Cultural and Special Events

Art Shows
The HCC Art Gallery is located in the Performing Arts Building on the Ybor City Campus. Exhibits include works from collections on loan to the Gallery as well as works by students, faculty, and guest artists. The Gallery is open to the public without charge when classes are in session. The annual Student Award Exhibit is held late in the spring term and is an especially noteworthy event.

For more information, students should call the gallery office at (813) 253-7674. For information about exhibits on other campuses, students should call or write the campus student government activities advisor or a member of the campus art faculty.

Exhibits
The Exhibit Gallery, located on the second floor of the Dale Mabry Campus Library Building, houses selections from state agencies, local groups, artists and private collections. Admission is free. For more information, call (813) 253-7386.

Drama
During the academic year, theatrical presentations are held on the Ybor City Campus. The schedule and location of open auditions for upcoming productions are posted on the campus bulletin board and in the school newspaper. Drama department productions are held at the Ybor City Campus Performing Arts Building.

Music
Student, faculty and artist recitals are held in the Ybor Performing Arts Building. Vocal and instrumental recitals and concerts are scheduled primarily during the fall and spring terms and feature student, faculty and guest artists in solo and ensemble performances.

Films, Dances and Special Events
Each semester campus student government associations sponsor events such as films, dances, concerts, guest speakers, special forums and cookouts. All events are at no cost to current students with a valid HCC ID card.

Sports
Gymnasium, Weight Room and Tennis Complex
HCC's tennis complex, located at the northeast corner of the Dale Mabry Campus. Students, faculty, and staff may use the sports complex at no charge while participating in college credit courses.

Tennis and racquetball courts are available for educational and recreational use by HCC students and the community.

The gymnasium, which serves as the home court of the Hawks basketball and volleyball teams, is located on the Dale Mabry Campus.

Programs, clinics and lessons are available for players of all ages and levels. Further details are available by calling (813) 348-1173 or visiting the website at www.tampatennis.net.

College weight training rooms and the gymnasium are available for student use free of charge at designated times. There are weight rooms located on the Brandon, Dale Mabry, Ybor City, and Plant City campuses. Hours of operation for the gym and weight room are posted and vary from term to term. Students are required to dress appropriately.

Varsity Sports
The varsity sports program consists of volleyball, basketball, tennis and softball (fast pitch) for women; and basketball and baseball for men.

The Hawks are members of the Florida Community College Activities Association, Suncoast Conference, and Region VIII of the National Junior College Athletic Association.

Financial aid is available to any full-time student who meets both athletic and academic qualifications. For details, students should contact the athletic office, Dale Mabry Campus, at (813) 253-7367. Upon request, the college will make available to current or future students the completion rates of student athletes.

Student Clubs and Organizations
Each campus has clubs and organizations that serve student needs and interests. Student clubs and organizations provide students with the opportunity to participate in organized activities with others having similar interests. They offer students a way to make friends, expand horizons, and get involved in college life.

The HCC Student Handbook has a current list of clubs and organizations offered at each campus.

Student Policies
Activities Calendar
Each campus maintains a calendar listing the time and location of approved activities. Students must make arrangements for scheduling an event and reserving a location for a co-curricular activity with the appropriate student government activities advisor before the event can be placed on the activities calendar.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)
HCC complies with, and fully supports, the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the services, programs and activities provided and operated by the college. HCC also complies with, and fully supports, other federal, state and local laws that protect the rights of disabled persons, such as the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Florida Educational Equity Act.
Unless the result will cause an undue hardship to the college or fundamentally alter a program or service provided by the college, HCC will provide reasonable accommodations and auxiliary aids to disabled applicants, employees, students and members of the college community.

AIDS

HCC recognizes that Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), AIDS Related Complex (ARC), or a positive test for HIV antibody represents a significant public health threat. It is HCC’s policy to balance the rights of AIDS victims to an education and employment at HCC against the rights of other students and employees to an environment in which they are protected from contracting the disease.

HCC will offer students with AIDS the same opportunities and benefits offered to other students. Generally, HCC will not impose any rules on students with AIDS that may have the effect of limiting their participation in the educational programs or activities at HCC. Students with AIDS will not be isolated by HCC or prevented from participating in college activities unless such participation has been scientifically shown to endanger the wider community. Risk determinations will be made by medical professionals in consultation with an office of services for students with disabilities.

A campus coordinator of services for students with disabilities is responsible for reviewing HCC’s procedures and ensuring they are both free of discrimination and pose no danger to the community at large. The coordinator will also meet, as needed, to consider and recommend appropriate action in individual occurrences of the disease. Any questions, concerns, consultation regarding AIDS, services or accommodations should be referred to an office of services for students with disabilities.

Audio/Video Recordings

A student shall not, without the faculty member’s express authorization make or receive any recording, including but not limited to audio and video recordings of any class, co-curricular meeting, organizational meeting or meeting with a faculty member. Further, the student does not have permission to post class lectures or course lectures on the web. In Compliance with ADA regulations, exceptions to this statement are made in the cases of situations in which the student has requested appropriate accommodations for his or her disability.

Bulletin Boards

Each campus has several large community bulletin boards on which students may post announcements such as want ads, for-sale notices, notices of meetings, etc. Prior to posting, all notices from students must have the stamped approval of the appropriate campus dean of student services, the dean’s designee, or the organization assigned authority and/or responsibility for the specific bulletin board.

Campus Disturbances

State law prohibits the disruption of or interference with the administration, function or activities of an educational institution. In addition, the law prohibits individuals from encouraging students to disrupt the educational process or to interfere with the attendance of any student or employee.

Students who violate this law will be charged with a second-degree misdemeanor and, upon conviction, be fined up to $500, imprisoned for up to 60 days, or both. However, students who violate this law will be subject to college disciplinary procedures.

Campus Events

All on-campus meetings must be scheduled with the appropriate campus student activity coordinator or through the office of the appropriate campus of dean of student services.

Children on Campus

For safety reasons, parents and others responsible for the care of minor children under the age of 17 should not bring them on campus while engaged in academic activities such as class, research, lab periods, or study groups. Minor children under the age of 17 should be on campus only when activities specifically allow for their involvement.

Disciplinary Action

The campus dean of student services, according to HCC administrative procedures, administers disciplinary action resulting from violations of the Student Code of Conduct. The Student Code of Conduct is located in the Student Handbook, which is available on the HCC website at www.hccfl.edu.

Dress Code

HCC believes that students are mature enough to determine what constitutes appropriate dress. However, state law requires students to wear shirts and shoes while on HCC’s campuses.

Drugs & Alcohol

One of HCC’s goals is to maintain a drug-free workplace and educational setting. Therefore, the manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of alcohol or controlled substances on HCC property is prohibited. However, upon prior authorization by the President, alcoholic beverages may be served on HCC property and at HCC functions.

Annually, each registered student is provided detailed information about HCC drug policies and the behavioral, social and legal consequences associated with drug use.

Students charged with violating this policy will be referred for disciplinary action to the appropriate campus dean of student services. Students who violate the college’s drug and alcohol policy will be subject to severe disciplinary sanctions including suspension or expulsion. In addition, the college will refer violators to the appropriate law enforcement agencies for prosecution and will assist
law enforcement agencies in investigating students who may be using or trafficking drugs.

For more details regarding HCC’s policy on alcohol and illicit drugs, see the HCC Safety Handbook, Student Handbook and Academic Planner or HCC Administrative Rule 6HX-10.2.05. Copies of the policies are in HCC libraries. A copy of this information is available on the HCC website at www.hccfl.edu.

The college will also provide future students with a review of HCC’s alcohol and drug prevention and education programs.

Hazing

Officers, members, and others associated with HCC student organizations are prohibited from engaging in hazing and in participating in activities on or off campus that endanger students’ health or safety.

Ombudsmen/Student Advocate

The vice president for student services and enrollment management is the college’s ombudsman/advocate for students. The vice president’s office is located on the third floor of the district administration center. Students may appeal decisions related to course access and credits granted toward degrees to the office of the ombudsman.

Religious Observances

HCC will reasonably accommodate the religious observances, practices, and beliefs of students in its admission, class attendance and the examination policies and in work assignments. Students must notify instructors at least one week prior to a religious observance.

Students may file a grievance if they believe they have unreasonably been denied an educational benefit due to their religious beliefs or practices.

Public Safety

The HCC public safety office is available to assist all students and employees. The public safety office patrols college property to detect and deter criminal activity, provide protection to those on campus, provide security for college property, and detect and document hazardous, unusual and suspicious behavior and conditions.

The public safety department provides information and assistance on a 24-hour basis. The department utilizes uniformed patrol officers with marked vehicles and officers on foot patrol to observe and detect criminal behavior and suspicious activities; enforce traffic and parking regulations; and assist students and employees. Students, employees, and members of the community are required to obey all local, state and federal laws, statutes and ordinances. In addition, members of the college community must observe all HCC administrative rules and procedures. The public safety department is responsible for monitoring compliance with these laws and many of the college’s rules and procedures.

Responsible Students and Employees Should:

- Inform the public safety department about suspicious conduct, criminal activities and hazardous situations.
- Refrain from leaving doors and windows open when rooms are vacant.
- Walk to cars and classes in groups or with a companion. (Call 253-7911 for an officer escort to the parking lots or garage.)
- Walk in well-lighted areas at night, even when in a group.
- Attend to their intuition. (If students feel they are being followed, they should change direction and walk toward a group of people or to a secure area.)
- Watch their belongings.
- Avoid strangers that appear suspicious or out of place.
- Freely contact Security to ask for assistance.

Students who notice situations that represent potential or real safety or security problems should notify the local campus security office by using the emergency telephones.

Upon request, the college will make available to future students its policies, procedures, statistics and other information about campus safety and security. The Safety Handbook is available at the student services webpage at www.hccfl.edu/ssem/safety-handbook.aspx.

Sexual Harassment Policy

Hillsborough Community College will maintain a workplace and educational setting free from harassment of any kind and from any source including but not be limited to supervisors, co-workers, administrators, students, faculty, consultants and visitors to the college. Each administrator, faculty member, professional-managerial employee, classified employee and student should pursue assignments and responsibilities at the college with a total commitment to basic ethical principles and professional codes of conduct.

The college believes sexual relationships between teachers and students or superiors and subordinates are ill advised as they might adversely affect the academic or workplace environment or relationships. Such relationships between superiors and subordinates or between teachers and students are unethical because the consent of students or subordinates may not in fact be voluntary given the “power imbalance” in such relationships.

Tobacco-Free Policy

HCC is dedicated to providing a healthy and productive environment for its faculty, staff, students, visitors, and contractors which includes eliminating tobacco use as part of our commitment to promoting healthy practices and choices for individuals.

Tobacco-use is prohibited on all Hillsborough Community College properties, including owned and leased buildings, student housing, outdoor areas, parking lots and garages, courtyards, entrance and exit ways and college vehicles. This policy includes all types of tobacco and
tobacco-like products, including smoked and smoke-less tobacco, other smoking products, and electronic cigarettes.

Student Misconduct

Students must adhere to all published federal and state laws and ordinances and college administrative rules and procedures. Alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct will be referred to the appropriate campus dean of student services. Following the guidelines in the Student Handbook and Academic Planner for student conduct and discipline, the dean will determine the appropriate college response.

HCC will cooperate with external police and judicial authorities investigating alleged violations of public laws or ordinances.

Telephones

Office telephones are for official use only. If the college receives an emergency call for a student, every effort will be made to locate and inform the student. However, the college will not deliver personal messages of a non-emergency nature.

Textbook Refund Policy

HCC bookstores grant full refunds on textbooks (whether purchased new or used) during the first two weeks of the semester and during the first week of summer term. Books returned after those deadlines will be purchased at used book prices (55 percent of purchase price). In determining the amount to be refunded, the bookstores will follow these guidelines:

• All refund requests must be accompanied by sales receipts.
• If purchased new, books must be unmarked and must not be defaced in any manner. Marked books will be purchased at used book prices. The bookstore staff members are the sole judge of whether a book is in new or used condition.
• Each HCC bookstore will refund textbooks purchased at any other HCC bookstore.
• Books or merchandise that is defective should be exchanged as soon as the defect is discovered. Defective used books must be returned for exchange during the first two weeks of class.
• Students must provide a student ID and a government issued photo ID in order to receive refunds.
• Refunds are not given for merchandise other than textbooks.
• Refunds are not given for special-order books.
• When students’ petitions for late drops are approved, the deadline for refunds will be waived.

Buy Back Policy

If a textbook is in good, resalable condition and is a required textbook for the next semester (except when the bookstore’s current stock exceeds the anticipated demand), the bookstore may buy the book back at a price determined by the bookstore.

The buy-back period is the first two weeks and last week of each semester and on every Tuesday and Wednesday during the semester. On each campus, bookstore hours are posted each term.

Threats of Violence

Threats by HCC students, staff or visitors to do bodily harm, damage property or disrupt the operation of the college are inimical with the goals of the college and will not be tolerated. Students or employees who make such threats, whether verbal or written, expressed or implied, will be disciplined according to the appropriate administrative procedures.

Records Policies

Confidentiality of Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) governs the confidentiality of student records. (Records are defined as all records, files and data directly related to students that are created, maintained, and used by HCC.)

Notification of Social Security Number Collection and Usage

Hillsborough Community College (HCC) will only use your social security number (SSN) as needed for lawful purposes within the business of HCC and for those specific purposes identified by the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service and other state and federal regulatory agencies. The SSN will not be used in any information system as the primary identification of individuals unless required by law. HCC is committed to provide security for our students, faculty and staff, and recognizes that the threat of identity theft is a growing problem. HCC departments that are authorized and required to collect, transmit, store or use a SSN will do so in a secure manner. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge or dismissal in accordance with HCC rules and procedures.

In compliance with Section 119.071(5), Florida Statutes, this document serves to notify you of the purpose for the collection and usage of your SSN.

HCC collects and uses your SSN only for the following purposes in performance of the College’s duties and responsibilities. To protect your identity, HCC will protect your SSN from unauthorized access, never release your SSN to unauthorized parties, and assign you a unique student/employee identification number. This unique ID number is used for all associated employment and educational purposes at HCC.

For the student information system (Hawknet), the primary identifier for a student will be the student identification number, which will be used to access student education records, and for electronic and paper data systems that identify, track and service students. Faculty and staff will require students to provide their student identification number for all transactions and not SSNs for any transactions requiring access to student records.