



PUBLIC SERVICES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

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PUBLIC SERVICES

The Office of Public Services, with offices in the Regional Center for Continuing Education, 903 North Patterson Street, administers a number of educational and education-related programs that are presented on campus as well as other sites located throughout South Georgia.

Public Services programs at Valdosta State are designed to aid residents of south Georgia in continuing their education. The personnel in Public Services desire to learn of the needs and interests of area residents that can be met best by the university. Efforts are made to identify resources located in the institution and in the community to develop educational programs and services to meet community needs and interests.

There are three major divisions in Public Services: Continuing Education, Distance Education, and Satellite Services.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (NON-CREDIT COURSES)

The Continuing Education Division oversees professional development programs, leisure-type programs, and adult and children's programs, for persons in Valdosta and surrounding communities. The division presents seminars and courses for persons in professions, business, and industry. Some courses are developed especially to meet the licensing or certification requirements of specific professional groups. Continuing Education activities also includes Learning in Retirement, Children's Programs, and Personal Enrichment Classes.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools requires the use of the CEU (Continuing Education Unit) by member institutions and provides this definition: "One continuing education unit is ten contact hours of participation in an organized, continuing education experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction." Continuing Education administers the CEU procedures for the University.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

The Distance Education Division is responsible for faculty training and support of classes using the WebCT Vista online learning platform. The Distance Education Program provides support services to courses offered with off-campus locations using the GSAMS (Georgia Statewide Academic and Medical System) two-way interactive video network using two distance-learning classrooms on campus.

SATELLITE SERVICES

The Division of Satellite Services is responsible for creating professional video productions for all aspects of the University, using a broadcast quality digital television facility. The Satellite Services Division also receives programs via satellite and has satellite uplink capabilities. VSU is one of three educational agencies in the state, along with Georgia Public Television and the University of Georgia, with satellite uplinks.

The header is contained within a rectangular box with a black border. On the left side of the box, there is a decorative graphic consisting of a grey curved shape that transitions into a white curved shape, resembling a stylized 'U' or a page corner. The text 'UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES' is centered in the white area of the box.

UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

BOARD OF REGENTS STATEMENT ON DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

The following is the policy of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia regarding disruptive behavior in any institution of the University System:

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia reaffirms its policies to support fully freedom of expression by each member of the academic community and to preserve and protect the rights and freedom of its faculty members and students to engage in debate, discussion, peaceful and nondisruptive protest, and dissent. The following statement relates specifically to the problem described below. It does not change or in any way infringe upon the Board's existing policies and practices in support of freedom of expression and action. Rather, it is considered necessary to combat the ultimate effect of irresponsible disruptive and obstructive actions by students and faculty which tend to destroy academic freedom and institutional structures through which it operates.

In recent years, a new and serious problem has appeared on many university and university campuses in the nation. Some students, faculty members, and others have on occasion engaged in demonstrations, sit-ins, and other activities that have clearly and deliberately interfered with the regular and orderly operation of the institution concerned. Typically, these actions have been the physical occupation of a building or campus area for a protracted period of time or the use or display of verbal or written obscenities involving indecent or disorderly conduct.

These actions have gone beyond all heretofore recognized bounds of meetings for discussion, persuasion, or even protest, in that: (1) acquiescence to demands of the demonstrators is the condition for dispersal, and (2) the reasonable and written directions of institutional officials to disperse have been ignored. Such activities thus have become clearly recognizable as an action of force, operating outside all established channels on the campus, including that of intellectual debate and persuasion which are at the very heart of education.

The Board reaffirms its beliefs that all segments of the academic community are under a strong obligation and have a mutual responsibility to protect the campus community from disorderly, disruptive, or obstructive actions which interfere with academic pursuits of teaching, learning, and other campus activities.

The Board of Regents understands that this policy is consistent with resolutions adopted by the American Association of University Professors in April, 1968, by the Association of American Colleges in January, 1968, and by the Executive Committee of the Association for Higher Education in March, 1968, condemning actions taken to disrupt the operations of institutions of higher education.

The Board of Regents is deeply concerned by this new problem. Under the Constitution of the State of Georgia, under all applicable court rulings, and in keeping with the tradition of higher education in the United States, the Board is ultimately responsible for the orderly operation of the several institutions of the University System and the preservation of academic freedom in these institutions. The Board cannot and will not divest itself of this responsibility.

Of equal or greater importance, such action of force as has been described above destroys the very essence of higher education. This essence is found in the unhampered freedom to study, investigate, write, speak, and debate on any aspect or issue of life. This freedom, which reaches its flowering on university and university campuses, is an essential part of American democracy, comparable to the jury system or the electoral process.

For these reasons and in order to respond directly and specifically to this new problem, the Board of Regents stipulates that any student, faculty member, administrator, or employee, acting individually or in concert with others, who clearly obstruct or disrupt any teaching, research, administrative, disciplinary or other public service activity, or any other activity authorized to be discharged or held on any campus of the University System of Georgia, is considered by the Board to have committed an act of gross irresponsibility and shall be subject to disciplinary procedures, possibly resulting in dismissal or termination of employment.

STUDENT DISSENT

Valdosta State University will not permit any demonstrations or protests which would disrupt any academic or regularly scheduled non-academic pursuits. Dissent which is voiced in a constructive way and is manifested in an orderly and peaceful manner is acceptable. Threats, demands, and coercion are not acceptable. All students affiliated with Valdosta State University are expected to abide by the Student Code of Ethics.

CANCELLATION OF STUDENT REGISTRATION FOR CAUSE

The University reserves the right to cancel the registration of any student who fails to meet his or her financial responsibility, according to the rules and regulations of the University. The rules and regulations provide that:

1. All fees are due and payable upon completion of registration. Students should not report for registration without having sufficient funds available to pay their fees. The payment instructions are in each term's class offering booklet.

2. Any check issued to the University in payment of fees, or to be cashed for personal convenience, must be paid upon presentation to the bank on which it is drawn. A student who issues a check on a bank without having sufficient funds on deposit in that bank has violated the statutes of the State of Georgia and may be prosecuted.
3. All fines for violations of the rules related to parking and traffic, and charges related to the library and other facilities such as laboratory breakage, etc., must be paid promptly. Those students having outstanding obligations will not be allowed to enroll in subsequent terms.
4. Misuse of an I.D. card may result in suspension from classes of all involved students.
5. Students who have secured short term loans must have this obligation paid in full according to the terms agreed upon with the Loan Officer to avoid suspension or possible cancellation of the term's registration.
6. Students who misrepresent the facts pertaining to their qualifications to live off-campus may be suspended from classes. In each instance, students will be given proper notice to comply with the housing regulations before action is taken to effect cancellation of their registration.
7. The University reserves and intends to exercise the right to withhold copies of education records and/or to cancel enrollment of students who owe the University money.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

Valdosta State University, as a senior unit of the University System of Georgia and recipient of federal funds, supports and complies with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989.

Faculty, staff, and students of Valdosta State University are advised that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of illicit drugs and alcohol is prohibited, and violations of this policy will result in appropriate disciplinary action, to include suspension or termination.

Faculty, staff, and students are expected to adhere to the policies of the institution, observe the basic rules of good conduct, and observe all local, state, and federal regulations relative to illegal drugs and alcohol. Violations of such regulations, including misdemeanor or felony convictions during the course of one's employment or enrollment, will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

This policy is subject to modifications, and any changes will be publicized. Questions regarding this matter may be directed to the Office of Human Resources or the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.