

RIGHT-TO-KNOW

The Highland Community College Commitment

Highland Community College (HCC) recognizes the responsibility of maintaining a drug-free, safe educational environment conducive to academic achievement and student growth. HCC students, employees, and visitors are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which serves credit to themselves, the College, and the community. College employees or students who violate local, state, or federal laws on campus or at off-campus College-sponsored activities, will be subject to legal sanctions and considered for disciplinary action by the College as outlined in the personnel manual for employees and the college catalog for students and campus visitors.

Campus Security and Safety- employee, student, and visitor responsibility for crime prevention

The crime rate at HCC is very low. To that end, some do's, and don'ts are listed below that College employees and students are expected to follow:

- DO report all crimes and suspicious activities.
- DO protect your personal property. Mark your property, such as laptops, with some form of ID.
- DON'T leave books, cell phones, jewelry, purses, backpacks, or other valuables unattended.

Remember, continuously protecting your property reduces the opportunity for a thief to commit a crime. A sheriff's deputy patrols the campus 7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Crime Reporting

Highland Community College is concerned with the safety and welfare of all students, faculty, staff, and visitors on campus. Campus safety is a responsibility shared by all members of the campus community. Highland utilizes the services of the full-time deputies in the Stephenson County Sheriff's Department. If safety problems arise or criminal activities are witnessed, services can be obtained by calling 815-599-3652. In the event a forcible or non-forcible sex offense occurs on campus, an individual should report the offense immediately to the sheriff's deputy. The individual will be given the option of contacting local police, as well as assistance in doing so, and will be advised as to further on-campus reporting procedures as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct in the College catalog.

College Alcohol & Drug Policies

Highland Community College prohibits the unlawful use, possession, distribution, dispensing, and manufacture of illicit drugs (including marijuana) and alcohol on campus (including in or on any property owned or controlled by the College). Anyone violating this policy or under the influence of drugs or alcohol on campus is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as described in the Code of Conduct or the College personnel manual, including suspension, expulsion, termination of employment, and referral to prosecution. Any sanctions will be consistent with local, state, and federal laws and may include incarceration and monetary fines. Educational programs discussing the use and abuse of alcohol, drugs, and other health issues are presented in the First Year Experience Seminar and other programs or events on campus throughout the year.

Federal Drug Laws

Federal law requires colleges to make available in published form federal drug law information. The possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs (including marijuana) is prohibited by federal law. Strict penalties are provided for convictions, including mandatory prison terms for many offenses. This information, although not complete, is an overview of federal penalties for first convictions. All penalties are doubled for any subsequent drug conviction. State laws of Illinois may vary but do not exclude federal laws.

Denial of Federal Benefits (21 U.S.C. 862)

A federal drug conviction may result in the loss of federal benefits, including school loans, grants, scholarships, contracts, and licenses. Federal drug trafficking convictions may result in denial of federal benefits for up to 5 years for a first conviction, ten years for a second conviction, and permanent denial of federal benefits for a third conviction. Federal drug convictions for possession may result in denial of federal benefits for up to 1 year for a first conviction and up to 5 years for subsequent convictions.

Assistance for Substance Abuse

College students seeking assistance with controlled substance abuse problems may call Liz Gerber at 815-599-3531, or they may contact the following agencies/organizations:

- Uwill Mental Health & Wellness solutions. Free for HCC students! Scan the QR code →
- Changes Place- 773 W. Lincoln Blvd. Suite 101; Freeport, IL 61032; 815-232-1913
- FHN Family Counseling- 421 W. Exchange St.; Freeport, IL 61032; 815-599-7300
- Rosecrance Center- 1631 S. Galena Ave.; Freeport, IL 61032; Toll-Free: 866-330-8729



College employees may also contact the above agencies or utilize the College Employee Assistance Program (EAP), available to employees and their families. For information on Highland EAP, refer to your EAP booklet or contact Human Resources for assistance.

Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act Notice

The Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act (CSCPA) provides tracking of convicted, registered sex offenders enrolled as students at higher education institutions or working/volunteering on campus. Under the Act, sex offenders are to inform their state agencies when they become a student, carry on a vocation or become employed at an institution of higher education. The law also requires higher education institutions to issue a statement advising the campus community where law enforcement information provided by the state concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained. To learn the identity of a registered sex offender on or near campus, visit www.isp.state.il.us. Once there, you can search by city, county, or zip code. Information can also be obtained at the on-campus Sheriff's Office, located on the first floor of the Student Conference Center (next to the cafeteria), or by calling 815-599-3652.

Other Right-to-Know Information

1. Release of student Information- www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html
2. Student Code of Conduct-The official and complete Student Code of Conduct can be found in the current college catalog. Contact the vice president of academic services for updates or revisions.
3. HCC Crime Statistics-
Department of Education Website at ope.ed.gov/campussafety/#
<https://highland.edu/student-information/student-right-know/>
4. For detailed information, visit <https://highland.edu/consumer-information/> or scan the QR code below.

