Standards of Behavior

As an institution of higher learning, Greenfield Community College actively encourages the free and open exchange of ideas and opinions. The college encourages diversity in the belief that, in doing so, it promotes growth and positive change in individuals. The college recognizes, however, that maintaining an atmosphere where such discourse can flourish requires that faculty, staff and students acknowledge and remain sensitive to the needs, beliefs and feelings of others. It therefore expects all individuals to maintain certain standards of behavior as members of its community.

These expectations include the exercise of discretion in the use of language, both in the choice of terms used and in the tone in which discourse is delivered and individuals are addressed. Insulting or demeaning language or gestures, perhaps generally accepted or even common in other social settings, are not suitable in an academic environment. A courteous regard for the differing backgrounds and perspectives held by others is encouraged.

The above expectations hold for behavior throughout the institution and for all of its members. With regard to behavior in the classroom, yet another set of expectations exists. Classrooms are unique environments, places expressly reserved for the exchange of information and ideas. They constitute sanctuaries of learning, gatherings in which students and an instructor or instructors come together for a particular purpose: to grow and develop through personal interaction and directed activity. Because classrooms are unique in this way, they hold particular expectations of their members. Generally speaking, these are extensions of the rules of civility and courtesy that prevail in the institution at large, though the classroom instructor might add to or modify these rules to promote particular goals. Deviation from the expectations or rules set forth in a classroom is not acceptable.

It should be noted that behavior influenced by an individual’s mental state (irrespective of the ultimate evaluation), or use of drugs or alcoholic beverages shall not limit the responsibility of that individual for the consequences of his or her actions. Finally, Greenfield Community College, while intent on maintaining an environment that promotes learning within a secure and collegial atmosphere, is resolutely committed to defending every individual’s right to personal expression.