

Blackhawk Technical College (“BTC” or the “College”) acknowledges the constitutional right to engage in free speech and to assemble in groups for peaceful purposes. Among other things, these freedoms foster a robust exchange of ideas and can facilitate academic and social growth. The primary use of BTC buildings, facilities, and property owned or leased by the College is to provide educational services and programs for students and the District community. BTC may, consistent with applicable state and federal law, establish reasonable restrictions regarding the time, place, and manner in which persons may exercise their free speech and assembly rights on College property.

UNPROTECTED SPEECH AND ACTIVITIES

Some forms of speech—including but not limited to threats of violence, incitement to imminent lawless action, obscenity, defamation, and certain severe or pervasive harassment, threats, or intimidation—are not constitutionally protected and may result in disciplinary action.

Further, all members of the BTC community and those visiting BTC buildings, facilities, or property are prohibited from engaging in conduct leading to or resulting in any of the following:

1. Endangerment to the health or safety of others;
2. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the College;
3. Damage to BTC property or that of a BTC student, employee, or guest;
4. Denial of, or unreasonable interference with, the rights of others on BTC premises;
5. Unauthorized access to or occupation of nonpublic areas on BTC premises, including but not limited to classrooms, laboratories, libraries, faculty and administrative offices, and special use facilities; and
6. Unauthorized access to or use of personal property, including files and records.

Individuals who engage in the above activities may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or dismissal from BTC and/or removal from BTC property. In addition, such actions may result in criminal charges by law enforcement authorities.

The President/District Director shall enact college procedures further establishing reasonable restrictions regarding the time, place, and manner in which persons and groups may exercise their free speech and assembly rights on BTC’s campuses.

FREE SPEECH

E-275

References: College Procedure E-275.1 – Free Speech: Time, Place, and Manner
College Procedure E-275.2 – Distribution, Posting, and Display Tables
College Policy E-270 – Code of Conduct for Visitors and Guests

Board Policy Adopted: July 13, 2020