

STUDENT ORGANIZATION EQUIP HANDBOOK

Guidelines for Student Organizations



STUDENT LIFE MISSION

The Office of Student Life at Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) facilitates student learning and development by providing activities and services that enhance positive relationships among students, the College and the community. These relationships are created and nurtured through accessible programs and services, connections to campus and community resources, and co-curricular opportunities that focus on diversity, leadership, service, and personal well-being.

INTRODUCTION

This handbook outlines policies and procedures that student organizations at CPCC will use to conduct college business both on and off campus. College business is defined as activities where students are participating on behalf of, or representing, the college in some official capacity. This may include, but is not limited to: conferences, field trips, or college-sponsored activities.

Please note that additional policies found in the [CPCC Student Handbook](#), in [College Policies and Procedures](#), in the [Student Code of Conduct](#), or on various CPCC departmental web sites also apply. This handbook must be used in conjunction with advising by Student Life staff and student organization advisors. Members of student organizations have a responsibility and obligation to know and understand the policies and procedures in this handbook. Failure to comply with these policies may result in sanctions and/or revocation of organization recognition (see pages 5 – 6 for more information).

Any questions about information presented in this handbook can be directed to the Office of Student Life. Student Life retains the right to edit or amend this document on an ongoing basis. The most current version will always be found through the Student Life [web site](#).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE
Student Life/Service-Learning Contact Information	3
Organization Structure	4
Organization Status	5
Organization Finances	6
SGA General Assembly	8
Requesting Funds from SGA	9
Fundraising	9
Solicitation of Donations	11
Travel	12
Organization Sponsored Activities	16
Food Guidelines	20
Marketing and Promotion	21
Additional Resources	25

STUDENT LIFE/SERVICE-LEARNING CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Student Life		Phone Number: (704) 330-6584 Fax Number: (704) 330-6442
Central Campus	Location: Overcash, 241	Phone Number:
Mark Helms	Dean for Student Life and Service-Learning	(704) 330-6127
Amanda Capobianchi	Associate Dean of Student Life	(704) 330-6374
Wendy Coley	Administrative Assistant II	(704) 330-3584
Johnnie Roach	Evening Lab Facilitator	(704) 330-6512
Jennifer Conway	Student Life Coordinator	(704) 330-6743
Mary Mozingo	Student Life/Service-Learning Coordinator	(704) 330-6739
Michelle Marbry	Part-time Staff, Student Life	(704) 330-6665
Cato Campus	Location: Room 153	Phone Number:
David Mahatha	Student Life Coordinator	(704) 330-4822
Harper Campus	Location: Room 342	Phone Number:
Krystal Crowe	Student Life Coordinator	(704) 330-4422
Harris Campus	Location: Harris 1, 1232	Phone Number:
Nakeshia Staley	Student Life Coordinator	(704) 330-4622
Levine Campus	Location: Room 1401	Phone Number:
Barry Gilmore	Student Life Coordinator	(704) 330-4252
Merancas Campus	Location: Transport Systems, 231	Phone Number:
Jenn Grim-Marts	Student Life Coordinator	(704) 330-4174

Service-Learning		Phone Number: (704) 330-6558 Fax Number: (704) 330-6442
Central Campus	Location: Overcash, 241	Phone Number:
Mark Helms	Dean for Student Life and Service-Learning	(704) 330-6127
Dena Shonts	Director of Service-Learning	(704) 330-6558
Cassie Moore	Service-Learning Coordinator	(704) 330-6824
Mary Mozingo	Student Life/Service-Learning Coordinator	(704) 330-6739
Terry McMicking	Executive Administrative Assistant	(704) 330-6445

Family Resource Center		Phone Number: (704) 330-6246 Fax Number: (704) 330-6442
Central Campus	Location: Overcash, 254	Phone Number:
Linda Jones	Director of Family Resource Center	(704) 330-3246
Beverly Laws	Family Resource Center Specialist	(704) 330-3241

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

Student Membership

Student organizations are supported and eligible to receive funding from student activity fees distributed by the CPCC [Student Government Association](#) (SGA). For this reason, all voting members of CPCC student organizations must be currently enrolled curriculum students at CPCC. Members of student organizations should also refer to the “Organization Responsibilities and Expectations” section of the [Student Organization EXPLORE Handbook](#).

Others (prospective students, alumni, faculty, or staff) may be considered affiliates of student organizations, but do not have voting rights and cannot receive benefits otherwise granted to members of CPCC student organizations.

Alumni and Affiliates

Alumni, community professionals, and local/national associations can be a valuable resource to student organizations. It is recommended that student organizations maintain, when available, connections with their alumni and affiliates through emails and newsletters, invitations to campus activities, networking and career development events, and requests for speakers and mentors. However, in no instance shall alumni, community professionals, or members of local/national associations serve as student organization officers, have voting privileges with student organizations, or receive any funding from the student organization, SGA or otherwise.

Advisor Requirements

Student organizations are required to have at least one advisor. Full-time staff and faculty at CPCC are eligible to serve as an advisor to one student organization at a time. Advisors must annually sign the [Advisor Agreement](#) and should adhere to all the responsibilities therein, in addition to relevant CPCC policies, student organization guidelines, and expectations listed in the [Student Organization EXPLORE Handbook](#). Advisors serve on a voluntary basis and cannot receive gifts or stipends.

Loss/Removal of Advisor

During the course of the semester or year, an advisor of an organization might request to resign from his/her duties. Should this be the case, the advisor should provide their termination in writing to the [Associate Dean of Student Life](#).

Advisors may also be removed from their duties if it has been determined that they have violated College policy, the guidelines set forth in this handbook, or have violated the Advisor Agreement signed in the beginning of the year and submitted with the Student Organization Registration Form (SORF). Should students in an organization have particular concerns about the abilities or behavior of their student organization advisor, they should provide a written statement of their concern to the [Associate Dean of Student Life](#), who will then work with both the students and the advisor to resolve and/or mediate the concerns and, when necessary, make final recommendations.

Replacing an Advisor

Should a student organization need to replace an advisor, it is important that the student organization do so within three (3) weeks of the previous advisor’s departure in order to retain “active” status. Please work jointly with Student Life during this time as staff might be able to recommend an individual who would be able to fulfill the departing advisor’s role.

If the organization cannot find an advisor during the three (3) week grace period, the organization’s status will be changed to “inactive” for the remainder of the semester, unless otherwise noted by the

Associate Dean for Student Life. During this time, no monetary transactions can occur, unless otherwise approved by the Associate Dean for Student Life. The student organization may reapply for “active status” during the following semester, if a replacement advisor has been identified.

ORGANIZATION STATUS

Active/Inactive Status

The Office of Student Life is responsible for the recognition of all student organizations. Once an organization achieves “active” status for the first time, they are an officially recognized student organization at CCCC. Each fall, recognized organizations must be granted active status for that given academic year to continue to operate.

To become and/or remain active, an organization must:

- Complete an initial student organization orientation with [Mary Mozingo](#) in Student Life.
- Have a constitution and, if applicable, documents showing 501(c)(3) status on file with Student Life.
- Have at least one advisor and an updated [Advisor Agreement](#) on file every year.
- Have an updated [Student Organization Registration Form](#) (SORF) on file with Student Life. Student Life must be informed of any changes to the SORF during the academic year.
- Participate in any required training and/or campus activities (i.e. General Assembly meetings and campus festivals) as determined by Student Life.
- Uphold policies found in the [CCCC Student Handbook](#), in [College Policies and Procedures](#), and in the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

An organization will change to an “inactive” status if the above-mentioned requirements are not completed. An inactive organization cannot sponsor events/activities, access funds in their bank account, hold meetings, or travel. Once an organization is classified inactive, it must follow the process for obtaining active organization status to become active again.

Any organization which remains inactive for four (4) consecutive years will lose its official recognition and must follow the process of establishing a new organization if it ever seeks to be an organization again. Any funds remaining in that student organization’s account will be distributed to the SGA for allocation through the funds request process outlined on page 9.

Policy Violations and Organization Sanctions

Recognition as a CCCC student organization is a privilege, not a right. This privilege carries with it certain responsibilities. Organization members are obligated to conduct themselves in a manner that is a credit to themselves, their organization and fellow organization members, advisors, and the College.

Any violation of College policy, the Student Code of Conduct, or guidelines set forth by this document and the Office of Student Life is subject to possible sanctions. Sanctions for organizational violations may include, but are not limited to: official reprimand, probation, restitution, suspension of specific privileges and, in some cases, revocation of official recognition. In addition, individual student violations are subject to the CCCC student disciplinary procedures.

Complaints regarding alleged violations of the responsibilities by a student organization(s) should be directed to the Office of Student Life. Complaints regarding allegations must be submitted in writing to the [Associate Dean of Student Life](#) within thirty (30) days of the alleged infraction and should include a detailed description of the grounds for the complaint. This should include names, dates, places, times

and other information necessary for complete understanding of the allegation. The Associate Dean of Student Life will receive and review the complaint and investigate the matter further. Investigation may include holding a meeting with the involved parties to settle the dispute or, if necessary, impose sanctions of the involved student organization.

These situations will be handled on a case by case basis, by the organization advisor in cooperation with Student Life. If sanctions are imposed, the organization will receive a written letter documenting sanctions, which will be kept on file in the Office of Student Life. Should the organization wish to appeal the decision, they may provide their intent to appeal in writing to the [Associate Dean of Student Life](#) in accordance with the appeals process described below.

Revocation of Official Recognition

Revocation of official recognition means the College retracts its recognition of the student organization, resulting in the loss of all College rights and privileges on a permanent basis. Circumstances which could result in revoking a student organization's recognition are not limited to, but include:

- Violations of CPCC or Student Life policies or procedures.
- Violation of local, state and/or federal laws.
- Hazing.
- Discriminatory practices.
- Inappropriate use of student organization funds.

If a student organization's recognition is revoked, the organization must remain inactive for a minimum of one (1) semester. The Associate Dean for Student Life has the ability to reinstate an organization's official recognition after this time.

Appeals Process for Sanctions and Revocation

If an organization would like to appeal sanctions or official revocation, they may do so within five (5) business days of receiving the written notice of the sanctions/revocation. Appeals must be completed in writing and given to the Associate Dean of Student life. The Associate Dean will review the appeal, (if necessary) meet with the student(s) and advisor, and will make a decision within five (5) business days of receiving the original appeal. The decision will be provided in writing to the party submitting the appeal.

If a student(s) wishes to appeal the decision of the Associate Dean, they may do so in writing within five (5) business days of receiving the decision, by writing a final appeal to the Dean of Student Life. The Dean of Student Life will make the final decision within five (5) business days of receiving the final appeal and will notify the student(s) in writing of the decision. This will serve as the ultimate and final decision on the matter.

ORGANIZATION FINANCES

On-Campus Accounts

Once a student organization has been officially recognized, an on-campus bank account is assigned. Account numbers are on record in the Office of Student Life, and all transactions related to this account are managed by Student Life staff. This account will be used to distribute all Student Life/SGA funds to student organizations. Organizations may also deposit fund-raising income into this account. For up-to-date account information, please contact [Wendy Coley](#) in Student Life.

Off-Campus Accounts

In rare instances, some student organizations may also be permitted to establish off-campus bank accounts for fundraising revenues, provided the guidelines below are followed. Before starting the process of acquiring an off-campus bank account, the student organization must meet with the Associate Dean of Student Life and provide, in writing, their need and support for an off-campus account.

- **Step 1.** All student organizations with off-campus accounts are required to provide a tax ID number to the banking institution in order to set up an off-campus account. This information will be provided to you by the Associate Dean for Student Life after the approval for an off-campus account.
- **Step 2.** The account should be opened in the organization's name, in care of the advisor (c/o), at the College's address: Central Piedmont Community College, PO Box 35009, Charlotte, NC 28235.
- **Step 3.** The account must require two signatures: the advisor and the organization president or treasurer.
- **Step 4.** Copies of monthly statements should be sent to the Office of Student Life. Submit a [Financial Report Form](#) each semester and annually regarding the off-campus bank account to the Associate Dean of Student Life.

Use of Organization Funds

The Office of Student Life provides banking services and accounting advice to organizations, but it is the responsibility of each student organization to raise funds. Funds from an organization's bank account may be accessed to support activities mutually approved by the students and the advisor of the organization. Organization funds are designated as institutional dollars at CPCC, and must be spent according to guidelines set forth by the College. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to: alcohol, gifts for advisors, gift cards given to CPCC employees, and fuel gift cards (given to anyone).

If you have questions about what student organization funds can be used for, please contact staff in Student Life so that we can point you in the right direction. Additional information can be found in the [General P-Card Usage Guidelines](#).

Please follow the guidelines for accessing organization funds as explained below.

Petty Cash Advance

The College will allow student organizations to spend up to \$250 as petty cash expenditures, at one time, if the organization has adequate funds in its account. All original, itemized receipts must be saved and turned in to Student Life to finalize any petty cash transaction. Items on receipts should be for organization purchases only. Any items not for reimbursement should be on a separate receipt.

- **Step 1.** Complete a [Petty Cash Request Form](#) using the student organization's account number (contact Wendy Coley in Student Life for your account number). Both the advisor and at least one officer whose name and signature appears on the SORF must sign and date the form.
- **Step 2.** The completed form should be given to Wendy Coley in Student Life. She will help the organization representative obtain the cash needed. If the petty cash is to reimburse the organization member, original receipt(s) will need to be turned in with the Petty Cash Request Form.
- **Step 3.** All original receipts for the items purchased and any remaining cash must be saved and returned to Student Life within one (1) week. Business is complete when all receipts and remaining cash are turned in.

Request for Payment

Payment for any purchase not paid for with petty cash must be processed through Student Life and paid directly to the vendor from the organization's on-campus account. The Office of Student Life can use a p-card or request a check in these instances. Complete a [Payment Request Form](#), with supporting documentation, and return it to [Wendy Coley](#) in Student Life.

Organizations wishing to pay for the cost of hosting an individual or group (musician, performer, guest lecturer, etc.) must complete an artist contract (available at any Student Life office) between the College/CPCC Student Life and the guest. The contract must be approved and completed by staff in Student Life. Organization advisors, student officers, members, or community members are not authorized to sign contracts on behalf of CPCC. For more information about artist contracts, please see the "Types of Activities" section of this handbook or contact the [Student Life Coordinator](#) on your campus.

Reimbursements

Reimbursements are paid to advisors and members of student organizations only when an approved expense occurs and when adequate funds are in the student organization's on-campus account. Requests for reimbursement should be done within thirty (30) days of the receipt date. Complete a [Payment Request Form](#), with attached receipts and documentation, and return it to [Wendy Coley](#) in Student Life.

Deposits

Monies can be deposited into an organization's on-campus account at the Cashier's Office on any campus.

- **Step 1.** Contact [Wendy Coley](#) in Student Life to get the appropriate account number that will be needed for a deposit.
- **Step 2.** Complete a [Student Life Deposit Form](#) and a [Cashier's Depository Request Form](#). Staff in Student Life is available to assist with the completion of these forms, should a student/advisor need assistance.
- **Step 3.** Remit the forms and money to the Cashier's Office on your campus.
- **Step 4.** Return a copy of the deposit receipt to [Wendy Coley](#) in Student Life.
- **Step 5.** Retain a copy for your organization's records.

SGA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[General Assembly](#) meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in Overcash 242 at Central campus and are webcasted at area campus Student Life offices. The SGA Constitution requires that each student organization must send a representative to at least two meetings each semester. The SGA Representative can be an officer or a current member of the organization.

Whether or not a representative can attend a General Assembly meeting, student organizations should submit a [General Assembly Report Form](#) to the [Student Life Coordinator](#) on their campus by the Monday prior to the scheduled General Assembly meeting.

REQUESTING FUNDS FROM SGA

When a student organization is in need of funds for travel for a planned activity, the following steps should be followed:

- **Step 1.** Complete a [SGA Funds Request Form](#) in its entirety. Student Life staff is available to consult with student organizations on completing this form should questions arise. If the request includes any travel, the [Intent to Travel Form](#) must also be completed and included with the request.
- **Step 2.** Review the form with the organization advisor. If all the information is accurate and valid, the advisor should sign and date the request. Advisor approval is required.
- **Step 3.** Submit the completed SGA Funds Request Form and any supporting documentation (ex. agenda of the conference, budget for the travel expense/activity, etc.) to Student Life at least three (3) weeks prior to date of travel/activity or when an action must be taken related to travel (i.e. payment, reservations, etc.). The Associate Dean of Student Life will then pass the form onto the SGA Treasurer to schedule a review date/time.
 - [SGA](#) meets to review funds requests on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 12:30 pm in Overcash 242 on Central Campus. Arrangements can be made for groups making requests at other campuses, should representatives from that organization be unable to attend in person.
 - SGA typically covers costs with fixed amounts (i.e. registration, airfare, hotel, etc.). SGA will typically not approve funds for food, gas, or other undetermined amounts.
- **Step 4.** The Funds Request Form will be reviewed by the SGA. Student organization officers, representatives, and/or advisor should attend the Funds Request hearing to describe the plans, justify the cost, and answer any other questions.
- **Step 5.** After consideration, the advisor and student listed on the request will be notified as to the outcome of the funds request by the SGA Treasurer. Approved funds will be transferred into the organization's on-campus account.
- **Step 6.** Student organizations, whose funds requests are approved, must return a [SGA Summary Report Form](#) to the SGA within two (2) weeks after travel or activity. This may either be a written summary or an oral presentation to the SGA detailing the activity. The report should include at least the following:
 - The success and/or failure of the activity as a result of the approved funds.
 - Information on how this project benefitted the students and the College.

Funds are approved based solely on the information provided from the original Funds Request Form. Organizations may only request funds once for each activity. If any changes on the Funds Request Form occur after funds are approved, or the intended use of the funds change, the student organization's advisor and president must note the changes in writing to the Associate Dean of Student Life. Changes may include, but are not limited to: the name of the activity, the date of the activity, the venue of the activity, the content of the activity, the organizations co-sponsoring the activity, or any fees or other attendance charges. If the planned function is cancelled or postponed, the allocated funds shall be transferred back to SGA.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising activities are activities that generate income for the student organization. Fundraising activities may include, but are not limited to: selling baked goods, holding a silent auction, or working concession stands at community activities. Only officially recognized CPCC student organizations may engage in fundraising activities to sell products/services or to collect donations in the name of their

student organization. Student organizations must obtain prior approval from Student Life for all on-campus and off-campus fundraising activities.

All fundraising activities must be consistent with the mission of CPCC and the purpose of the student organization. Fundraising efforts will be approved on a first-come, first-serve basis each semester. An advisor must be present at all off-campus fundraising activities and must ensure that the organization adheres to all College rules and regulations regarding off-campus activities, student travel, the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Drug-Free College Policy](#) as outlined in [College Policies and Procedures](#), the [CPCC Catalog](#) and [Student Handbook](#).

Guidelines for Fundraising

- **Step 1.** Complete and submit a [Fundraising Request Form](#) to Student Life two (2) weeks prior to on-campus activities and one (1) month prior to off-campus activities. Student Life has the right to approve, decline, or amend requests depending on the nature of the fundraising activity.
- **Step 2.** If food is being sold, student organizations should complete a [Food Sale Form](#).
- **Step 3.** If a service is provided in return for a fee (i.e. ushering at community venues or working at concession stands), please provide the venue with accurate contact information for your [Student Life Coordinator](#) so that questions may be answered and to ensure that monies are sent to the Office of Student Life and deposited into the appropriate account.
- **Step 4.** All funds collected in the name of the student organization must be deposited into the organization account no more than 48 hours after the activity concludes and/or after money is collected. If the activity is on-going, please contact the [Student Life Coordinator](#) at your campus to discuss safe keeping of cash. Contact [Wendy Coley](#) in Student Life for the organization account information and [deposit forms](#).

Fundraising Ideas

- **Sell products:** The most frequent fundraiser used by student organizations are bake sales, popcorn sales, and the sale of organization t-shirts and/or promotional items.
- **Have an entry fee for an activity:** Maybe your student organization is hosting a competition, a conference, or a guest speaker or performance. Student organizations are permitted to charge for these kinds of ticketed activities.
- **Provide services for a fee:** Can your student organization provide a fee-for-service to someone? Cater a lunch, wash cars, yard/lawn work, or provide another service based on the skills in your group. Please refer to the “fee-for-service” section below for further guidance.
- **Sell “coupons/passes” for businesses:** [Auto Bell](#) and Smoothie King are two local businesses that partner with student organizations to sell coupons/passes on their behalf, which allows for your organization to keep a percentage of the proceeds.

Raffles

Raffles are prohibited at CPCC. A raffle is a form of lottery in which one or more persons buy one or more chances to win a prize. Please refer to the North Carolina [General Statute § 14-309.15](#).

CPCC has numerous officially recognized student organizations. In order to abide by the NC statute referred to above, only one student organization per year would be able to hold a raffle as a fundraiser. This would not fairly serve CPCC student organizations. For this reason, fundraising raffles at CPCC (or at any off-campus organization activity) are not permitted.

Alternative options for raffles may include:

- **Door prizes:** You can still offer ticketed door prizes, at no cost, for people that attend your activity.
- **Silent auctions:** Does someone in your student organization make great crafts? Could a group of students agree to do some yard work? Wash a car? Gather your best ideas and hold a silent auction where people bid on your offerings.

Fee-for-service

In the past, student organizations have worked concession stands, provided catering for events, and provided other services for profit. If your student organization is interested in providing a service for a fee, you must do the following:

- Inform the business/organization about proper check procedures.
 - Checks should be made payable to: CCCC – “Name of Student Organization”
 - Checks should be mailed to: Wendy Coley, Student Life, Central Piedmont Community College, PO Box 35009, Charlotte, NC 28235
- After the service has been concluded, provide the Student Life Coordinator on your campus with the expected amount and approximate date a check should be received so that we can assure funds are deposited into the correct student organization account. *Make sure that the business/organization includes the name of your organization on the check.

SOLICITATION OF DONATIONS

Solicitations of donations include receiving or requesting: money, goods, and/or services. Only officially recognized CCCC student organizations may engage in solicitation of donations in the name of their student organization. No student organization is allowed to approach or request donations from any business or organization without prior approval from the [CCCC Foundation](#).

Guidelines for Solicitation

- **Step 1.** Complete and submit a [Fundraising Request Form](#) to Student Life one (1) month prior to the date you would like to begin solicitations. Student Life has the right to approve, decline, or amend requests depending on the nature of the fundraising activity.
- **Step 2.** Attach a list of intended solicitations to the Fundraising Request Form, which will be forwarded to the [CCCC Foundation](#) for approval. This list must include the name of the business/organization, contact information, and details of what you are requesting.
- **Step 3.** Prior to receiving any non-cash gift (i.e. equipment, food, supplies, etc.), complete a [Gift-in-Kind Form](#) and submit to the Office of Student Life. Once approval is given, the student organization can receive the gift-in-kind.

Non-Profit Status

A common question from CCCC student organizations is whether or not your student organization is considered a non-profit. The short answer to this question is, NO. CCCC student organizations are not considered to be non-profit organizations, sometimes referred to as “501(c)(3)”.

- **What about when items (i.e. equipment, supplies) are donated to our organization? The business might want documentation from us?** When you are seeking gift-in-kind donations from local businesses, simply:
 - Contact Student Life with the donation information you are soliciting, including the name, address and fax number of the business. We are happy to send a letter to them

stating that your organization is an officially recognized student organization at CPCC. We can also provide them with other information they deem necessary.

- Once you receive the donation, be sure to complete the [Gift-in-Kind Form](#) and return it to Student Life so that we may inform the CPCC Foundation who tracks all donations to the college and college entities, and provides official receipts for all gifts.
- **What about when my student organization wants to sell food?** Any student organization may sell “fun foods” or bake sale items on campus. However, not all student organizations may be eligible to sell “hot food” (pizza, hot dogs, burgers, etc.). If you have documentation on file in Student Life stating that your organization is an officially recognized chapter of a larger professional association – who IS a non-profit and 501(c)(3) – then, your student organization may be allowed to sell hot food on campus. Please contact Student Life staff if you would like to pursue this. Please refer to the “Food Guidelines” section of this handbook on page 20.
- **What about if someone wants to donate funds to my student organization and receive a letter of “charitable contribution”?** In some instances, individuals or businesses have had interest in financially supporting a student organization or a special activity or project. All monetary donations to student organizations must be sent directly to the [CPCC Foundation](#) in name of the student organization. Student Life staff work jointly with staff in the CPCC Foundation to ensure that funds are received and used for the expressed purpose of the donation. Monetary gifts should never be directly deposited into a student organization’s on-campus bank account.
- **What if my student organization wants to hold a raffle?** Raffles are prohibited at CPCC. Please refer to the “Raffles” section of this handbook on pages 10 – 11.

TRAVEL

Travel by student organizations provides outstanding learning opportunities, but can be very expensive and involve inherent risks. All travel should be well planned, expenses should be kept to a minimum, and risks should be considered. Liability issues can be discussed with Student Life staff.

Student Life suggests that advisors discuss all travel plans with their campus Student Life Coordinator, who will consult with the Associate Dean of Student Life.

- **Step 1.** Complete an [Intent to Travel Form](#) three (3) weeks prior to travel or any action that must be taken related to travel (i.e. payment or reservations). The Intent to Travel Form will include a complete list of students, with ID numbers, who will be traveling. Hotel and transportation information is also included on this form.
 - Contact [Wendy Coley](#) in Student Life to arrange for reservation and payment of accommodations and registration fees. Please note that reservation and payment will not be processed until adequate funds exist in the student organization’s on-campus account.
- **Step 2.** Student Life will complete the College’s travel authorization process using the information provided on the Intent to Travel Form. Travel authorization is required, by the College, in order for the travel to be considered officially recognized.
- **Step 3.** Once the travel is completed, all original receipts for expenditures shall be returned to Student Life within one (1) week of your return. If reimbursements are involved, please complete a [Request for Payment Form](#).

Guidelines for Travel

- Unless otherwise approved by the Associate Dean of Student Life, at least one (1) advisor must be present during any student organization travel.
- Travel and related expenses funded by the organization should only support currently enrolled students and active members of the student organization, unless authorized by the Associate Dean of Student Life.
- Each participant is required to have the College's [Student Accident Insurance](#) (which can be purchased at the Cashier's office on any campus).
- It is recommended that each participant complete and sign a [Learning Contract](#), which is a binding agreement between students and advisors about expectations while away.
- It is recommended that each participant complete a [Medical Release Form](#), which details emergency information, allergies, medications, and other pertinent health-related information. Advisors are responsible for keeping Medical Release Forms in a secure, confidential place. These forms should be shredded upon return, unless there is an incident that warrants otherwise.
- Please note: Spring semester is a popular time for student organization travel. It is strongly recommended that student organizations submit an Intent to Travel Form as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary delay.

Travel Expectations

Those participating in or traveling to an off-campus activity are representing the College, and thus it is essential for their behavior to meet the highest standards of integrity and propriety. Student organization members and advisors are expected to uphold, at all times, the expectations expressed in this document, in the [CPCC Student Handbook](#), in [College Policies and Procedures](#), and in the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

If CPCC or Student Life policies are violated during travel, it is the responsibility of the advisor to report those violations to Student Life. Detailed records of incidents should document who was involved, who witnessed the activity, and the alleged policy violation. Student Life retains the authority to process any policy violation through the CPCC Student Code of Conduct. Please refer to the "Policy Violations and Sanctions" section on pages 5 – 6 for more information.

If the alleged policy violation occurs during the travel and is (as determined by the student organization advisor) severe enough that the student must be sent home, the student will be responsible for their expenses to return home. Advisors must consult with the Associate Dean of Student Life prior to sending a student home.

International Travel

In rare occasions student organizations may have the opportunity to travel abroad. This is an exciting adventure and a wonderful learning experience, but the following guidelines should be noted. Please keep in mind that these experiences are expensive and take a long time to plan.

- Should your organization decide to travel abroad, early notice (at least 6 months prior to the trip) should be given to the Associate Dean for Student Life.
- Immediately after notifying the Associate Dean for Student Life, your student organization will need to meet with the Director of International Learning. This office coordinates ALL international travel, including courses, individual study abroad, and student organization travel abroad.
 - Please visit the [international learning web site](#) for forms and up to date information about travel abroad.

- Please note that documentation for traveling abroad must be signed by the College President and other appropriate administrators. This can take time.
- Your student organization is required to hold a meeting, early in your planning, to include:
 - Your student organization advisor
 - Your student organization officers
 - The Associate Dean for Student Life
 - The Director of International Learning
 - Your campus Dean (or other relevant Administrator(s))
- **STUDENT LIFE REQUIRES THAT NO FEWER THAN TWO (2) FACULTY/STAFF MEMBERS MUST TRAVEL ABROAD WITH YOUR STUDENT ORGANIZATION.**
- Your student organization will be expected to develop a budget prior to the approval of the trip, which clearly denotes:
 - All transportation expenses
 - All hotel/accommodation costs
 - Incidental costs
 - Meals
 - Per person costs for each individual traveling
 - Your student organization's plan for payment of expenses
- In addition to other documents required by the International Learning Office, Student Life requires that all students sign a [Learning Contract](#) prior to leaving that clearly denotes the financial commitment incurred by the student organization, the individual student, and the advisors. Notice shall also be given to students regarding the expectation for behavior while away. Students will be informed that advisors have the discretion to, in the event of a policy violation, send a student home (at the student's personal expense) at any time while abroad.
- Students and advisors will be required to attend a spending orientation with Student Life staff, which will cover guidelines for tracking expenses and receipts while abroad. This will include details on exchanging currency, how to report expenses once back on campus, reimbursement procedures, etc.

Transportation

Student Life Vans

- Two Student Life vans are available to student organizations for travel when reserved in advanced. Only college employees who are approved drivers are allowed to drive College vehicles. Employees interested in driving college vehicles must annually complete the [Motor Vehicle Report \(MVR\) Inquiry Form](#).
- Student Life vans can be reserved by calling the Student Life office at 704.330.6584 to speak with [Johnnie Roach](#). Before travel, a designee from the organization will need to stop by the Office of Student Life at Central Campus to pick up the envelope for the van.
- Each van envelope contains a van key, a p-card for gas purchase only, and a smaller envelope for the gas receipt(s). Be sure to put the gas receipt(s) in the envelope labeled "receipts."
- Unless otherwise noted by the Office of Student Life, gas costs for travel within NC and SC (using Student Life vans) will be paid for by Student Life. Fuel costs outside of this area will be charged to the student organization. Note that the availability of funds can change at any time and this practice could be suspended.

College Vehicles

- College vehicles can be reserved through Facility Services by calling (704) 330-6000. A [CPCC Vehicle Use Authorization Form](#) must be completed and returned to Facility Services.
- Fuel use will be charged to the student organization. Beginning and ending mileage should be recorded in the logs provided when the van keys are picked up. When the van is returned, the interior should be clean and the fuel tanks should be filled.
- Only college employees who are approved drivers are allowed to drive College vehicles. Employees interested in driving college vehicles must annually complete the [Motor Vehicle Report \(MVR\) Inquiry Form](#).

Vehicle Rentals

In some cases, CPCC vehicles are unavailable for travel and student organization use. In this event, a student organization may rent a vehicle for travel (assuming student organization funds are available to cover this expense). Students are not permitted to drive rented vehicles.

CPCC has state contract agreements with car rental agencies and these preferred vendors should be used. Please review Procurement's policies and procedures on [rental cars](#). Student Life staff can provide your student organization with direction in this matter. If a student organization rents a vehicle for travel, it is the advisor's responsibility to ensure that the student organization abides by the rental agreement set forth by the vendor.

Bus rental: In some instances student organizations may wish to charter a bus. Student Life has frequent contacts with various travel companies. [Wendy Coley](#) is an excellent resource for business recommendations.

Personal Vehicles

This policy applies to students who have received permission from the Associate Dean of Student Life to operate their personal vehicles for college business. As a member of a student organization, you are voluntarily traveling on behalf of your group. You are never required to participate, so to do so is at your own risk. CPCC's automobile insurance policy does not provide coverage in case of injury or accident; liability falls under the driver's personal automobile insurance. Any student driving personal vehicles for college business must sign a [Hold Harmless Agreement](#), and must have a valid driver's license and proof of current automobile insurance.

General Operating Instructions

- Students choosing to drive their own vehicle must received approval from their advisor regarding travel arrangements to, from, and during the trip/activity.
- Students choosing to drive their own vehicle for college business will not be reimbursed for fuel costs or any other cost related to such travel, unless otherwise approved by your advisor.
- Personal drivers must drive responsibly and are required to follow all traffic laws.
- Personal drivers must immediately inform the advisor if there are any problems during travel.

Risk and Liability

Some student organization activities, fundraisers and/or travel experiences come with inherent risks. In those instances, student organization advisors should contact Student Life to consult about [Medical Release Forms](#), liability waivers, or [student accident insurance](#). It is the responsibility of the student organization and advisor to inform the Office of Student Life when occasions of potential risk arise and to complete any documentation needed prior to the activity, fundraiser, or travel date. Student Life staff can assist student organizations in these instances.

Reporting Accidents or Injuries

It is the responsibility of the student organization advisor to notify the Office of Student Life within 24 hours of any injury occurring at any student organization activity, fundraiser, travel, etc. The advisor and injured student should provide a written account of the accident to the Office of Student Life, and may also need to complete any related incident or accident paperwork required by the College.

ORGANIZATION SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

In addition to holding regular organization meetings, student organizations are encouraged to sponsor activities on campus to promote the organization, build community, and provide opportunities for the enhancement of academic, cultural, and social aspects of student life at CPCC. Student Life strongly encourages student organizations to consult Student Life Coordinators when activities to seek their expertise in putting together a successful event. Student organizations are encouraged to partner with Student Life during the semester. Oftentimes, student organizations may be invited to already planned events/activities sponsored by Student Life or another student organization.

Scheduling an Activity

Planning events and activities takes time, organization, communication, and teamwork. The following steps should be followed when planning activities outside regularly scheduled organization meetings:

- **Step 1.** Organizations must complete and return an [Activity Proposal Form](#) to the Student Life Coordinator at their campus for prior approval of all organization events, programs, and activities. Student organization events held off-campus are subject to all College policies and procedures and must be approved by the Associate Dean of Student Life.
- **Step 2.** Activity proposals will be reviewed by the Student Life Coordinator on your campus, who will follow with a meeting to discuss and confirm event details. This meeting may include:
 - Confirmation that the student organization advisor will attend the activity.
 - Facility availability and campus resources (i.e. staff resources and/or equipment needed).
 - Review of funding needed to support the event/activity.
 - Confirmation that the activity complies with College policy and procedures.

**While Student Life staff work to support the success of student organizations on each CPCC campus, proposed meetings or activities that occur outside regular operating hours for CPCC campuses, staff and faculty, or activities that would require support, funding or coordination outside of what is ordinarily provided may not be approved.

Guidelines

- Please refer to the “Risk and Liability” section of this handbook on pages 15 – 16.
- At the conclusion of all activities, it is the responsibility of the sponsoring student organization(s) to thoroughly clean all rooms/areas used, including decorations, trash, food or other material used during the activity. Any damages will be charged at the current rate for materials and hourly labor.

Types of Activities

Lecturers/Performers/Invited Guests

Special invited guests can be a great way to involve your members, and develop interest from others. To invite a guest to speak or perform for an honorarium or performance fee:

- **Step 1.** Student organizations should complete the [Activity Proposal Form](#), following the process lined out in the previous section.
- **Step 2.** If approved, your Student Life Coordinator will have your student organization complete an Artist Contract (available at any Student Life office) designating who, what, when, where, and the honorarium/fee. This contract is a binding agreement for service and payment. The advisor and an organization officer must sign and date the contract at least three (3) weeks prior to the scheduled activity.
- **Step 3.** Return the completed form to Student Life, who will approve and initiate plans for payment.
- **Step 4.** The advisor should follow-up by contacting [Wendy Coley](#) in Student Life one to two days prior to the scheduled engagement to arrange pick up of the check.

** Note: It can often take up to four weeks to produce a check from an artist contract, in addition to requiring the payee to enroll in the NC e-procurement system. We encourage you to think creatively when inviting guests to campus on behalf of your student organization. Gift certificates (as long as the recipient is not a CPCC employee) and other gift items (plants, baskets, CPCC regalia, etc.) are great ways to thank your guest and can often be purchased without a check request (using p-card, petty cash, etc.). Please refer to the "Organization Funds" section of this handbook on page 7 for further guidance.

Collections/Drives

Collections and drives are good ways to participate in community service. To arrange for a collection or drive of any kind, please contact [Service-Learning](#). Your student organization will need to complete the [Service Collection and Drive Form](#), including details about the drive and/or collection.

Please keep in mind that collections and drives often require space and storage of materials and goods. Service-Learning and Student Life will often be unable to support every request of a student organization doing a service drive. Please think carefully about your plans for storing donated items and contact your campus [Student Life Coordinator](#) to discuss options.

Service Projects

Student organizations are encouraged to give back to CPCC and the community through service projects. Although there is a [Service Club](#), service from all organizations is appreciated and rewarding for those participating. Community service is an opportunity to team build, meet new people, network with agency staff, discover your talents/interests, and learn about issues facing the community.

- Please contact [Mary Mozingo](#) in Student Life/Service-Learning to learn more about available community service opportunities.
- All student organization sponsored service projects must be registered with the Service Learning Center. After completion of a service project, please submit a [Service Documentation Form](#) to [Dena Shonts](#) in Service-Learning.

Prohibited Activities

CPCC student organizations are prohibited from any actions or behaviors defined and described in [CPCC Policies and Procedures](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), the [Drug Free College policy](#), and within these student organization guidelines. Other specific warnings may be included below:

- **Gambling:** According to the CPCC Student Code of Conduct, Article IV, section B. 7., “Gambling,” the College prohibits gambling, card games, and other games that foster disruptive behavior. This includes participating on College premises or at College-sponsored activity sites in an activity where making a set wager or playing for money or material is involved. This includes card playing, video games, and all other activities related to playing for money.

Outside Vendors

CPCC Policy 6.33, [Non-College Related Solicitation of Employees and Students on College Premises](#), states that solicitations from the general public on CPCC premises are prohibited. However, in some instances, student organizations may wish to partner with outside businesses or vendors to fundraise. This might include collecting books for re-sale, collecting expired ink cartridges, or other fundraising ventures. Outside vendors are prohibited from selling items or promoting their business or product on campus without prior approval from Student Life, and they must meet the criteria outlined below.

Approval for on-campus sales by outside vendors, in partnership with an officially recognized student organization, will only be considered when it is determined that the vendor:

- Provides significant positive value to the student organization.
- Is not in competition with vendors holding current College-wide contracts.
- Is not duplicative of goods and/or services currently available through established on-campus sources.
- Sells products that are not counterfeits of brand-name goods.
- Does not undermine the academic integrity of the College.
- Does not violate any College Policies and Procedures or guidelines listed in this document or the Student Code of Conduct.

To host an outside vendor on campus, a student organization must:

- **Step 1.** Complete and submit an [Activity Proposal Form](#) to the Student Life Coordinator on your campus, who will provide prior approval of all organization events, programs, and activities. Student organization activities held off-campus are subject to all College policies and procedures and must be approved by the Associate Dean of Student Life.
- **Step 2.** Attach documentation from the vendor that describes their understanding of this partnership and the benefit to the CPCC student organization. CPCC and Student Life may also require documentation of permits or other documents as necessary.
- **Step 3.** Activity proposals will be reviewed by the Student Life Coordinator on your campus, who will follow with a meeting to discuss and confirm event details**. This meeting will include confirmation that the activity complies with College policy and procedures.

**While Student Life staff work to support the success of student organizations on each CPCC campus, proposed meetings or activities that occur outside regular operating hours for CPCC campuses, staff and faculty, or activities that would require support, funding or coordination outside of what is ordinarily provided may not be approved.

Activity Resources

Requesting Equipment

Student Life equipment includes, but is not limited to: popcorn machines, coolers, carts, easels, hand trucks, appliances, button maker, etc. Please contact the Student Life Coordinator on your campus to learn more about campus equipment and to make reservations. All Student Life equipment is reserved on a first come, first served basis. Student Life must approve any equipment furnished by an outside vendor.

Student Life equipment must be returned by the close of business the day of the activity. If the activity runs past hours of operation, it may be returned by noon the following day. Equipment must be returned clean, dry, and in its original condition. If, upon return, the equipment and/or any associated equipment is missing and/or damaged, the student organization will be charged.

Reserving Campus Facilities

Student Life will assist student organization requests to meet in conference rooms or classrooms on campus. Requests must be made well in advance since these requests often must be scheduled through the Dean's office. Space is not guaranteed and is reserved on a first come, first serve basis. Conference rooms are used frequently during the semester, so reservations should be made in advance.

Other important points

- Please be good neighbors when using any space at CCCC. Leave it clean when you leave, move furniture back, turn off the lights and/or equipment, and make sure the door is closed.
- **What if the door is locked?** If at Central campus, simply print off the emailed reservation confirmation as proof that your group has the space scheduled and ask Security to open the door for you. If at area campuses, please contact the Student Life Coordinator.
- **What if we are asked to leave?** Proper, professional behavior in all campus facilities is expected at all times. It's important to keep in mind that others use the same space and that faculty could be teaching in an adjacent space.
- **Are there days and times that student organization meetings may not be held?** In keeping with the guidelines established above, proposed meetings or activities that occur outside regular operating hours for CCCC campuses, staff and faculty, or activities that require support, funding or coordination outside what is ordinarily provided, may not be approved.

Security

If, as determined by the Office of Student Life, a student organization is able to hold a meeting or activity outside normal operating days and times, it is the responsibility of the student organization advisor to contact security on the respective campus with the day, time, and purpose of the meeting and/or activity. Appropriate Student Life staff must be included in this written request.

Activities open to the campus and/or the public may be required to have a security presence in addition to that already present on campus. Any organization planning an activity that requires additional security must speak with the Associate Dean of Student Life prior to advertising the activity. Any costs related to hiring additional security must be incurred by the organization hosting the activity.

FOOD GUIDELINES

Student organizations are required to adhere to policies set by the College and the Mecklenburg County Health Department when involving food at events and fundraisers. Please consult Student Life staff when adding food for sale to your meeting or event. Note: In order to sell or give-away food, a student(s) must be representing an officially recognized CPCC student organization.

In accordance with the rules and regulations set by the Mecklenburg County Health Department and the General Statutes of North Carolina, CPCC student organizations planning to sell or give away food on any CPCC campus must abide by the following guidelines:

Plan to sell food?

- Officially recognized student organizations may sell food considered non-perishable (such as pre-packaged chips and drinks), bake sale items (such as cookies, brownies, pre-packaged candy, rice-crispy treats, etc.), or “fun foods” (such as dip ice cream, coffee, popcorn, cotton candy, and soft pretzels).
- Potentially hazardous items such as cream-filled cakes and pies are prohibited.

Plan to sell HOT food (hamburgers, pizza, hot dogs, etc.)?

- Officially recognized student organizations may sell hot food only if they can provide documentation proving they have 501(c)(3) status and are exempt from federal income tax. Please refer to the “Non-Profit Status” section on pages 11 – 12 for further guidance. If your organization can prove official recognition as a member of an over-arching non-profit group, and has accurate documentation on file with Student Life, your organization may be able to sell hot food (in line with regulations outlined by the Mecklenburg County Health Department).
- These student organizations may only sell hot food once a month, for a period not to exceed two consecutive days.
- For more information about regulations for temporary food service events, please refer to the [Mecklenburg County Health Department](#).

Plan to give away FREE food?

- Officially recognized student organizations are permitted to give away food (non-perishable or hot) at no cost.
- Organizations do not have to have documentation of 501(c)(3) status if they are giving away food, as long as there is no charge for the food or donation accepted.

Plan to have someone else sell food for you?

- Student organizations partnering with an outside vendor or caterer to sell food for a profit must complete the [Food Sale Form](#) and attach to that document: the name of the vendor, contact information for the vendor (including phone and email), and a description of how the profit will be shared between the vendor and the student organization.
- CPCC Student Life will share the information with appropriate staff in College Services to ensure that the partnership does not violate other vending service agreements on campus. Student Life will also work with College Services to ensure that the vendor is appropriately licensed to sell food. Student Life and College Services must grant approval to the student organization before the fundraiser can be held.

Student organizations meeting the above-mentioned requirements to sell or give away food must:

- **Step 1.** Complete a [Food Sale Form](#) two weeks prior to event and submit to the Student Life Coordinator on your campus. Organizations must also work with Student Life to reserve space and/or equipment on campus, if deemed appropriate by the Student Life staff at that campus.
- **Step 2.** If selling food, organizations may receive petty cash advances (paid out of their on-campus account) to purchase food and/or ingredients. Complete a [Petty Cash Request Form](#) and submit with the Food Sale Form. Petty cash reimbursement after purchases will not be issued unless authorized by the student organization advisor or Student Life staff. Please refer to the “Petty Cash Advance” section on page 7 for further guidance.
- **Step 3.** If applicable, return receipts to the Student Life Coordinator on your campus.
- **Step 4.** Deposit profits (in addition to any remaining petty cash) into your organization’s on-campus account within 24 hours of the conclusion of the event.

Student Life appreciates your cooperation with these regulations. If you organization has any questions about selling food or would like to learn more about the regulations set forth by the Health Department, please contact the [Associate Dean of Student Life](#).

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

Officially recognized student organizations may advertise meetings, activities, and general organization information.

Student Organization Logos

Organizations are encouraged to develop and design their own organization logo. All logos must be approved by Student Life. If the organization wants to use the Student Life logo for any advertising or apparel purposes, they must contact the Student Life Office for approval.

Copying/Printing

Student Life will assist organizations with reasonable printing requests. Bring a copy-ready original to Student Life at least two (2) days prior to the day copies are needed. Any print jobs requiring more than 20 copies must be paid for by the organization and should be printed through [Campus Printing](#). Student Life reserves the right to deny any printing request deemed inappropriate or excessive.

Signage

Student organizations are encouraged to promote their activities, meetings, events, and fundraisers on campus. There are many ways in which a student organization can post information on and around campus. Please note that CPCC must adhere to city ordinances and guidelines set by the city of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Student organizations should always consult Student Life staff to ensure that plans for signage and promotion on campus fit within the designated guidelines that the College must adhere to.

Signage and promotion on campus may in no way deface buildings, classrooms, hallways, sidewalks, parking lots or other campus facilities.

- **Flyers/Posters:** should always be approved by Student Life staff on your campus and should only be posted on pre-approved bulletin boards and other suitable locations on campus. Please refer to the Posting Policy below.
- **Banners:** if your student organization has a banner to be hung on campus, please consult the Student Life staff on your campus. There are limited locations on campus where banners can be

hung. Student Life will help you determine an appropriate time frame for your banner to hang on campus.

- Other temporary signage on campus should be discussed together with Student Life and other campus personnel where appropriate.

Posting Policy

Student organizations must adhere to the following regulations when posting materials designated in this document and outlined in the College Policy and Procedures:

- Student organizations may only post on designated Student Life bulletin boards. Posters and flyers are not allowed to be placed on windows or on telephone poles outside the building. Please contact the Student Life office at your campus for details.
- Student Life approval (a dated stamp) is required prior to posting on any bulletin board. Without prior approval, materials will be removed.
- All materials must contain the name of the student organization.
- Only one copy of each sign, flyer, handbill, or other material may be posted in a designated area.
- The student organization is responsible for removing any posted material within 48 hours after an activity has occurred.
- Student Life reserves the right to deny any material deemed inappropriate.

Advertising

Student organizations are encouraged to use creative methods of advertising planned activities. Several effective methods of on-campus advertisement are listed below:

- **Student Life Calendar of Events** is a Google calendar that highlights activities and events sponsored by Student Life and Service Learning. Contact the [Student Life Coordinator](#) at your campus to post an activity/event.
- **CPCC Campus Facebook pages** are a great resource to post your activity/event and connect with CPCC students, faculty, and staff. Contact the [Student Life Coordinator](#) at your campus to post an activity/event.
- **CPCC Today** is a weekly student newsletter delivered every Wednesday to your CPCC student e-mail account. Contact Student Life on your campus to submit items to CPCC Today.
- **The Communicator** is our weekly faculty/staff online newsletter. Deadline for information is due Wednesday at noon. Contact Student Life on your campus to submit items to The Communicator.
- **CPCC Channel 17** is our College's local cable channel. Contact Student Life on your campus to submit items to CPCC 17.
- **Campus marquees** are the three large signboards on the Central Campus. Campus activities are posted as the limited space allows. Marquee requests should be made two weeks in advance through Student Life by contacting [Johnnie Roach](#) in Student Life.
- **Media coverage** must be coordinated through Community Relations and Marketing Services. Please contact the [Associate Dean of Student Life](#) if there is sufficient reason to have media coverage for an event.

Online Presence of Student Organizations

CPCC Student Life works hard to ensure that all information posted on the Student Life web site is accurate and up to date. In order to do this well, CPCC student organizations must do their part to maintain accurate information online. This can be difficult to do when organization membership often changes from semester to semester and year to year. Because of this, the following guidelines have been established.

Web sites

- **Does your student organization wish to create a web site?**
 - We recommend that CPCC student organizations take advantage of “[Google Sites](#),” provided by your CPCC student e-mail account. “Google Sites” is easy to use and develop, and is perfect for student organizations.
 - If you are developing a Google site for your student organization, please email [Mary Mozingo](#) with the site name and the person who developed it. She will then contact ITS at CPCC and inform them of the student organization site.
 - A link to your web site can be posted with the description of your student organization on the [List of Student Organizations page](#).
- **Does your student organization already have a web site?**
 - If your student organization already has an external web site, please include that information on your annual SORF.
- Web sites should be maintained on a regular basis. Should a web site become dormant, Student Life may request that the site be deleted permanently.
- Web sites should contain accurate information relevant to the student organization and should always be used in a professional, positive manner. Student Life has the authority to address or sanction a student organization should questions arise regarding the material and media posted on a student organization web site.
- Relevant College Policies: All student organizations must adhere to the following CPCC policies regarding technology:
 - [Policy 6.20, Use of CPCC Information Technologies](#)
 - [Policy 6.23, Network and Internet Access](#)
 - [Student Code of Conduct, IV, B.5, Use of Technology](#)

Social Media

The use of social media has become a popular and effective way to promote interests to a wide variety of people. CPCC uses Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn with its official CPCC accounts. Student organizations must consider the following points before using social media with your student organization.

- ***Do you wish to primarily communicate with the members of your student organization?***
 - Most student organizations find that they’re communicating on Facebook with other members. Reminding people of meetings, asking them about organization business, reminding them to complete tasks, etc. For this purpose, having a closed group on Facebook is the preferred method. That way, student leaders can approve members and have the most effective conversations with the most relevant individuals. Please consult your Student Life Coordinator if you have questions about closed groups on Facebook.
- ***Do you wish to only reach the campus your student organization is housed at?***
 - If your message is primarily relevant to your campus (maybe you want to promote an upcoming event, fundraiser, speaker, etc.) then your Student Life Coordinator on your campus can post your message through the Facebook account affiliated with your campus. This is helpful when your message applies only to students and staff on your campus.
- ***Do you want to reach a larger audience with your message? Is it relevant on all campuses?***
 - If you wish to reach a college-wide audience, and your advisor and the Student Life Coordinator on your campus agree, you can submit your message to be included on the CPCC Facebook page, an official CPCC tweet, or on LinkedIn. Student Life staff can help you with this decision.

Expectations

CPCC recognizes that social media sites (such as Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) and personal blogs/web sites can be effective tools for exchanging information. CPCC does not prohibit students from joining and participating in online communities as individuals. However, any online behavior on behalf of officially recognized student organizations is subject to [College Policies and Procedures](#), the guidelines listed in this document, and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

CPCC student organizations must ensure that any content on social media sites and/or personal blogs/web sites is appropriate to their student organization's mission and purpose, as well as students' roles as student leaders at CPCC.

The following types of content are prohibited on blogs, web sites, and social media sites:

- Do not post confidential or proprietary information about the College, its students, its employees, or its alumni. Employees must still follow all applicable federal privacy requirements including [FERPA](#) and [HIPAA](#), and adhere to all applicable College privacy and confidentiality [policies](#). Employees and/or students who share confidential information do so at the risk of disciplinary action and personal liability.
- Do not use the CPCC logo or any other College images or iconography on personal social media sites or any sites not approved by the Office of Student Life.
- Derogatory language or demeaning statements.
- Inappropriate or incriminating images depicting hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, illegal drug use, or any other inappropriate behavior/language.
- Content that violates state or federal law.
- Information or images that are obscene, untrue, or defamatory.

Best Practices

- **Strive for accuracy:** Get the facts straight before posting them online via social media or other online resources. Review content for grammatical and spelling errors. This is especially important if posting on behalf of the College in any capacity.
- **Be respectful:** Understand that content contributed to a social media site or other web site may encourage comments or discussion of opposing ideas. Responses should be considered carefully in light of how they would reflect on the individual and/or the College. All responses should be courteous and professional.
- **Remember your audience:** Be aware that an online presence is, or easily can be, made available to the public at large. This includes prospective students, current students, colleagues, peers and other stakeholders. Consider this before publishing to ensure the post will not alienate, harm or provoke any of these groups.
- **Be transparent:** On personal sites, identify your views as your own. If you identify yourself as a CPCC faculty or staff member online, it should be clear that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the College.
- **Photography:** Photographs posted online can easily be appropriated by visitors. Consider adding a watermark to protect your intellectual property. You may also use images at a size sufficient for viewing on the Web, but not suitable for printing.

Procedures

- **Step 1.** CPCC student organizations wishing to have an online presence must make their requests on the Student Organization Request Form (SORF) provided to Student Life. Student Life must approve all sites prior to activation. The Student Life Coordinator will then follow with a discussion including the student leaders and the Advisor. Considerations to the points mentioned in this section will serve as a guide to the discussion.
- **Step 2.** The Student Life Coordinator will inform CPCC Community Relations & Marketing Services of any new social media site and/or group, and will reflect the change on the student organization's SORF.
- **Step 3.** It is required that a designated Student Life staff person be included as an administrator to any CPCC student organization social media site, in the event that content should be removed or for termination of the site, group, etc.

CPCC and Student Life have the authority to request deletion of unauthorized sites affiliated with the College. Please note that College policy regarding social media may change at any given time. Student Life will always default to the guidelines set forth by CPCC Community Relations & Marketing Services when working with social media.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Relevant College Policies

The policies and procedures that pertain to student organizations include:

- Chapter 6
 - [6.07 Travel](#)
 - [6.11 Campus Notices](#)
 - [6.15 Use of College Facilities](#)
 - [6.31 Free Speech, Public Assembly, and Distribution/Petitioning Regulations](#)
 - [6.33 Non College Related Solicitation](#)
- Chapter 7
 - [7.00 Conduct of Students](#)
 - [7.01 Drug Free College](#)
 - [7.04 Student Organizations](#)
 - [7.05 Fraternities and Sororities](#)
 - [7.13 Discrimination and Harassment](#)
 - [7.15 Student Mediation Program](#)
 - [7.16 Accommodation Request Procedures for Persons with Disabilities](#)

Student Organization EXPLORE Handbook

The [EXPLORE Handbook](#) is used to help guide students through the process of establishing a new student organization at CPCC. However, it is a good resource to reference throughout the year on student officer and advisor responsibilities and expectations.

Student Organization EVOLVE Handbook

The [EVOLVE handbook](#) is designed to meet the leadership development needs of student organizations. It is a resource to assist student leaders with handling the day-to-day operations of your organization and provides necessary tools for continued success.

Family Resource Center

The [Family Resource Center](#) serves CPCC students, staff, and faculty on all six campuses. The Center's mission is to enhance student success through healthy lifestyle programming and to support the CPCC community by identifying resources and services to assist with life challenges.

The Family Resource Center (located in Overcash 254 on Central Campus) offers:

- A warm, welcoming environment with access to a variety of educational materials.
- Educational workshops and drop-in programs focusing on topics such as healthy eating, tobacco cessation, financial management, handling stress, and domestic violence awareness.
- Support and encouragement to individuals dealing with major life events, and assistance in identifying helpful resources both on and off campus.
- Referrals to agencies and programs that may be of further assistance.