

# RIGHT-TO-KNOW

## **The Highland Community College Commitment**

Highland Community College (HCC) maintains a drug-free, safe, educational environment to support academic achievement and student growth. Students, employees, and visitors must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects well on themselves, the College, and the community. Violations of local, state, or federal laws on campus or at College-sponsored activities may result in legal and disciplinary actions as outlined in the personnel manual for employees and college catalog for students.

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

To maintain a low crime rate, college employees and students should adhere to the following:

- Report all crimes and suspicious activity.
- 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 likelihood of theft. A sheriff's deputy patrols the campus from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## **Crime Reporting**

Highland Community College prioritizes the safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Campus safety is a shared responsibility supported by full-time deputies from the Stephenson County Sheriff's Office. For safety concerns or to report crimes, call 815-599-3652. In case of a sex offense on campus, report immediately to the sheriff's deputy. Victims will be assisted in contacting local police and guided through on-campus reporting procedures per the Student Code of Conduct.

## **College Alcohol & Drug Policies**

Highland Community College prohibits the unlawful use, possession, distribution, and manufacture of drugs (including marijuana) and alcohol on campus or any property owned and controlled by the college. As outlined in the Code of Conduct and personnel manual, violators face disciplinary actions, including suspension, expulsion, termination, and legal prosecution. Sanctions align with local, state, and federal laws and may include incarceration and fines. Educational programs on substance abuse are offered throughout the year.

## **Federal Drug Laws**

Federal law mandates that colleges publish federal drug law information. The possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs (including marijuana) is prohibited by federal law, with strict penalties, including mandatory prison terms for many offenses. This summary outlines federal penalties for first convictions, doubling all penalties for subsequent convictions. Illinois state laws may vary but do not override federal laws.

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

A federal drug conviction can lead to losing federal benefits, including school loans, grants, scholarships, contracts, and licenses. Drug trafficking convictions may result in up to 5 years of denied benefits for a first offense, 10 years for a second, and permanent denial for a third. For possession convictions, benefits may be denied for up to 1 year for a first offense and up to 5 years for subsequent offenses.

## Assistance for Substance Abuse

College students seeking assistance with controlled substance abuse problems may contact the following agencies/organizations:

- Rosecrance Center: 866-330-8729
- Sinnissippi Center: 815-516-8898
- National Drug Hotline: 844-289-0879
- [www.Startyourrecovery.org](http://www.Startyourrecovery.org)
- SAMHSA (substance abuse and mental health service administration): 800-662-4357

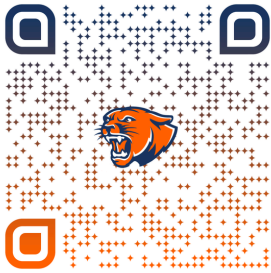
College employees may also contact the above agencies or utilize the College Employee Assistance Program (EAP), available to employees and their families. For information on Highland EAP, refer to your EAP booklet or contact Human Resources for assistance.

## Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act Notice

The Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act (CSCPA) requires convicted sex offenders to notify state agencies if they enroll, work, or volunteer at a higher education institution. The Act also mandates that institutions inform the campus community where to find state-provided sex offender information. To identify registered sex offenders near campus, visit [www.isp.state.il.us](http://www.isp.state.il.us) and search by city, county, or zip code. You can also get information at the on-campus Sheriff's Office in the Student Conference Center 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](http://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/#](http://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.



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