

Student Due Process and Grievance Policy

Resolution of a problem, whether academic or administrative, including challenging of a grade, can be achieved through proper channels or authority and may be resolved at any level of the due process and grievance procedure. Any student filing a grievance must follow the step-by-step procedure in the listed sequence.

Academic and Non-Academic Matter

Informal discussion between the student and the faculty member or administrator should take place within twelve (12) instructional days* from the date of occurrence or discovery.** If the matter is not resolved, the student may invoke the formal written appeal process outlined below.

* An instructional day is defined as any day, Monday through Saturday, that NSCC holds classes, during the regular fall, spring, and summer (8 week) term.

**A grade challenge date of occurrence will be the date posted to the transcript.

Step 1 - Formal Appeal Process

- i. The student will submit a written grievance form to the individual involved within six (6) instructional days following unresolved informal discussion. If the written request is not received within the 6-day deadline, the case will be considered closed and the student will have forfeited the right for an appeal hearing.
- ii. Within six (6) instructional days of receiving the formal grievance, the individual involved and the student will meet and attempt to resolve the problem to the mutual satisfaction of both parties.
- iii. The faculty member/administrator will issue a written response to the student within six (6) instructional days after the meeting.
- iv. If the problem is not resolved in step one or the above time frames are not adhered to by the faculty member/administrator, the student may proceed with Step 2.

Step 2 - Formal Appeal Process

- i. Within six (6) instructional days of receiving the written response from Step 1, the student will submit the original grievance form to the supervisor of the individual involved, with a copy to the Vice President for Academics.
- ii. Within six (6) instructional days of receiving all written documentation, the immediate supervisor will meet with the student and the individual involved to attempt to resolve the problem to the mutual satisfaction of both parties. The Vice President for Academics may attend this meeting at his/her discretion.
- iii. Within six (6) instructional days after the meeting, the immediate supervisor will issue a written response to all parties involved, with the original copy to the Vice President for Academics.
- iv. If the problem is resolved, the written resolution issued by the supervisor will become part of the original document and bring closure to the grievance.
- v. If the problem is not resolved, the student may proceed to Step 3.
- vi. If the above time frames are not adhered to by the student, the case will be considered closed and the student will have forfeited the right for an appeal hearing.

Step 3 - Formal Appeal Process

- i. Within six (6) instructional days of receiving the written response from Step 2, the student may request a formal hearing by notifying the Vice President for Academics. If the request is not received within the 6-day deadline, the case will be considered closed, and the student will have forfeited the right for an appeal hearing.
- ii. *Within six (6) instructional days of receiving the request, the Vice President for Academics will appoint an ad hoc due-process committee to hear the grievance.
 1. The ad hoc committee will consist of five (5) members: one grade level I, II, or III employee; two faculty members; an officer of the student body organization; and a person of the student grievant's choice (person must be a present student, faculty member or other employee of the college).
 2. Alternate committee members may be appointed as well by the Vice President for Academics. Grade level I, II, and III include Vice Presidents, Division Deans and student service professionals.
 3. The Vice President for Academics will appoint one member of the ad hoc committee to act as chair for the proceedings.
- iii. *The hearing will take place within six (6) instructional days after the committee appointments. To prepare for the hearing, the chair of the ad hoc committee may make the following arrangements, which are intended to facilitate due process.
 1. Provide all ad hoc committee members with copies of the written grievance prior to the meeting.
 2. Identify a date, time and meeting place convenient for the ad hoc committee members, the student grievant, and the person who is the object of the grievance.
 3. Inform the student and the individual involved that they may present witnesses and additional written documentation at the hearing.
 4. The following chronology for the hearing and follow-up is recommended. (The proceedings may also be tape-recorded, provided that all parties are informed in advance.)
 - a. Select a recorder.
 - b. Review the grievance and hearing procedures. This segment will be closed to the grievant and faculty member.
 - c. Invite the student to be heard. The student may present witnesses and additional written documentation at this time. This segment will be closed to the faculty member / administrator.
 - d. Invite the individual involved to be heard, at which time he or she may provide witnesses and additional written documentation. This segment will be closed to the student.
 - e. In closed session, the committee will discuss its findings and reach a clear and explicit decision. The student and individual involved may be invited to reappear and provide more information as requested.
 5. Within six (6) instructional days after the formal hearing is concluded, the ruling of the ad hoc committee will be presented in writing to the student, the faculty member/ administrator involved, the department dean, and the Vice President for Academics, who will implement the ruling.

College Policies

6. The decisions rendered by the ad hoc due-process committee will be final. All committee members will need to sign the decision on Step 3 Form at the time the decision is made.
7. All original documentation will be kept on file in the Vice President for Academic's office.

**Timelines for step 3, iii. are not strictly enforced during the summer semester – student would be notified of altered timeframe.*

Study at Other Institutions

A student who wants to attend another institution during the summer or any other part of the academic year, for the purpose of transferring credit to a degree program of NSCC, must first obtain permission from the Vice President for Academics and file a transient student form signed by the Vice President for Academics or the Registrar.

Only credit hours transfer - quality points and grades are not figured into the student's permanent record.

Campus Crime and Security Policy

Northwest State Community College does comply with the Geanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act. The Campus Security Report can be found on the college website.

Drug Free Workplace Policy

Northwest State Community College shall comply with the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug Free Schools Community Act of 1989.

Protection of Human Subjects Research Policy

Northwest State Community College shall comply with the federal provisions of the protection of human subjects in research policy in accordance with 45 CFR 46, and 21 CFR 56. Research proposals must be reviewed and approved prior to any research activity. Contact the Vice President for Academics for more information.

Smoking and Tobacco Use Policy

Smoking and the use of tobacco products including electronic cigarettes (ecigarettes) is prohibited at all times in all Northwest State Community College buildings and fleet vehicles. This also applies to satellite and other locations where NSCC classes are conducted. Smoking is only permitted in the small courtyard south of the vending area of the "E" Building, on the smokers' court north of the sidewalk entering the Atrium and inside personal vehicles in the parking lot on the Archbold Campus.

