

# Registration Information and Student Records

The Registrar maintains students' records, sets the academic master schedule, distributes grades and administers many of the College's academic policies.

Students should contact the Registrar Office or visit the Registrar website for information ranging from class schedules and important registration dates; grades, records, and access to records; verification of enrollment, attendance as either a full or part-time student for insurance, banks, and employers; graduation applications; the final exam schedule for each semester; the list of graduates for each semester; cancellation of classes with low enrollment; changes of program; and protection of students' privacy rights as well as questions regarding the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Most of the information above can be found at the Registrar's Office website at [www.sunvorange.edu/academic\\_services/](http://www.sunvorange.edu/academic_services/).

## ■ Registration

Registration for credit classes at SUNY Orange is done either in person or online depending upon student eligibility criteria.

New students must complete the following steps to register for classes:

- Complete the Admissions application.
- Take the Placement Test or have previously been granted a Waiver based upon successful completion of college level English and Mathematics courses.
- Submit Immunization Records.
- Attend a NewSTART session.
- Complete registration at Student Services Central.

Currently enrolled students or re-admitted students should:

- Consult an Academic Advisor to select courses and obtain your web registration PIN#, if applicable.
- Some re-admitted students may be required to attend a ReSTART session.
- Register either online or through Student Services Central after meeting with an advisor.

All students:

- Contact the Financial Aid Office, if you are seeking financial aid.
- Ensure proper payment arrangements are made to pay the entire bill when due.

## ■ Academic Procedures

The degree requirements and academic regulations contained in the SUNY Orange Catalog affect all students who begin their study during the period covered in this Catalog. All information is accurate as of the time of publication. For the most current information, please consult the College web page at [www.sunyorange.edu](http://www.sunyorange.edu). Policies are subject to change.

Current information relative to changes in program or academic policies can be obtained from the Office for Academic Affairs, which is located on the second floor of Morrison Hall. The Vice President for Academic Affairs is authorized to waive the application of any College academic policy in a particular case.



## Academic Year

The academic year is composed of two semesters—Fall and Spring—each of which is a minimum of 15 instructional weeks long. Courses offered in the summer are a minimum of six weeks. Intersession courses, when offered, are usually three or four weeks in duration.

## Cancellation of Classes

Classes may be cancelled due to low enrollment. However, any cancellation will be announced no later than the Friday before a full semester begins or on the day before a half semester begins.

During the semester, individual classes will be canceled for the day, evening or both when hazardous driving conditions or similar inclement weather circumstances make such action advisable. Cancellation of day classes does not necessarily mean evening classes are also cancelled. Cancellation of day classes is usually announced at no later than 6 a.m. on the impacted day while cancellation of evening classes is usually announced at approximately 2 p.m. News regarding delays and cancellations can be found on the College's website and social media sites, broadcast over local radio stations, and announced on the College's main telephone number, (845) 344-6222.

The College reserves the right to reschedule classes. Generally, evening classes are made up on the Friday evening of the next week.

## Change of Program

To move from one SUNY Orange degree program to another, a student must complete a Change of Curriculum form. The department chairperson for the new degree program must approve the change. In order for a change of curriculum to be processed for the current semester, the form must be received by the Registrar's Office by the end of the third week of the semester. Any change of curriculum received after the third week will be effective for the subsequent term. Forms are available from Student Services Central.

## Conduct Expected of Students

The College reserves the right to dismiss any student who exhibits conduct incompatible with the purposes of

## Academic Procedures / Course Policies and Procedures

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the College. The SUNY Orange Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, and staff have a primary concern for the academic achievement, standards and personal integrity of our students; recognize their obligation to protect college property; and take a special interest in the mental and physical health of the college community.

Committed to preserving the peace, uplifting campus morale and creating a civil climate on its campuses, SUNY Orange has adopted specific policies and procedures regarding student conduct. These policies and procedures, in the form of the Code of Student Conduct, are published in the Student Handbook.

### Developmental Course Placement

For students who have tested into two or more developmental subjects (reading, writing or mathematics), the College has the following academic procedures in place to monitor their progress:

- A Developmental Review Board is convened by the Vice President of Academic Affairs and is comprised of a chair and four faculty members with at least one representative from the English Department and one representative from the Math Department. The chair of the board is the Director of Academic Support and Testing or a designee. The board is assembled by the chair who selects from a list of faculty volunteers who request to serve on the Board.
- Students who are placed on academic probation (earned less than 2.0 Cum GPA) or receive a DVF, ZDF, or DVH in a developmental course will be sent a letter stating that the student's records have been reviewed. Based on a student's academic progress, there may be a limit placed on the number of credits that the student may take. Students will have the option of meeting with the Developmental Review Board to discuss their circumstances and to appeal the credit limit decision.

The following policy is in place for students regardless of the number of developmental courses they are required to take:

- Students who receive a grade of "DVH" or "DVF" in a particular developmental course will be allowed to repeat that developmental course only two additional times for a total of three attempts. "Attempts" include those made in summer sessions. After a second attempt, students who do not pass a developmental course must meet with one of the Associate Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs. If students do not successfully complete a particular developmental course on the third attempt, they will be separated from the College for one year. Students may not appeal separation except if they met with an Academic AVP after the second unsuccessful attempt and provided documented extenuating circumstances. Upon return to the college following a separation, students will be granted one attempt to successfully repeat the course(s). A grade of "DVH" or "DVF" in this attempt will result in another year's separation with no option to appeal.

- The advisor and student will use the Placement Test results to ensure that the student takes the required courses at the appropriate level. Students must take the required reading and writing courses each semester until their developmental requirements have been successfully completed. Students who place into developmental math courses must complete these courses even though there may not be a specific math requirement for their program. As determined by Academic Departments, students must select degree credit courses from the permitted lists (See Permitted Lists in the Learning Assistance Services Section of the Catalog).

## ■ Course Policies and Procedures

### Prerequisites

A prerequisite course is one that prepares a student for more advanced courses in an academic field. Prerequisites may be waived or substituted at the discretion of the appropriate department chair. A signed waiver form approved by the department chairperson must be filed with the Registrar's Office. Students with credits earned at a previous institution are urged to check with the Registrar's Office to determine appropriate course equivalencies.

**Note:** Course prerequisites are available on-line as part of the catalog in the course descriptions area and also on-line as part of the course section search feature. A student without the appropriate prerequisites or waiver can be withdrawn from the course by the instructor or by the Registrar.

### Course Outline/Syllabus

Course outlines and/or syllabi are distributed to students and appropriate department chairs at the beginning of each semester. Each syllabus must contain the elements identified by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Elements that may be included in a course outline/syllabus are: heading; catalog description; relationship to programs; student learning outcomes; chronology of study; grading system; types of tests; instructional materials; attendance policy; instructor withdrawal policy; support services; office location, hours and phone; campus e-mail address; religious observance; and appropriate Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) information.

Departments may have their own policies regarding additional information and end-of-the-semester reports.

### Repeating a Course

Repeating a course means taking a course after having received a grade of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F, ZF, W or M in that course. When a student repeats a course, the grade and credits earned in the last attempt are calculated in the academic average, unless the grade is a "W" or "M." All grades remain on the student's record. Students who receive financial aid should check with the Financial Aid Office before repeating a course in which a grade of D or better was earned.

### Audit of Course

Students who wish to audit a course, where they do not earn credit or a grade in that course, must complete a special permission form, available at Student Services Central, when they register. Nursing courses are not subject to audit.

Students may, however, change their status from audit to credit or vice versa, if they file the special permission card by the end of the third week of classes (or its equivalent for summer sessions). Instructors are not required to evaluate the work of audit students. Those students who are eligible for financial aid should consult with the Financial Aid Office before registering or changing to audit status. If audited courses are included in 12 credits of course work, a student may become ineligible for TAP and other financial aid programs.

### Credit Load

Credit load refers to the total number of credits a student is taking in a semester. Twelve or more credits per semester is considered a **full-time** course load; while  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  credits per semester is considered **part-time**.

Students generally may schedule their classes in the day or evening, or both, in accordance with their particular needs. However, if a student wants to take more than the maximum credit load, (19.5 or more credits in a semester, or 8.5 or more in a summer session) the appropriate associate vice president must approve.

### Schedule Changes and Withdrawals

Once a student's course schedule is created, the student receives a computerized printout and has his or her name added to the rosters for each course and section. Student schedules will be given only to the student, who must also show proper photo identification. Should a student need to change any portion of his or her schedule, or to withdraw from the College during the semester, the following policies have been established:

### Official Withdrawal from the College

To apply for an Official Withdrawal from the College and all of the current semester's courses, a student must meet the deadlines published in the appropriate course schedule. The student needs to discuss a withdrawal with his or her academic advisor and begin the formal process with Student Services Central.

Since the student's financial aid and future academic record may be affected, the student must carefully follow the formal steps. The student must complete the Total Withdrawal from the College Form and the Drop/Add Form with appropriate signatures by the deadlines published in the current academic calendar. An exit interview with an Advising Office staff member is required for all degree-seeking students. Students who receive any form of financial aid are required to obtain a financial aid officer's signature. Part-time, non-degree-seeking students should complete and file their forms with Student Services Central.

### Medical Withdrawal

A student may withdraw from all semester courses for medical reasons. For the medical withdrawal process, contact the Registrar Office.

When a student must withdraw from the College or courses due to personal medical reasons, he or she should obtain written verification from the physician and include it with all other required forms. The physician's statement should list the dates of the condition and provide a general description of the student's state of health and its effect on the student's ability to attend classes. All such information maintained by the college is treated as confidential.

The student's request for medical withdrawal and appropriate forms should be submitted to the Registrar before the end of the semester in which the illness occurs. If a third party is acting on behalf of the student at any point during the Medical Withdrawal process they are required to have a signed letter from the student giving them permission and show picture ID at time of service. This is in adherence with the College's Red Flag Policy. Withdrawals approved for medical reasons do not generate an automatic refund of tuition, waiver of the physical education requirement, nor waiver of financial aid requirements. Students should fill out and submit a Request for Tuition Credit Appeal form as well as consult with the appropriate offices concerning these items.

### Withdrawal from a Non-Developmental Course

A student may withdraw from a non-developmental course by following the deadlines posted in the registration calendar (see current course schedule), completing the appropriate forms available and obtaining the advisor's signature.

### Withdrawal from a Developmental Course

To withdraw from a developmental course, but not any others that semester, a student must obtain the permission of the appropriate instructor and the Director of Academic Support and Testing (or his/her designee), the advisor and the instructor. Absence from class is not a sufficient reason when seeking permission to withdraw from a required developmental course.

However, if a student voluntarily enrolled, but had not placed into the course, he or she may withdraw with the signature of the advisor. Students who are required to enroll in developmental courses must remain in them until they successfully complete them by the deadlines established in academic policy (see Developmental Education Program section in this catalog).

### Impact Upon Financial Aid Awards

Students who receive financial aid should check with the Financial Aid Office since current or future aid may be affected by such actions as:

- withdrawal (medical or voluntary) from either a single course or from all courses.
- repeating a course in which a grade of D or better was earned.

# Grades and Grading

## ■ Grades and Grading

### Grades, Quality Points and Cumulative GPA

SUNY Orange uses a four-point grading system, based on letter grades of A, B, C, D and F. Each grade is assigned a numeric value:

A = 4.00	A- = 3.67	
B+ = 3.33	B = 3.00	B- = 2.67
C+ = 2.33	C = 2.00	C- = 1.67
D+ = 1.33	D = 1.00	D- = .67
F = 0	ZF = 0	(failure stopped attending)

To calculate quality points, multiply the number of credits of a course by the numeric value of the grade earned. For example: An A (4 quality points) in Freshman English 1 (3 credits) produces 12 quality points (4 x 3 = 12) and a C- (1.67 quality points) in Calculus 1 (4 credits) produces 6.68 quality points (1.67x 4 = 6.68).

To determine academic average for a given semester, divide the quality points earned by the number of semester hour credits calculated (SemGPA). The same formula, dividing the total number of quality points by the total number of credits calculated, is used to calculate the cumulative quality point average (CumGPA).

All credit courses taken at the College are calculated into the Cumulative GPA unless the student has been awarded a Fresh Start (see Fresh Start Policy). Transfer credits do not affect the cumulative SUNY Orange GPA. The College accepts only transfer credits, but not the grades.

However, when calculating academic average, the following special grades do not count as credits calculated:

- PP** (Pass) indicates satisfactory performance in a physical activity course
- PF** (Fail) is received for unsatisfactory performance in a physical activity course
- ZPF** (Fail) stopped attending a Pass/Fail course
- I** (Incomplete) work unfinished due to unavoidable circumstances
- W** (Withdrawal) indicates that the student withdrew by the deadline
- M** (Medical Withdrawal) withdrawal from a course based upon documented health reasons
- N** (Non-credit) indicates a credit course was taken for no credit
- DVP** (Developmental Pass) indicates satisfactory performance in a developmental course.
- DVF** (Developmental Fail) is received for unsatisfactory performance in a developmental course.
- DVH** (Hold) indicates a degree of progress was made in a developmental course but not sufficient enough to warrant a grade of P (Pass)
- ZDF** (Developmental Fail) stopped attending

To clear a grade of I (Incomplete) from the record, work must be completed by the deadline indicated on the Incomplete Form, which can be no later than the end of the next semester, Fall or Spring. If the work is not completed, the I grade will become an F. It is the student's responsibility to remain in contact with the instructor and submit work by the deadline. A grade of I will be calculated as an F for graduation purposes.

### Mid-Semester Progress Reports

Communication between instructors and students regarding the student's progress in college classes generally takes place before or after class or during office hours. In addition, students whose work is below the level of "C" may receive a Mid-Semester Progress Report. This "unsatisfactory" report does not go on a student's college transcript, but should be considered official notification that the student should speak with the instructor about his or her

CumGPA: 2.00 - 4.00	Good Standing
CumGPA: 1.50 - 1.99	Academic Probation
CumGPA: 0.0-1.49 (less than 30 credit hours completed+)	Academic Probation
CumGPA: 0.00 - 1.49 (30 or more Credit hours completed+)	Probation if SemGPA* is 2.0 or higher
	Separation if SemGPA* is 0.00 – 1.99
CumGPA - Cumulative grade point average + Grades of W, I, H, M, N or Pass/Fail in developmental and physical activity courses do not apply * SemGPA - Semester grade point average	

progress. Students may also wish to speak with their academic advisor or a personal counselor.

### Degree Audit/Catalog Year

Students in Health Professions majors must follow the catalog requirements of the year in which they were most recently accepted into the program.

Non-Health Professions students who were admitted in **Fall 2006 and after** should follow the catalog year in which they were first admitted, and must have attended beyond the third week of classes (or the equivalent). Students may choose to follow later catalog versions. The Registrar's Office will however base the student's degree audit upon the initial semester in which the student was admitted and attended, unless otherwise notified in writing by the student.

Non-Health Professions students who were in attendance **prior to Fall 2006** but who have taken semesters off should follow the catalog year in which they were first readmitted and attended after the Summer 2006 semester. Students may choose to follow later catalog versions. The Registrar's Office will, however, base the student's degree audit upon the first semester of readmission and attendance after Fall 2006, unless otherwise notified in writing by the student.

The only students eligible to follow a pre-Fall 2006 catalog year are non-Health Professions students who have been in continuous attendance since prior to Fall 2006.

### ■ Final Examination Schedules

Final examinations are not required in all courses. During the Fall and Spring semester, for the mandatory 15th week, a special schedule is developed for all day classes. Final examinations will not necessarily be held on the same day or at the same time, during the Fall/Spring semesters, as the regularly scheduled course. The special schedule for final examinations of day classes is developed and distributed by the Registrar at the 10th week of the semester.

Examinations for evening classes during the Fall and Spring semesters are usually held during the last week, on the same day of the week and at the same time as the regularly scheduled course. See the academic calendar for the dates of the final examination period.

### ■ Graduation

#### Graduation Application

Graduation and participation in the commencement ceremony are not automatic. Students must initiate the process themselves. The Graduation Application Form must be filed with Student Services Central and the graduation fee paid upon submission. Before students can be cleared for graduation, they must return all college property loaned to them and pay any monies or outstanding obligations owed to any office of the College.

Those intending to graduate in May must file for graduation during February and March prior to May graduation. Students who complete their graduation requirements at the end of the fall semester are invited to participate in the commencement ceremony the following May. See the academic calendar for filing deadlines.

August Graduates who meet certain criteria are able to participate in the May Graduation Ceremony provided you:

- Self Identify at time of applying in February or March
- Are in good Academic Standing (2.00 CQPA or higher)
- Have no more than 6 credits remaining; or 2 courses that do not exceed 8 credits to graduate in August

#### Waiver or Substitution of Graduation Requirement

Students who seek a waiver or substitution of a graduation course requirement should first discuss that request with the program department chairperson. Approval from the course department chairperson (if different from the program department chairperson) would also need to be obtained. Final approval is determined by the appropriate associate vice president.

#### Waiver of Physical Education For Health Reasons

Students seeking a waiver of physical education as a

graduation requirement because of a physical limitation must follow this procedure:

- Obtain a Physical Education Waiver Request form from the office of the appropriate associate vice president.
- Give the Physical Education Waiver Request form to their physician (He or she must read it before sending a letter requesting a physical education waiver).
- Have your physician write a letter using his or her letterhead and following the instructions on the Physical Education Waiver Request form.
- Return the physician's letter to the office of the appropriate associate vice president.

Note: Even though a physical education activity waiver is granted, students will still be required to take the one credit Concepts of Physical Wellness course, which is a lecture course and not an activity course if required for their program of study. This applies to all students, regardless of when they were admitted to the College. Students with long-term disabilities should make application for physical education waivers during their first semester at the College.

#### Residence

In order to qualify for an associate degree, at least 30 credit hours must be earned while attending SUNY Orange. Beginning with the Fall 2009 semester, if the student is enrolled in a Newburgh branch campus program, at least half of the credits earned at the College must have been taken at the Newburgh campus.

### ■ Transfer Credits and the Transfer Application Process

#### Transfer Credit From Other Colleges

In general, no more than 30 semester hours of credit are acceptable for students transferring to SUNY Orange from another college or university. Only courses in which the student has received a grade of at least "C" will be considered. Credit will be evaluated for course work completed more than 10 years ago on an individual basis. Only those credits which apply to the student's area of academic interest will be considered.

Awarding of transfer credit is done in writing. Upon receipt of the written evaluation, the student may schedule an appointment with the Registrar if he/she has questions or wishes to appeal the evaluation.

If the student is not satisfied with the Registrar's decision, they may appeal to the appropriate Department Chair within 10 business days after the Registrar's appeal decision is made. If the student wishes to appeal a Department Chair's decision, they may do so to the appropriate Associate Academic Vice President within 10 business days of being informed of the chair's appeal decision. The decision of the appropriate Academic Associate Vice President is final.

In addition to the above, SUNY has established policies to guarantee the transfer of credits for general education

## Transfer Credits / Transfer Application Process

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courses and courses taken in the first two years in the most frequently transferred majors. These policies guarantee that general education credits and credits in the primary courses in the most popular disciplines transfer throughout the system.

If a student does not agree with a SUNY College's decision on the granting or placement of credit earned at a prior SUNY institution, they have the right to submit an appeal to SUNY Orange's transfer campus representative which is the Vice President of Academic Affairs or their designee.

The student should be prepared to provide reasonable material to support their case, such as the course description or syllabus in question. The campus transfer representative will explain the process and let the student know exactly what materials are needed.

Once all of the required information is received, the expectation is that the transfer appeal representative will provide the student with a written response within 15 business days. If the decision finds merit to change the course to meet a major requirement, the representative will notify the student, the chairperson and/or program coordinator, and will see that the change is made to the student's record.

If the decision is unchanged, or the student has not received a response within 15 business days, the student may take their appeal to the SUNY System Provost by submitting the Student Transfer Appeal Form along with requested materials.

The SUNY Provost will respond to the student's appeal within five business days from receipt of the completed appeal application. If the decision finds merit to change the course to meet a major requirement, the receiving institution will be notified to take appropriate action.

Remember, this additional appeal process is only available when a student challenges SUNY Orange's decision not to accept credit earned at another SUNY institution.

**Note:** If you receive a waiver of your placement testing based on work completed at other schools, this does NOT guarantee that you will receive transfer credit.

Courses and credits, but not grades, are accepted. A student's CumGPA at SUNY Orange is calculated based upon course work at SUNY Orange only. Transfer credits from other institutions do not affect the CumGPA.

If a student has a passing grade in a course at SUNY Orange, an equivalent course will not be accepted from another institution. If a course is failed at SUNY Orange, an equivalent transferred course may be accepted, but the failing grade will still appear on the student's transcript and will be calculated in the student's CumGPA. No grades are ever eliminated from a student transcript.

Active duty military personnel may receive up to 45 credits and veterans up to 30 credits for courses and military occupational specialties if those courses or specialties are directly applicable to an area of academic interest at SUNY Orange. Students who have completed basic training in the U.S. armed forces may receive credit for both PES 100 and the one credit of physical activity requirement if required for

their program of study. For more information, call the Veteran's Representative at (845) 341-4071.

### Credit by SUNY Orange Examination

Students' life experiences may qualify them to take examinations and earn college credit in certain course offerings. To pursue this option, students are encouraged to check with appropriate department chairpersons. SUNY Orange may also award transfer credit for certain Excelsior College exams (formerly Regents College), certain AP (Advanced Placement) and CLEP (College Level Experience Program) exams, and certain non-college-sponsored training programs, as evaluated by the American Council on Education.

### Transcript Requests

Official Transcripts contain a record of all courses, grades and degrees received at SUNY Orange. Transcripts are sent to other parties such as colleges, prospective employers, or government agencies at the request of the student and payment of the required fee.

**NOTE:** *Transcripts will not be released if there is a hold on the student account.*

#### **Online Transcript Ordering:**

SUNY Orange is pleased to offer students and alumni the convenience of requesting and paying for Official Transcripts via the National Student Clearinghouse by going to [www.getmytranscript.com](http://www.getmytranscript.com)

Upon written request and following payment of appropriate fees, students may have transcripts sent to other parties such as colleges, prospective employers or government agencies. Transcripts are mailed within a week of the request, in order of receipt, except for peak periods at the beginning and end of each semester. At those times, volume may require two or three weeks for processing.

Transcripts should be requested well in advance of the required receipt date. Requests must be signed by the student, authorizing release of transcripts, and include the transcript fee of \$8 per copy. Please be advised that institutions and agencies requesting transcripts will not consider them official unless mailed directly from SUNY Orange or hand-delivered in a sealed envelope marked "unofficial if seal is broken." Only the student (with appropriate photo identification) may pick up his or her transcript, unless he or she has given written permission to a designee, with a verified signature. The designee should also provide photo identification.

### Policy for Transcript Notations for Crimes of Violence

For crimes of violence, including, but not limited to sexual violence, defined as crimes that meet the reporting requirements pursuant to the federal Clery Act, SUNY Orange shall make a notation on the transcript of any student found responsible after a conduct process that they were "suspended after a finding of responsibility for a code of conduct violation" or "expelled after a finding of responsibility for a code of conduct violation."

For the respondent who withdraws from the institution while such conduct charges are pending, and declines to complete the disciplinary process, SUNY Orange shall make a notation on the transcript that the student “withdrew with conduct charges pending.”

Students may appeal seeking removal of the transcript notation for a suspension through written request to the Vice President for Student Services. The notation shall not be removed prior to one year after the conclusion of the suspension. Notations for expulsion may not be appealed and will not be removed. If a finding of responsibility is vacated for any reason, any such transcript notation will be removed.

### Transfer to Four-Year Colleges

If students earn an Associate in Arts or an Associate in Science degree from a two-year institution, State University of New York guarantees a place for them as a full-time student at a senior college campus—but not necessarily the one of their first choice.

The application deadline is March 1 for Fall semester transfer and Oct. 1 for Spring transfer. All other applications, excluding the guaranteed program, can be sent after this deadline. SUNY application forms are available at the Academic Advising Office. If students plan to transfer, they should take advantage of SUNY Orange transfer days and visitations by four-year college transfer representatives.

## ■ Student Records

### Certifications of Enrollment/Attendance or Certifications of Full-Time/Part-Time Status

Enrollment Certification of Full-Time/Part Time status are available through the National Student Clearinghouse Self-Service Program. Students are securely and seamlessly brought to the Clearinghouse Self-Service site by signing into MySunnyOrange. Advanced Registration Certificates, Current Enrollment Certificates and Past Enrollment Certificates will be available for students to print.

To certify enrollment, tuition and fees must be paid and all stop/ holds must be cleared from the student's records.

### Student Records/Confidentiality

All student records are maintained and made available in accordance with the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. With some exceptions, all student records are available for review upon request by that student, and the right to challenge the content is provided.

The College may disclose directory information without the written consent of the student. Directory information includes name, semesters enrolled and the dates of those semesters, field of study, degrees, honors and awards conferred. Addresses are only released to governmental officials who wish to send congratulatory notices to our graduates and to third party institutions with whom the college has articulation agreements

for our graduates such as Franklin University. Additional biographical information will also be released to military recruiters as allowed under the Solomon Act.

Students can request that their personal directory information be suppressed by submitting formal written request to the Records and Registration Office. However, please be aware that once directory information is suppressed enrollment verifications for insurance companies, student loans, and prospective employers will not be given this information without the student's written permission which could have delays that may impact the student.

No non-directory information records are released to third persons except as provided in the Act. Further information is available from the Records and Registration Office or in the SUNY Orange Student Handbook.

### Notification of Student Rights under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. They are:

- **The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the College receives a request for access.** Students should submit to the Registrar or Vice President for Student Services written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. A College official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the College official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
- **The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading.** Students may ask the College to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the College official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the College decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the College will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- **The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.** One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the College in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the College has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another

## Student Rights and Responsibilities

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school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the College will disclose education records without consent to officials of another school which a student seeks or intends to enroll (barring any indebtedness to this College).

- **The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the College to comply with FERPA requirements:** Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

### Directory Information

Directory information is personally-identifiable student information which the U.S. Department of Education has concluded is permissible for institutions to release without a student's consent. Orange County Community College has identified the following as Directory Information:

- Name
- Current enrollment status (full-time or part-time)
- Semesters enrolled
- Field of study or Program
- Degrees, honors, and awards/scholarships conferred
- Prior institution attended
- Heights and weights of our college athletes
- Addresses (but only of our graduates and only to governmental officials who wish to send congratulatory notices or to four-year educational institutions with whom the college has specific articulation agreements that will allow these students to continue to attend SUNY Orange while working toward a four year degree (e.g., Franklin University).

**Note:** Once an institution identifies Directory Information, the institution **may** release that information without student consent, but **is not required to do so**. The best example of this is addresses, where we may release that information but as an institutional practice we only do so in the specific examples given.

Students may opt out of public disclosure of even the directory information above by requesting what is known as a "FERPA Block." The student does so by completing the FERPA Directory Information Block Request Form available on our website at [www.sunyorange.edu/academic\\_services/ferpa.shtml](http://www.sunyorange.edu/academic_services/ferpa.shtml)

A student interested in obtaining a FERPA Directory Information Block should be aware that unlike other institutions, we do not include address and phone number as directory information and that a substantial consequence of requesting a FERPA Block is, unless another exception under FERPA permits disclosure, an active FERPA Block will prevent SUNY Orange from disclosing that the student once attended and received a degree or is currently enrolled at the college pursuing a particular degree.

Students who after having the FERPA Directory Block placed on their record wish to remove the block must complete the FERPA Directory Information Block Removal Form also available at the same website.

### Consent Forms for Release of Non-Directory Information

A student's signed written consent must specify the records to release/inspect, state the purpose of the disclosure and identify the person(s) to whom the disclosure should be made. A new consent form would be required each academic year or when access to additional educational records not covered in the previous consent form on file are being requested.

If the consent form does not specify the actual educational records to be inspected or simply states something equivalent to "all educational records", the only records that will be disclosed are those that appear on the most current academic transcript.

According to FERPA regulations, an institution has up to 45 days after receipt of a valid consent form to arrange for the inspection/disclosure of the specified educational records. Personal inspections of the requested educational records in the majority of cases will be made with the Registrar, who also acts as the FERPA officer for the institution, and not necessarily with individual faculty members.

In the case of a so-ordered subpoena, issued by a judge, consent from the student is not required for disclosure of non-directory information. However, unless the subpoena specifically states that contact with the student is forbidden, the institution will not respond to said subpoena for 72 business hours and in that timeframe will attempt to contact the student to inform them that a subpoena was received, who issued the subpoena, and what records will be disclosed.

### Parents' Rights

**Message to Parents:** SUNY Orange is guided by the principle that students' active involvement in their education enhances their learning and development. In keeping with this principle, SUNY Orange considers its primary relationship to be with its students.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act has provided two ways in which parents/guardians of dependent students may inspect the educational records of the student.

The first is to obtain a signed written consent from the student and submit consent to the Registrar.

If the student is unwilling to provide a signed written consent, the final alternative is for the parents/guardians to provide the Registrar with a copy of the preceding year's tax returns to demonstrate the student is a tax dependent. The copy provided must have either been completed by a third party (accountant, tax preparer, etc.) or be an official full complete copy (not the shortened version) from the Internal Revenue Service. Information on how to obtain this version can be found by contacting the IRS Office at (800) 829-1040. When the documentation is submitted, the parents/guardians must also specify the records to be inspected. If the request simply states something equivalent to "all educational records," the only educational records that will be disclosed are those that appear on the most current academic transcript.

## ■ Student Rights and Responsibilities

### Conduct Expected of Students

See the Code of Student Conduct published in the Student Handbook. The College reserves the right to dismiss any student who conducts himself or herself in a manner incompatible with the purposes of the College.

### Academic Separation, Probation and Appeals

Please see Grades and Grading.

## ■ Academic Grievance Procedure

### Purpose of the Procedures:

The purpose of the Student Academic Grievance Procedure is to encourage the informal resolution of academic issues that might surface between students and faculty in a manner that is timely and upholds standards of academic integrity. In the event that students and faculty are unable to resolve an academic issue, the formal stage provides additional fair and equitable procedures for students. Students should understand that each stage of the process is an important one; therefore, it is not possible to move through the process unless previous stages have been followed. The procedure must be utilized by all students regardless of the location at which the grievance has arisen or the mode of delivery for the course.

### Procedures:

A student having a concern of an academic nature with a faculty member arising from participation in a credit class should follow the procedure outlined below. Such concerns could include the belief that his/her grade(s) is not consistent with the grade criteria designated by the course instructor/syllabus.

Should the grievance reach the formal stage the student has the right to seek the assistance of an unbiased third party, which includes the student's academic advisor or an individual from a pool of trained volunteers. The role of this third party is to help the student prepare for and navigate the formal process. It is not the role of this third party to represent the student during this process.

### Informal Stage:

a. The student must first discuss the matter with the course instructor. This discussion should commence as soon as possible but (1) no later than 30 calendar days after the start of the following spring semester if the concern arose during the fall semester or (2) no later than 30 calendar days after the start of the following fall semester if the concern arose during the spring semester or summer session. Faculty must document the date of meeting with the student.

b. If the student and the instructor cannot resolve the matter in this discussion, the student will have five business days after meeting with the instructor to contact the appropriate department chair to discuss the matter informally with him/her. The chair must consult with the instructor and may include the instructor in the mediation. The student and the instructor should provide copies of all relevant material. The chair will make a decision within five business days and communicate the rationale for the decision to the instructor and the student.

c. The student will have five business days from the date of the Chair's decision to contact the appropriate Associate Vice

President to discuss the matter informally with him/her. If the academic grievance requires the issuance of a grade change, at the objection of the instructor, the student must enter the formal stage of the grievance process.

### Formal Stage:

a. If the matter has not been resolved informally, the student will have five business days after discussion in 1(c) to file a formal, written Academic Grievance Notice with the appropriate Associate Vice President. The Academic Grievance Notice form will be available through academic departments and should include a clear statement of the student's specific complaint, a clear statement of how the student would like to see the matter resolved, and relevant documentation that supports the student's claim(s).

b. The Associate Vice President will inform the course instructor and the department chair of the formal grievance and will have ten business days to meet with all parties involved, make a thorough evaluation, and notify the student, course instructor, and department chair in writing of his/her findings, decision, and the rationale for his/her decision.

### Appeal:

a. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Associate Vice President, he/she will have five business days to file a formal, written appeal with the Vice President for Academic Affairs. This written appeal should include a copy of the Academic Grievance Notice submitted to the Associate Vice President and any additional documentation or explanation that is appropriate.

b. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will inform the course instructor, the department chair, and the Associate Vice President of the formal appeal and will have ten business days to meet with all parties involved, make a thorough evaluation, and notify the student, course instructor, department chair, and Associate Vice President in writing of his/her findings, decision, and the rationale for his/her decision.

### Final Appeal:

a. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the student will have five business days to file a formal, written grievance with the President of the College. This written appeal should include a copy of the Academic Grievance Notice submitted previously and any additional documentation or explanation that is appropriate. Only those grievances heard and decided during previous stages of this process can be considered by the President. The President will issue a formal decision to all parties, in writing, within ten business days. The President's decision is final.

*NOTE: The authority to assign grades rests with the faculty member who is instructor of record; however, under extraordinary circumstances, if the academic grievance requires the issuance of a grade change, at the objection of the instructor, only the Associate Vice President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, or the President may authorize such in the formal or appeal stages. Students are required to utilize the informal stage to attempt to resolve all academic grievances, including those pertaining to grades.*

### Record Keeping

A permanent file containing appropriate documentation

## Non-Academic Grievance / Non-Discrimination and Sexual Violence Prevention

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relating to the grievance shall be kept in the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs for six years.

### ■ Non-Academic Grievance

When a student believes that his or her rights or freedoms in a non-academic area have been violated, that student may attempt to redress that violation as follows:

- Approach the staff or administrative person in question
- Approach the appropriate supervisor if the grievance is not resolved within a reasonable amount of time
- Approach the appropriate vice president or request that the Student Grievance Committee be convened if the grievance is not resolved within a reasonable amount of time

After going through the proper procedures, the student has the right to be heard by the Student Grievance Committee. The student must go to the Office of Student Services to have the committee convened. At this point in the process, the grievance must be put in writing if this has not been done already.

The ad hoc committee shall consist of:

- Two students appointed by the Student Senate
- One full-time faculty or staff member from the same discipline in which the grievance occurred
- One full-time faculty or staff member from a different discipline
- One representative from the appropriate administrative office

The Student Grievance Committee shall have the responsibility of recommending a decision about the grievance. To this end, written or oral statements may be initiated or solicited from the principals in the grievance, and/or from other observers who can provide pertinent information. In addition, each principal in the grievance may have an advocate at the hearing.

When all information pertinent to the case has been presented to the committee, the committee will convene without the principals in attendance to discuss the case.

The Student Grievance Committee will have 10 working days to complete its deliberation. The recommendations of the committee are to be presented in writing to the appropriate vice president within three working days after the completion of the deliberations. A decision and supportive rationale shall be communicated in writing by the vice president to the principals, and to the chairperson of the Student Grievance Committee.

#### Final Appeal

The decision of the Vice President for Student Services may be appealed for final disposition to the President of the College. The decision of the President is final.

#### Time Frame

Any grievance a student has can be initiated at any time, but no later than 30 days after the start of the semester following the semester in which the problem arose. If a grievance arises in the Spring semester or during the Summer session, this means that the student must file the formal grievance, if any, no later than 30

days into the following Fall semester.

#### Confidentiality

Once a person files a grievance, either formally or informally, all matters pertaining to the grievance shall be kept confidential. All documents, communications and records dealing with the processing of the grievance shall be filed with the Office of the Vice President for Student Services.

Student grievance records, including but not limited to grievance, investigative records, hearing proceedings, decision rendered, student appeal, records of arbitration procedure, final decision and correspondence, will be retained for six years after the grievance is resolved, as dictated by the State Archives and Records Administration. At that time records will be destroyed.

### ■ Non-Discrimination and Sexual Violence Prevention

SUNY Orange is committed to ensuring equal employment, educational opportunity and equal access to services, programs and activities without regard to an individual's race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, gender, pregnancy, gender identity, sexual orientation, predisposing genetic characteristics, marital status, veteran status, military status, domestic violence victim status or ex-offender status. This includes, but is not limited to, recruitment, application process, examination and testing, hiring, training, grading, disciplinary actions, rates of pay or other compensations, advancement, classification, transfer and reassignment, discharge, and all other terms and conditions of employment, educational status, and access to college programs and activities.

In addition, the College is committed to creating and maintaining an educational environment free from all forms of sexual misconduct. Any act involving sexual harassment, violence, coercion, and intimidation will not be tolerated. Specifically, the College strictly prohibits the offenses of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These acts have a real impact on the lives of victims. They not only violate a person's feelings of trust and safety, but they can also substantially interfere with a student's education. No person or persons will, by coercion or physical force, engage in sexual acts with any member of the College community. It is the policy of SUNY Orange that, upon learning that an act of sexual misconduct has taken place, immediate action will be taken to address the situation and punish the perpetrator.

If you have experienced sexual violence or sexual misconduct, you may seek advice and support services from the SUNY Orange Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). The Team can be contacted through Security at 341-4710 or through the Wellness Center at 341-4870. Members of SART will assist sexual assault victims and can provide referrals to county sexual assault resources and support. Survivors of sexual assault and violence are encouraged to use these services, regardless of whether the incident happened on or off campus.

The Student Handbook, which can be reviewed at [www.sunyorange.edu/studentactivities/handbook.shtml](http://www.sunyorange.edu/studentactivities/handbook.shtml), contains more detailed information regarding students' rights, responsibilities, confidentiality, grievance procedures, and Code of Student Conduct.