official transcripts.

Lost and Found

All articles found on campus should be taken to the Vice President for Student Services Office located in Office 212 of the Administration Building. Those who have lost articles should check with the Student Services Office.

E-mail accounts for students

Odessa College students have access to email through the college network. In most cases, access to e-mail will be necessary to retrieve grades at semester's end. Many times assignments and other regular classroom activities can be submitted to professors via e-mail. Additionally, notices of campus policy and other important announcements may be transmitted via e-mail. It is required that students keep the Registrar's Office notified of any changes to individual e-mail addresses.

No charge is assessed for OC email accounts. To obtain a student account, contact the Instructional Technology Department at 335-6647.

Computer Resources Policy

Acceptable Use Policy at Odessa College

Access to computer resources is essential to the pursuit and achievement of excellence in a modern community college. The privilege of using computer systems and software, as well as internal and external databases, is important to all members of the college community. The preservation of this privilege for the entire campus requires that each individual comply with the acceptable use policy outlined below. Any unauthorized, illegitimate, or other violation of this Acceptable Use Policy shall subject the violator to disciplinary or legal action by the college. The college reserves the right to terminate access and/or pursue stringent legal action in all matters on noncompliance.

For the purposes of this policy, computer resources are defined as any college or state owned mainframe, mini- or microcomputer, peripheral devices, software, voice, video, or data telecommunications systems, and/or any network facilities.

1. Any use of computer resources for illegal purposes, or in support of illegal activities, is prohibited. Violation of software copyrights and/or licensing restrictions is illegal.
2. All use of computer resources must be in support of education and research in the State of Texas and consistent with the purpose of the institution.
3. Any use of computer resources for commercial purposes is prohibited.
4. Any use of computer resources for product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.
5. Any use of computer resources for the production, duplication, distribution, receipt and/or transmission of any material, which might be considered pornographic and/or obscene, is prohibited.
6. No use of computer resources shall serve to disrupt the use of the resources by other users. All file sharing programs such as Kazaa, Bearshare and all forms of streaming audio and all other programs of this type are prohibited.
7. All access accounts will be used only by the authorized owner of the account for the authorized purpose and in compliance with established computer security policies.
8. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act will be upheld in all matters regarding campus records.

9. Pursuant to the Electronic and Communications Privacy Act of 1986, USC 2510 et. seq., notice is hereby given that there are no facilities provided by this system for sending or receiving private or confidential electronic communications. DO NOT use this system for any communication for which the sender intends only the sender and the intended recipients) to read. At the very least, the operators of this system can review all communications transmitted.
10. Any computer resource user, which traverses another network, may be subject to the acceptable use policy of that network.
11. The college does not control and consequently cannot be responsible for the content of external networks.
12. The College reserves the right to filter and scan for computer viruses on computer systems owned by the College or those connected to the College's network.
13. You may not extend or add to the campus network with any wireless or wired hardware. All network hardware must be installed and secured by the IT Department or their authorized agents.
14. Student computer resource users are bound by all other campus policies including, but not limited to, the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy and Discipline Code.
15. Approval to setup web pages on the College's website must first be approved by your Department Head/Division Dean and then access to the College's Web server is setup by the Odessa College Webmaster. Call the OC Webmaster at 335-6781 for details.

Computer Labs

Open computer labs are located in several buildings on campus. Many of these labs give priority to students in classes directly related to those lab areas. An open lab is located on the third floor of the LRC. Computers in this lab are used largely for self-directed learning and tutorial activities. Students are able to access the World Wide Web and use student e-mail accounts via computers in most open labs. Computers are also available at the Wi Fi Java Cyber Café.

Copying and Faxing on Campus

Copy machines for student use are located in the LRC. Charges are assessed on a per copy basis. For a small fee, students may send and receive fax communications from the Odessa College post office. The fax number is 432-335-6722.

Special Programs at Odessa College

Odessa College Student Government Association (OCSGA) is the student governing body.

The Odessa College Student Government Association is a body representative of the ideals, values and beliefs of the students and is passionately committed to excellence in action. Through dedication, service and integrity OCSGA seeks to rejuvenate a sense of pride in all that is OC. As men and women for and with others, OCSGA strives to cultivate an optimistic atmosphere of excitement and respect among peers.

The objective of OCSGA is to serve as the voice of the student population, to provide service on campus as well as in the community, and provide leadership opportunities for its members. OCSGA consists of an Executive Cabinet and Senate. The Executive Cabinet consists of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian, historian and public relations officer. Senators are either representatives of an administratively recognized campus organization/club or at large representatives.

Student Government gives every student the chance to practice and develop leadership skills while representing their peers and improving OC and student life. Students involved in Student Government have the chance to interact with the college administration and faculty and work in a collaborative manner to better the institution. Student Government members are respected as leaders of the student body, and their input is often sought in making important decisions for Odessa College.

All meetings of OCSGA are open to the general public. Students are invited and encouraged to attend. The OCSGA participates at the regional and state level as members of the Texas Junior College Student Government Association. OCSGA has served in various state offices over the past several years.

OC Ambassadors

The Odessa College Ambassadors represent the College at public events and college functions, assisting professional staff, faculty and administrators in public relations. Twelve students are selected each academic year to participate. Applicants are selected to serve as Ambassadors on the basis of character, academic potential, and potential to serve as representatives of Odessa College. The opportunity to increase leadership skills, make great contacts with a variety of educators and influential community members, and build a network with peers are all possibilities for Ambassador program participants. For their service to the College, participants receive stipends. Each February the Ambassadors travel to Austin, Texas, the state capitol, for Texas Community College Day.

Other student groups and clubs at Odessa College include:

American Chemical Society (ACS). The Odessa Chapter welcomes any student interested in chemistry, chemical engineering or related fields. The purpose of the chapter is to acquaint the members with all aspects of the professions. Films, guest speakers, seminar discussions, tours of local chemical facilities, and field trips are used to explore all areas of the profession.

The American Chemical Society is the largest international professional organization. It serves professional chemists, chemical engineers and related career positions. These senior professionals have chosen to work closely with college students that they might know and understand the profession to determine whether this is the area in which they may find fulfillment. For information about membership, contact Brent McAfee at 335-6558.

American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is an organization designed to further the professional preparation of the members by sponsoring programs for the advancement of safety and the acquisition of technical knowledge. ASSE welcomes all students in the safety profession or one of its relevant specialties. For more information contact Lyn Reese at 335-6883.

Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) is a fellowship of people who are organized together for the purpose of providing the best program possible to enrich the lives of students through Christian outreach. The

organization is open to all interested Odessa College students. For more information contact the BSM Center, 335-6671.

OC Choir/Music Club is dedicated to performing outstanding music. The choir presents two major concerts each semester. During the spring the choir traditionally takes a concert tour. In the past these tours have been to such locations as Florida, California, New York and Europe. The choir rehearses five days per week. Students who register for choir earn two hours credit. Auditions are required, and students with a background in music are eligible. Some scholarships are available. For more information contact David Corman at 335-6631.

OC Concert Band is open to students and local musicians that have had high school band experience. The band meets on Tuesday evenings and gives instrumentalists an opportunity to continue playing in a non-competitive organization that gives public performances. Some scholarships are available. **OC Jazz Band** is also open to students and local musicians that have had high school band experience. The group rehearses weekly and provides the same opportunities as the concert band. Some individuals participate in both groups. Some scholarships are available. For more information, contact Charles Nail at 335-6623.

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is an international academic honor society for two-year colleges. All programs of the group are based on four hallmarks - scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. PTK's purpose is to recognize and promote scholastic achievement, provide members with opportunities for leadership development and encourage members to foster an atmosphere conducive to scholarly fellowship.

To qualify for membership a student must be enrolled at Odessa College, have earned at least 12 hours of college level credit with a grade point average of 3.25 or higher by the semester previous to the semester of induction. All candidates for membership must be of good moral character. Contact Theresa Evans at 335-6406 for more information.

Physical Therapy Club. The purpose of this organization is to promote professionalism and unity among physical therapists and unity among physical therapist assistant students. The organization seeks to provide an understanding of the field of physical therapy. Any Odessa College student interested in promoting physical therapy activities is invited to join. Contact Lynn Dammann at 335-6842.

Psychology/Sociology Club is designed to enhance the educational experiences of psychology/sociology students and other students at Odessa College through networking, meetings, field trips, and active participation in relevant campus and community projects. The club sponsors an annual spring symposium for the student body and interested persons in the community. All psychology/sociology students are encouraged to join. Contact Jane Hellinghausen at 335-6555.

Radiologic Technologists strive to improve each respiratory technology student's education. The club raises funds that are used to enhance the educational opportunities of its members. Contact Sue Leach at 335-6449.

Respiratory Care Club is organized to promote educational activities for respiratory therapy students. Contact Jacque Sullivan at 335-6456.

OC Rodeo Club is open to any OC student. The club's purposes include the promotion of interest, understanding and appreciation of Western heritage, promotion of rodeo as a collegiate sport, and promotion of close relationships among people interested in rodeo. The club encourages good education and sportsmanship. A person does not have to be a rodeo participant to be a member of the Rodeo Club. Contact Lucy Griffith at 335-6854.

S30 is an organization designed to enhance the social, cultural, and educational experiences of the students who participate in the Student Support Services (SSS) program. S30 provides opportunities for student leadership experience and acts as a student outlet for members to come together to raise funds for trips and social events and to perform community service. Membership is open to all students who participate in the SSS program. Contact the SSS office at 335-6576.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Club (STEM) is sponsored by the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Program and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The club welcomes any student interested in science, technology, engineering and/or math. The purpose of the club is to inform members of the scholarship, research and educational opportunities available through the LSAMP program and to provide opportunities for earning and fellowship through guest speakers, seminar discussions, tours of local facilities and other field trips.

Sigma Kappa Delta is the national English honor society for students in two-year colleges. The purpose of the organization centers on rewarding students for outstanding achievement in English and promoting interest in the academic area of English in two-year colleges. Qualifications for membership include a B or better grade point average and success in college English. Contact Kathy Keen at 335-6585.

Student Nurses Association (SNA) is a paraprofessional organization and a constituent of the Texas Nursing Students' Association and the National Student Nurses' Association, Inc. The purpose of SNA is to assume responsibility for contributing to nursing education in order to provide for the highest quality health care; to provide programs representative of fundamental and current professional interest and concerns; and to aid in the development of the whole person, and his/her professional role, and his/ her responsibility for the health care of people in all walks of life. The organization targets students with nursing as their declared major. Call Marylin Boomer at 335-6458 for information.

Students in Philanthropy emphasizes service, fund-raising for worthwhile causes, and good use of donated funds. The organization provides a variety of learning opportunities beyond the classroom for its members. Students interested are encouraged to apply for membership for the limited number of places available. Those students actually selected for membership and participation are awarded for each semester. Membership application forms are available in the Student Financial Services Office, SUB 203.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONCERNS

Federal Policies and Regulations

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)

For Odessa College to comply with requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), the following policies and procedures have been established.

Odessa College accords all rights under the law to students who are declared independent. For the purpose of this policy, when a student has attained eighteen years of age or is attending a postsecondary education institution, the permission or consent required of and the rights accorded to the parents of the student shall thereafter only be required of and accorded to the student. Education records are defined by FERPA to include but are not limited to records, files, documents, and other materials that contain information directly related to students and are maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a person acting for such agency or institution.

Annual Notification of FERPA Rights

Odessa College will give annual notice to current students of their rights under the Act by publishing information in the Catalog. A copy of this policy will be on file in the Learning Resource Center and the Registrar's Office.

Students' access to their Education Records

All students have the right to review their education records with the following exceptions as outlined by FERPA:

- financial information submitted by parents;
- confidential letters and recommendations placed in their files prior to January 1, 1975, provided these letters were collected under established policies of confidentiality and were used only for the purposes for which specifically collected;
- confidential letters and statements of recommendation, placed in the records after January 1, 1975, to which the students have waived their right to inspect and review and that are related to the students' admission, application for employment or job placement, or receipt of honors;
- educational records containing information about more than one student; however, in such cases the institution must permit access to that part of the record that pertains only to the inquiring student. To review records, students and former students may go to the Registrar's Office, present a valid photo identification card, and ask to review the record. If it is an inappropriate time to retrieve the record on short notice, students may be requested to complete a "Request to Review Education Records" form in the Registrar's Office. Because of various circumstances, the College may delay to a maximum of 45 days release of the records for review. The College is not required to provide access to records of applicants for admission who are denied acceptance, or, if accepted, do not attend.

The permanent record for each student shall consist of:

- Application for admission
- Appropriate transcripts (high school, GED, other colleges attended)
- Transcript of coursework completed at the College Residency form (for those students since 1997)
- Correspondence with student
- Registration forms
- Schedule change forms
- Withdrawal forms

Disclosure of Education Records Information

Odessa College shall obtain written consent from students before disclosing any personally identifiable information from their education records. Such written consent must specify the records to be released, state the purpose of the disclosure, identify the party or class of parties to whom disclosure may be made, and be signed and dated by the student. FERPA states that certain information from student records may be classified as directory information. Directory information may be made available to the public without a student's consent. The following categories of information have been designated by Odessa College as directory information:

1. Student's name, address, telephone number
2. Date and place of birth
3. Dates of attendance
4. The most recent previous educational agencies or institution attended by the student
5. Weight and height of a member of an athletic team
6. Major field of study, degree desired, and classification
7. Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
8. Degrees and awards received
9. Full-time/part-time attendance
10. Photograph
11. E-mail address

If any student has an objection to any of the aforementioned information being released about himself or herself during any given semester or academic year, the student should notify, in writing, the Registrar during the first three weeks of the respective semester or academic year. This form must be resubmitted annually.

FERPA established rules stating that some personnel and agencies may have access to students' education records without written consent of the students. Odessa College will disclose information from a student's education record only with the written consent of the student except:

1. To school officials determined by the institution to have a legitimate educational interest. A school official is a person employed by the College in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position; a person employed by or under contract to the College to perform a special task, such as an attorney or auditor; performing a task that is specified in his or her job description or by a contract agreement; performing a task related to a student's education; performing a task related to the discipline of a student; or providing a service or benefit relating to the student or student's family, such as health care, counseling, advising, job placement, or financial aid. When doubt is raised by the Registrar about an individual's need to know or legitimate educational interest in having access to specific information, the issue shall be decided by the President of the College.
2. To officials of another school, upon request, in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
3. To authorized personnel of the following government agencies if the disclosure is in connection with an audit or evaluation of federal or state supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with federal legal requirements that relate to those programs:
 - Comptroller General of the United States
 - Secretary of Education
 - U.S. Attorney General (for law enforcement purposes only)
 - State and local education authorities
4. To any party who is providing financial aid to the student ("financial aid" does not include any payments made by parents).
5. To state and local officials to whom information is specifically required to be reported or disclosed pursuant to state statute adopted prior to November 19, 1974.
6. To organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the College.
7. To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions.
8. To parents of eligible students who claim the student as dependents for income tax purposes. The parents must furnish a copy of their most recent Federal Income Tax Form.
9. To appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency subject to a determination by the President or the Deans or their designees.

10. To personnel complying with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena, provided the Registrar's Office makes a reasonable attempt to notify students in advance of compliance. The College is not required to notify students if a federal grand jury subpoena or any other subpoena issued for a law enforcement purpose orders the College not to disclose the existence or contents of the subpoena.
11. To an alleged victim of any crime of violence of the results of any institutional disciplinary proceeding against alleged perpetrator of that crime with respect to that crime.
12. To appropriate parties in response to requests for directory information.
13. To parents/legal guardians when their children (under age 21) are found to have violated the alcohol policy of the College (Warner Amendment).
14. To appropriate parties requesting the final results of a disciplinary hearing against an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or non-forcible sex offender (Foley Amendment).
15. To the Immigration and Naturalization Service for purposes of the Coordinated Interagency Partnership Regulating International Students.
16. To military recruiters who request "Student Recruiting Information" for recruiting purposes only (Solomon Amendment). Student recruiting information is directory information.
17. To the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for purposes of complying with the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997.
18. To authorized personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs for students receiving educational assistance from the agency.

Students' Rights After Ceasing Attendance or Graduation

Students who have ceased attendance or have graduated from Odessa College have basically the same FERPA rights as students currently attending including the right to:

- Inspect their education records
- Have a hearing to amend an education record
- Have their education record privacy protected by the College

Former students do not have the right to request of the College non-disclosure unless they asked, at their last opportunity as students, that no directory information be disclosed.

Privacy Rights of Deceased Students

For twenty-five years following the death of a student, the release of education record information will not be made unless authorized by the student's parents or the executor/executrix of the deceased student's estate.

Family Policy Compliance Office

FERPA affords students the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the College to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Challenge of the Contents of Education Records

Students may challenge information in their education records that they believe to be incorrect or inappropriate. This challenge must be in writing and must be submitted to the appropriate Dean responsible for the record. The Dean must decide within a reasonable period of time whether corrective action will be taken, and the Dean must provide written notification to the student and the Registrar of the corrective action that has been approved. Students who are not provided full relief sought by their challenge must be referred to the Vice President of Student Affairs.

Should the College decide not to amend the record in accordance with the student's request, the Registrar must inform the student that the student has the opportunity to place with the education record a statement commenting on the information in the record or a statement setting forth any reason for disagreeing with the decision of the hearing. The statement placed in the education record by the student will be maintained as part of the record for as long as the College holds the record. This record, when disclosed to an authorized party, must include the statement filed by the student.

Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act

The Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act requires that each student be provided a breakdown of campus crime statistics. Disclosures required by this law are made available to students, faculty, staff, and the general public. A fact sheet containing all information required for compliance with the Campus Security Act is available from the OC Media Relations Office.

Campus Prevention Program

Sexual Assault and Non-Sexual Offenses

Odessa College is committed to providing a safe, secure environment for students, visitors, and employees. The College provides educational materials to staff and students promoting safety awareness and crime prevention. The College's educational programs:

- promote and support institutional activity programming that encourages safety awareness as it relates to sexual assaults and non-sexual offenses;
- expand collaborative relationships between community groups, agencies, and the institution for education, treatment, and referral of those who have experienced sexual assaults or nonsexual offenses;
- provide training for students, faculty, and staff to enable them to detect specific problems as a result of sexual assaults and to refer persons with such problems to appropriate referral sources;
- provide counseling services for students needing assistance;
- include printed materials and guest lecturers promoting safety and crime awareness during faculty/staff in-service meetings;
- promote use of the "buddy system" for students in college housing;
- continue to strengthen relationships with law enforcement officials to insure quick response to calls involving sexual assault or other campus crimes.

Preventing Sexual Assault/Acquaintance Rape

For all students:

Rape is an act of violence. Rape should not happen, but it can, even with people you know and trust. Most rapes and sexual assaults are committed by acquaintances. For this reason, it is important for you to be assertive, direct, and clear in your communications. Be aware of your non-verbal and verbal communication. Remember you increase your risk of acquaintance rape when you get in a car with someone you have just met (perhaps at a party), no matter how nice the person seems, or when you are socializing with a group that is using alcohol or drugs. If you have been sexually assaulted on campus, report the crime to the Campus Security Officer or to any college official. Students living in Century Commons should contact the Resident Manager if the assault occurs in or on the dorm property. Reporting does not mean you must take legal action. This is a choice you can make later. By reporting the crime, though, you may help to stop a rapist. Chances are that the person has raped before and will rape again, until

apprehended. If you have been raped, preserve physical evidence that could be useful later on. Do not change clothes, bathe, or use the bathroom. Do seek medical care immediately, whether or not you report the crime. In addition to taking care of obvious injuries, you need medical care to protect you from venereal diseases. A physician can also counsel you about the possibility of pregnancy.

The law warns that knowing someone—even intimately—is never an excuse for forced sex. Clear communication should be used to reach an understanding with a friend or date. Do not assume an earlier understanding still holds; do not ever assume communication can be clear if either party is abusing alcohol or other drugs.

For both men and women:

In social situations, both women and men must use good judgment because the stakes are high for both. The best precaution is to stay in control and remember that a wrong decision in the area of sexual activity may remain with you for a lifetime.

Recommended Precautions for Individual Protection

Odessa College is dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of its students, employees, and campus visitors. While the College takes measures to maintain a safe and secure environment, there are things employees and students can do to increase their safety while on campus. Listed below are some recommended precautions that can be taken to protect individuals from potential danger. We urge all students, employees, and campus visitors to make the following practices a part of their daily routine:

1. When alone on campus at night, do not walk around campus.
2. When walking from building to building at night, stay in well-lighted areas. Avoid isolated buildings and areas.
3. Always lock your vehicle. Before entering your vehicle, look on the floor and in the back seat.
4. Become familiar with the security personnel. If you are concerned about walking to your car alone, ask the security officer to escort you.
5. Have car keys in hand before you reach the car. Searching for keys in a purse or pockets when at the car can be dangerous.
6. Become familiar with exits in all buildings.
7. Embrace the philosophy of “shared responsibility” for campus safety. Watch out for your fellow student/employee and offer assistance when needed.

While many colleges and universities have experienced an increase in the number of crimes occurring on campus, Odessa College has not had to face the problem of campus violence. However, should a threat or act of violence occur, please follow the previously outlined procedures.

Security of and Access to Campus Facilities

All buildings are opened by 7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and will be closed and secured as soon as possible after the offices close; or in the case of a classroom building, after the last class of the day. Buildings are normally closed on Saturday and Sunday. Students should not be in a building alone after normal closing hours. The buildings are secured by the campus security service, and it is their responsibility to make regular checks of each building to insure that they remain locked. Outdoor lighting is a priority for campus safety/security. The College has attempted to insure that all areas of the campuses are lighted, especially around parking lots, walkways, classrooms, and areas frequently traveled by students and college personnel. Students and staff members are encouraged to report lights that need replacing to Campus Security by calling 335-6666.

Campus Law Enforcement

Odessa College is determined to provide the best campus security possible with the resources available. Campus security officers are licensed peace officers with the State of Texas. They work closely with area law enforcement authorities to provide quick response times in an emergency. The campus security officers will contact the appropriate local authorities when additional assistance is needed.

Methods for Distribution of Printed Security Information and Crime Statistics

All current students and employees will be given copies of the Odessa College Catalog during their initial semester orientation programs. Residential students will also receive a copy of material containing information on how to insure safety of themselves and other residents in campus housing. Students and staff will be encouraged to “share responsibility” in crime prevention and will be asked to promptly report any crimes to college officials. New employees will receive a copy of the catalog as part of the employment package. Crime statistics are given out at new student orientation and are on the College's Web site under Student Affairs Right-to-Know.

Reporting of Criminal Incidents Occurring at Off-Campus Student Organizations or Functions

It is the policy of the College to provide a safe environment for students at all off-campus student activities. Staff supervision is provided for such events. Any criminal act; act or threat of violence; injury; or other such situations which occurs while at an off-campus activity or event should be reported immediately to the security officer on duty or the professional staff person assigned to supervise the activity. These contact persons would immediately contact the appropriate law enforcement department or emergency personnel if assistance were required.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

In accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, Odessa College does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the recruitment and admission of students, the employment of faculty and staff, and the operation of any of its programs and activities. The Dean of Administration is designated as the coordinator for college compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with a disability should contact the Odessa College Help Center, 335-6433, for information and assistance with obtaining accommodation services. A counselor who specializes in accommodation assistance is available. The college strives to provide a complete range of services for students with special needs. Students with disabilities will be responsible for presenting diagnostic test results or diagnoses that are not more than three years old, in order to verify the specific disabilities claimed. These results must come from a professional in the field, who is properly licensed or certified in the field appropriate for the diagnosis of the particular disability claimed. The student is responsible for all costs connected with diagnosis and records of related testing.

Recommendations made by the diagnostician will be incorporated as appropriate into the academic advisement plan for the student.

Veterans Administration Benefits

For help with VA Benefits, contact the Office of Special Populations at 335-6357.

Drug Education Policy

In accordance with the Drug Free Schools and Campuses Drug Prevention Program, Odessa College has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs/alcohol by its students or staff on school premises or as part of any of its activities. Odessa College recognizes the importance of information about drug/alcohol abuse. Printed information is available in the OC Help Center regarding standards of conduct and legal and disciplinary sanctions for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs/alcohol.

Listings of area resources for drug/alcohol counseling and rehabilitation are also available from the counselors in the OC Help Center.

Odessa College Policies

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

Once an individual has paid tuition and fees, that person is classified as a student at Odessa College. It is each student's responsibility to be aware of the rights, responsibilities, and opportunities indicated in:

The Odessa College Bulletin/Catalog of Courses
The Schedule of Classes
The Student Handbook

Odessa College endeavors to ensure the constitutional rights of each of its students. It also endeavors to provide each student with the type of environment that will maximize his/her education. To this purpose, the college has set certain rules, regulations and policies in order to ensure an educational environment. It is within the framework of state, local and federal laws as well as college regulations that the student must comply in order to assert his/her freedoms while at Odessa College. The college has the obligation of providing policies to guarantee a student's rights, while the student has the responsibility of abiding by the rules and regulations of the college.

Student Conduct

These policies and regulations shall apply to any currently enrolled or former student who has been accepted for admission or readmission to Odessa College or to any prospective student while he or she is on the campus or any off-campus facility designated for college use.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Each student shall be charged with notice and knowledge of the contents and provisions of the District's rules and regulations concerning student conduct. All students shall obey the law, show respect for properly constituted authority, and observe correct standards of conduct. In addition to activities prohibited by law, the following types of behavior shall be prohibited:

1. Gambling, dishonesty or the possession or use of intoxicating liquors.
2. The illegal use, possession, and/or sale of a drug or narcotic, as those terms are defined by the Texas Controlled Substances Act, on campus.
3. Scholastic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of these rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed by board policies. Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism and collusion.

"Cheating on a test" shall include:

- Copying from another student's test paper
- Using test materials not authorized by the person administering the test.
- Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test without permission from the test administrator.
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing or soliciting, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
- The unauthorized transporting or removal, in whole or in part, of the contents of the unadministered test.
- Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for one's self, to take a test.
- Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
- "Plagiarism" shall be defined as the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work.
- "Collusion" shall be defined as the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements.

4. A student who owes a debt to the District or who writes an "insufficient funds" check to the District may be denied admission or readmission to the District until the debt is paid or the check redeemed. A student's failure to pay the college the amount due on or before the fifth class day after the day the business office sends written notice that the drawee has rightfully refused payment on the check, draft, or money order is prima facie evidence that the student intended to defraud the college.

5. Violations of the Penal Statutes of Texas or of the United States occurring on District property or in connection with District-sponsored activities may also constitute violations of the District's rules and regulations when such violations affect the educational process and goals of the District.

6. Possession or use of firearms on District-controlled property except for educational purposes that have the prior approval of the vice president.

7. Interference with teaching, research, administration, or the District's subsidiary responsibilities through "disorderly conduct" or "disruptive behavior."

8. Use of alcoholic or intoxicating beverages and use of drugs not prescribed by a physician.

9. Hazing with or without the consent of a student; a violation of that prohibition renders both the person inflicting the hazing and the person submitting to the hazing subject to appropriate discipline.

"Hazing" means any intentional, knowing or reckless act occurring on or off school property directed against a student, by one person alone or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include other students. The term includes, but is not limited to:

- Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electrical shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body or similar activity.
- Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame or humiliation, or that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described above.
- Any activity that induces, causes or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code.

10. Initiations by organizations may include no feature that is dangerous, harmful or degrading to the student; a violation of this prohibition renders the organization subject to appropriate discipline.

11. Endangering the health or safety of members of the District community or visitors to the campus.

12. Damaging, defacing or destroying college property, property of a member of the college community or property of a campus visitor.

13. Knowingly giving false information in response to requests from the college.

14. Forging, altering or misusing college documents, records or ID cards.

15. Violating college policies or regulations concerning parking; registration of student organizations; use of college facilities; or the time, place and manner of public expression.

16. Failure to comply with directions of college officials acting in the performance of their duties.

17. Conducting him/herself in a manner which adversely affects his or her suitability as a member of the academic community or endangering his or her own safety or the safety of others.

18. Ignoring a summons to the office of the vice president for student services.

DISCIPLINE

Any student violating this policy shall be subject to discipline, including suspension, in accordance with college policy. In certain instances the College can refer cases to law enforcement authorities for prosecution under criminal code.

In cases of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to impose appropriate scholastic penalties. Complaints or appeals of disciplinary sanctions may be filed in accordance with the college due process procedure.

DRESS AND GROOMING

Students' dress or grooming may not materially and substantially interfere with normal school operations.

ALCOHOL

The use of intoxicating beverages shall be prohibited in classroom buildings, laboratories, residence halls, auditoriums, library buildings, museums, faculty and administrative offices, intercollegiate and intramural athletic facilities and all other public campus areas; provided, however, that with the prior consent of the board, the provisions herein may be waived with respect to any specific affair that is sponsored by the institution. State law shall be strictly enforced at all times on all property controlled by the District in regard to the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

No student shall possess, use, transmit, or attempt to possess, use, or transmit or be under the influence of (legal intoxication not required) any of the following substances on school premises during any school term or off school premises at a school-sponsored activity, function or event:

1. Any controlled substance or dangerous drug as defined by law, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, hallucinogen, stimulant, depressant, amphetamine or barbiturate.
2. Alcohol or any alcoholic beverage.
3. Any abusable glue, aerosol paint or any other volatile chemical substance for inhalation.
4. Any other intoxicant or mood-changing, mind-altering or behavior-altering drugs.
5. The transmittal, sale or attempted sale of what is represented to be any of the above-listed substances is also prohibited under this policy.

Exception

A student who uses a drug authorized by a licensed physician through a prescription specifically for that student's use shall not be considered to have violated this rule.

Notice

Disciplinary action for violations of this policy may include: referral to drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation programs or student assistance programs; suspension; expulsion; and referral to appropriate law enforcement officials for prosecution.

Each student taking one or more classes for any type of academic credit except for continuing education units shall be given a copy of the District's policy prohibiting the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol, a description of the applicable legal sanctions under local, state or federal law, and a description of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol.

In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act requirements, Odessa College provides printed information on the legal penalties for possession and use of illicit drugs and associated health risks. The information covers Controlled Substances: Uses and Effects; Federal Trafficking Penalties; Texas Criminal Penalties Relating to Controlled Substances; and Texas Criminal Penalties Relating to the Marijuana Appendix.

WEAPONS

A student shall not intentionally, knowingly or recklessly possess or go onto school premises with any prohibited weapon, as defined below, unless pursuant to written regulations or written authorization of the District. Texas Penal Code 46.03(a)

Prohibited weapons are defined as follows:

1. A firearm (any device designed, made or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance or any device readily convertible to that use). Texas Penal Code 46.03(a), 46.01 (3)
2. An illegal knife (knife with a blade over five and one-half inches, hand instrument designed to cut, stab or be thrown at another - dagger, Bowie knife, sword, spear). Texas Penal Code 46.03(a), 46.01 (6)
3. An explosive weapon (any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket or mine that is designed, made or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death or substantial property damage, or for the principal purpose of causing such a loud report as to cause undue public alarm or terror, and includes a device designed, made or adapted for delivery or shooting an explosive weapon). Texas Penal Code 46.01 (2)
4. A machine gun (any firearm that is capable of shooting more than two shots automatically, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger). Texas Penal Code 46.01 (9)
5. A short-barrel firearm (rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or a shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches, or any weapon made from a rifle or shotgun that, as altered, has an overall length of less than 26 inches). Texas Penal Code 46.01 (10)
6. A switchblade knife (any knife with a blade that folds, closes or retracts into the handle or sheath and that opens automatically by pressing a button or by the force of gravity or centrifugal force). Texas Penal Code 46.01(11)
7. Knuckles (any instrument consisting of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance that is designed, made or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles). Texas Penal Code 46.01 (8)
8. Armor-piercing ammunition (handgun ammunition that is designed primarily for the purpose of penetrating metal or body armor and to be used primarily in pistols and revolvers). Texas Penal Code 46.01(12)
9. A chemical dispensing device (device other than a small chemical dispenser sold commercially for personal protection, that is designed, made or adapted for the purpose of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being). Texas Penal Code 46.01(14)
10. A zip gun (a device or combination of devices that was not originally a firearm and is adapted to expel a projectile through a smooth-bore or rifled-bore barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance). Texas Penal Code 46.01 (16)
11. A club (an instrument specially designed, made or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with the instrument, including a blackjack, nightstick, mace and tomahawk). Texas Penal Code 46.01 (1), 46.03(a), 46.05(a)
12. Students may not bring to any campus or a college-related activity any weapons prohibited by law or any other object, including school/ college supplies, used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury on another person.
13. The possession or use of articles not generally considered to be weapons may be prohibited when the college president or designee determines that a danger exists for any student, college employee or college property by virtue of possession or use.
14. Lockers and cars parked on college premises may be inspected by college personnel if there is reasonable cause to believe they contain weapons.

ASSAULTS

Students are prohibited from assaulting any person on District property or while under the District's jurisdiction. An "assault" is defined as:

1. Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing bodily injury to another;
2. Intentionally or knowingly threatening another with imminent bodily injury; or
3. Intentionally or knowingly causing physical contact with another when the student knows or should reasonably believe that the other will regard the contact as offensive or provocative. Texas Penal Code 22.01

DISRUPTIONS

Students shall be subject to the provisions of college policy regarding disruption of classes and disruption of lawful assembly. Texas Education Code 51.935

DEMONSTRATIONS

Permission for events, peaceful assemblies, and demonstrations must be requested in advance from the office of the Vice President of Student Services.

Student demonstrations and similar activities shall be prohibited when there is evidence that may reasonably lead school authorities to forecast substantial disruption of, or material interference with, normal school operations or approved school activities.

The evidence must support a "reasonable forecast of substantial disruption" of school operations. "Undifferentiated fear" or mere apprehension of disturbance is not sufficient to justify restrictions on students' otherwise legitimate right to freedom of expression.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Disorderly conduct shall include any of the following activities occurring on property owned or controlled by the college or at college-sponsored functions:

1. Behavior of a boisterous and tumultuous character such that there is a clear and present danger of alarming persons where no legitimate reason for alarm exists.
2. Interference with the peaceful and lawful conduct of persons under circumstances in which there is reason to believe that such conduct will cause or provoke a disturbance.
3. Violent and forceful behavior at any time, such that there is a clear and present danger that free movement of other persons will be impaired.
4. Behavior involving personal abuse or assault when such behavior creates a clear and present danger of causing assaults or fights.
5. Violent, abusive, indecent, profane, boisterous, unreasonably loud or otherwise disorderly conduct under circumstances in which there is reason to believe that such conduct will cause or provoke a disturbance.
6. Willful and malicious behavior that interrupts the speaker of any lawful assembly or impairs the lawful right of others to participate effectively in such assembly or meeting when there is reason to believe that such conduct will cause or provoke a disturbance.

7. Willful and malicious behavior that obstructs or causes the obstruction of any doorway, hall or any other passageway in a District building to such an extent that the employees, officers and other persons, including visitors, having business with the District are denied entrance into, exit from or free passage in such building.

INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES

The District respects the right of students to privacy and security against arbitrary invasion of their person or property. However, school officials have a limited right to search students or their property when in the interest of the overall welfare of other students or when necessary to preserve the good order and discipline of the school.

Without a search warrant:

1. Any prohibited item within "plain view" is subject to seizure.
2. Residence hall rooms may be searched if probable cause exists.
3. Areas such as lockers and desks, which are owned and controlled by the District, may be searched by school officials when they have reasonable cause to believe that stolen items or items prohibited by law or by board policy are contained in the area to be searched.
4. Stolen items and items which are forbidden by board policy or law may be impounded and may be used as evidence in internal school disciplinary proceedings against the student.

VIOLATIONS

Students who violate student conduct standards or participate in any prohibited activities are subject to disciplinary action, based on the severity of the violation and its overall effect on the welfare of other students.

Limitation

The above policies shall not apply in the event that law enforcement authorities are involved in a search. School searches conducted with assistance from law enforcement authorities are governed by Fourth Amendment standards that are applicable in the criminal law context.

Student Right to Due Process

Odessa College is committed to high standards and equitable treatment of all individuals associated with the college. There are times, however, when conflicts do arise between a student and an employee of the college. The Director of Housing and Judicial Affairs (335-6306) will address conflicts involving aspects of the dormitory and first-line discipline. When a conflict occurs in matters other than alleged discrimination, sexual harassment, and employment questions, the college has adopted a due process procedure which is designed to resolve the issue as quickly as possible while offering protection to all individuals involved in the conflict.

The college further recognizes that many conflicts between a student and a member of the faculty or staff are the result of misunderstanding and poor communication. Thus, college policy encourages people to work together to define their difference of opinion and seek a mutually satisfactory solution.

Academic Conflict

If a student has a conflict with a faculty member or lab instructor relating to instructional matters or grading, the student should attempt resolution at the first level possible by conferencing with the following individuals in the order listed:

Instructor
Department Chairman
Instructional Dean
Executive Vice President for Instruction

Conferences with the instructor and department chairman are considered to be informal steps in conflict resolution.

When a college official at the dean or higher level becomes involved, the process is more formalized, and written documents are utilized.

Non-Academic Conflicts

If a student has a conflict with a faculty member, lab instructor, or any other Odessa College staff member in an area not related to instruction or grading, that student should attempt resolution at the first level possible, with the first attempt being to contact the college employee involved. If resolution is not possible, the student should conference with the following persons in the order listed:

- Supervisor of the employee
- Director or Dean of the work area
- Vice President of the area

Conferences through the supervisor are considered to be informal.

As in academic matters, once the dean or director becomes involved the process becomes formal and written documentation is required.

In both academic and non-academic matters, both parties involved in a conflict resolution attempt have the right to appeal a college official's decision to the next administrative level. If a mutually acceptable resolution is not reached at the vice-presidential level, an appeals committee is formed to hear both sides of the conflict.

Appeals from the committee are heard by the president of the college, on a procedural basis only. Decisions from the president may be appealed to the board of trustees.

A full copy of the due process procedure is available as an appendix to the Student Handbook published as a link from the Odessa College home page, as well as from various offices on campus, including offices of instructional deans, the vice president for student services or the dean of administration.

Student Right to Communication and Expression

In displaying announcements of interest, students may use bulletin boards located in the Student Centers and in other campus locations. Those bulletin boards with specific headings or glass-enclosed boards are for official use and may not be used for posting student announcements unless prior approval has been secured from the Vice President for Student Services. Posters may be displayed for a period not to exceed two weeks before a scheduled event and should be removed on the next class day following the advertised event. Prior approval should be secured from the Vice President for Student Services. The College reserves the right to remove any unauthorized poster or sign. Students are requested to use masking tape when displaying posters.

Where do I go to find help with:

Activity	Location/office	phone number
Activities on campus	Intramurals office	335-6338
Address changes	Registrar	335-6404
Athletic events	Sports Center	335-6567
Basic skills help	Student Learning Center	335-6878
Books	Bookstore	335-6653
Cashing checks	Bookstore	335-6653
Class policies	Class instructor or professor	ask for faculty office
Clubs on campus	Student Activities	335-6338
Computer labs	Student Learning Center	335-6878
Course selection	Counselors, advisors	counselor, 335-6433, or your academic area advisor
Degree plans	Counselors, advisors	counselor, 335-6433, or your academic area advisor
Due process	VP for Student Services	335-6684
E-mail (students)	Student Learning Center	335-6878
Emergency messages	VP for Student Services	335-6684
Exercise	Sports Center	335-6688
Food on campus	College Cafeteria	335-6435
Grade conflicts	Faculty/Dept. Chair	ask for faculty office
Health insurance	VP for Student Services	335-6684
Help with classes	Student Learning Center	335-6878
Honors status	VP for Instruction	335-6413
Housing on campus	Housing Director	335-6300
ID cards	Cashier's office	335-6600
Intramurals	Intramurals office	335-6338
Jobs (on and off campus)	Career Services	335-6835
Loans for college	Student Financial Services	335-6429
Lost and found	Vice President for Student Services	335-6684
Non-credit classes	Continuing Education	335-6580
Off-campus classes	Distance Education	335-6685
Parking permits	Cashier's Office	335-6600
Parking rules	Campus Police	335-6666
Paying for college	Student Financial Services	335-6429
Residency status	Admissions	335-6432
Safety concerns	Campus Police	335-6600
Scholarships	Student Financial Services	335-6429
School supplies	Bookstore	335-6653
Stamps	Campus Post Office	335-6653
Study skills	Student Learning Center	335-6878
Succeeding	Student Support Services	335-6576
Tests-standardized	Testing Center	335-6404
Transcripts	Registrar	335-6433
Transfer questions	Counselors/Advisors	335-6433
Tutoring	Student Learning Center	335-6878
	Math Lab	335-6751

Note: **.edu room** and **Wi Fi Java Café** also have computers and personnel to assist you with many different questions!