



Student Handbook

2017-18

October 2017

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ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Westmoreland County Community College

The Westmoreland County Community College Student Handbook is designed to encourage students, faculty and staff to reflect upon the college's mission, vision and values. Student life at the college embraces the co-curricular student experience, teaching, learning and a student code of conduct which is rooted in an atmosphere of respect and responsibility.

Mission/Vision/Values

MISSION

Westmoreland County Community College improves the quality of life in the communities we serve through education, training and cultural enrichment.

VISION

Westmoreland County Community College is recognized as a premier institution of higher learning focused on student success, workforce development, economic growth and cultural experiences.

VALUES

1. Teaching and Learning: We are committed to excellent instruction and lifelong learning.
2. Innovation and Creativity: We are committed to creativity, new ideas and the advancement of art, culture and technology.
3. Equity and Inclusion: We are committed to an educational and workplace environment where all are treated with dignity and respect.
4. Collaboration and Teamwork: We are committed to cooperation within our college and to strong relationships with employers, school districts and other community partners.
5. Accountability and Integrity: We are committed to high, ethical educational standards.
6. Social Responsibility and Stewardship: We are committed to principles of service and good citizenship.

2017-2018 Academic Calendar

This calendar is subject to change. An up-to-date calendar can be found on the portal at my.westmoreland.edu. Since Westmoreland provides classes in a variety of formats, deadlines for adding, dropping and withdrawing from classes varies as well. Refer to your billing statement for dates relevant to your courses.

FALL 2017

Faculty Development	Aug. 16-17
Faculty Return/Prep Day	Aug. 18
Classes begin	Aug. 21
Labor Day (college closed)	Sept. 4
Faculty Development (3-5 p.m.)	Sept. 19
Faculty Development (No Classes)	Oct. 3
Faculty Development (3-5 p.m.)	Oct. 26
Last day for student-initiated withdrawal	Nov. 18
Thanksgiving recess (College Closed)	Nov. 22-25
Exams or Class Days (Faculty in Attendance)	Dec. 9, 11-14
Faculty Prep Day	Dec. 15
Grades Due in Records Office	Dec. 18 (Noon)

Spring 2018

Faculty Work Day	Jan. 3
Faculty Development	Jan. 4
Faculty Prep Day	Jan. 5
Classes Begin	Jan. 8
Dr. Martin Luther King Observance (college closed)	Jan. 15
Faculty Development (No classes)	Feb. 13
Faculty Development (3-5 p.m.)	Mar. 6
Faculty Development (3-5 p.m.)	Mar. 22
Spring Break-Students & Faculty	Mar. 28-31
Last day for student-initiated withdrawal	April 7
Exams or Class Days (Faculty in Attendance)	April 28, 30
May 1-3	
Faculty Prep Day	May 3
Commencement	May 4
Grades Due in Records office	May 7 (Noon)

Summer 2018

10-week & First 5-week session classes begin	May 21
Memorial Day Holiday (College Closed)	May 28
No Classes	May 29
8-week session classes begin	June 6
First 5-week classes end	June 26
Grades Due	July 2
Independence Day (college closed)	July 4
Second 5-week session classes begin	June 27
Last day of classes for 10-week, 8-week & Second 5-week	Aug. 1
Grades Due	Aug. 6 (Noon)

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Westmoreland Locations

Youngwood Campus

145 Pavilion Lane
Youngwood, PA 15697
724-925-4000

Advanced Technology Center

1001 Technology Drive
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666
724-925-4269

Murrysville

6707 Mellon Road
Export, PA 15632
724-925-8090

Fayette County

140 North Beeson Blvd.
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-437-3512

Indiana County

45 Airport Road
Indiana, PA 15701
724-357-1404

Latrobe

130 Depot Street
Latrobe, PA 15650
724-925-8473

New Kensington

1150 Fifth Avenue
New Kensington, PA 15608
724-335-8110

Public Safety Training Center

65 Public Safety Drive
Smithton, PA 15479
724-872-2447

Important Phone Numbers

Admissions Office	724-925-4077
Bookstore	724-925-4174
Campus Children's Center	724-925-4156
Career Development	724-925-3359
College Learning Center	724-925-4135
Continuing Education	724-925-4107
Counseling	724-925-4121
Disabled Student Services	724-925-4121
Division Offices	
Business, Math, Science & Engineering	724-925-4004
Distance Education & Education Centers	724-925-4177
Humanities, Social Sciences, & Public Service	724-925-4046
Health Professions & Culinary Arts/Hospitality	724-925-4029
Technology	724-925-8650
Education Centers	
Advanced Technology Center	724-925-4269
Murrysville	724-327-8090
Fayette County	724-437-3512
Indiana County	724-357-1404
Latrobe	724-925-8473
New Kensington	724-335-8110
Public Safety Training Center	724-872-2447
Financial Aid	724-925-4063
Health/Fitness Center	724-925-4244
Library	724-925-4100
Placement Assessment	724-925-6893
Registration	724-925-4204
Student Activities	724-925-4055
Student Placement	724-925-4121
Student Records	724-925-4069
Transfer Services	724-925-4121
Tutoring	724-925-4135
Veteran's Services	724-925-4056

For other Westmoreland offices call 724-925-4000.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Accreditation

Westmoreland County Community College is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, 3642 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, 267-284-5000. The Commission on Higher Education is an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

Programs at the college are approved by the Pennsylvania State Department of Education for veteran's educational benefits. In addition, the following programs carry specific accreditation/approval by certifying/accreditation organizations:

- The associate in applied science degree Baking and Pastry program, Culinary Arts programs and Restaurant/Culinary Management program are accredited by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation Accrediting Commission (ACFEFAC), a specialized accrediting agency recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).
- The Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene programs are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, a specialized accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

- The diploma in Medical Assisting, Youngwood campus, is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB). Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, 25400 US Highway 19 N, Suite 158, Clearwater, FL, 33763, 727-210-2350.
- The Associate Degree Nursing Program is on full approval status by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing. The Associate Degree Nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326; 404-975-5000; www.acenursing.org for achievement of quality and excellence in nursing education.
- The associate of applied science degree Diagnostic Medical Sonography program is accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), 1361 Park St., Clearwater, FL 33756; 727-210-2350; www.caahep.org with the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS), 6021 University Boulevard, Suite 500, Ellicott City, MD 21043; 443-973-3251; www.jrcdms.org.

This catalog reflects the most current information about Westmoreland County Community College and does not constitute a contract between the student(s) and Westmoreland. The college reserves the right to amend any provisions or requirements at any time. Admission to Westmoreland acknowledges notice and acceptance of the college's reservation of this right.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Founded: 1970

Location: Youngwood, Pa., approximately 6 miles south of Greensburg, off Route 119

Phone: 724-925-4000

Internet: www.westmoreland.edu

Enrollment: approximately 5,517 full- and part-time students

Programs: 64 associate degree, 15 diploma, and 58 certificate programs with options that prepare students for careers or transfer to baccalaureate degree programs at four-year institutions.

Degrees Granted: associate of arts degree, associate of fine arts degree, associate of applied science degree, diploma and certificate

Youngwood Campus: The main campus is located in a rural setting a short distance from the New Stanton Interchange of the Pennsylvania Turnpike off Route 119. The 80-acre campus comprises four buildings. Founders Hall, Commissioners Hall and Science Hall house general classrooms, science laboratories, computer and desktop publishing laboratories, multimedia technology laboratory, culinary arts laboratory with dining facility, dental hygiene clinic, radiology technology laboratory, greenhouse, theater, art gallery, library, Student Services, College Learning Center, Campus Children's Center, bookstore, student lounges, cafeteria, gymnasium, fitness center, and indoor running track. The Business & Industry Center contains classrooms, laboratories, offices and training facilities for area employers. In addition, there are athletic fields for baseball, softball and other sporting activities. All buildings are easily accessible to the physically disabled. There are also designated parking spaces for the physically disabled. The Westmoreland smoking policy designates all buildings at the Youngwood campus and the education centers as smoke-free.

Off-Campus Centers: To provide access to quality educational opportunities to all area residents, the college operates six off-campus education centers - Murrysville, Export; Fayette, Uniontown; Indiana, Indiana; Latrobe, Latrobe; and New Kensington, New Kensington - that serve all of Westmoreland, Fayette and Indiana counties.

The Westmoreland Advanced Technology Center, located at RIDC-Westmoreland in the former Sony facility, houses the college's workforce development programs and provides the regions' employers with state-of-the-art facilities for advanced training in advanced manufacturing and robotics, additive manufacturing, energy, machining and fabrication, and nano-technology for students and local employers.

The Westmoreland Public Safety Training Center, located near Smithton, provides public safety training for fire, police and emergency services responders.

Faculty: 85 full-time teaching faculty and approximately 312 part-time faculty

Academic Calendar: two 15-week semesters (fall, spring); two 12-week Late-Start sessions (fall, spring); one 10-week, one 8-week and two 5-week summer sessions. Classes are conducted weekdays, evenings, Saturdays and online.

Directions - Youngwood Campus:

From Greensburg and Route 30: Take Route 119 South into Youngwood. At the second traffic light, Depot Street, turn left and proceed one mile to the college, located on the right.

From the New Stanton interchange of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Exit 8/75): Take Route 119 North into Youngwood. At the fourth traffic light, Depot Street, turn right and proceed one mile to the college, located on the right.

Westmoreland maintains education centers that serve all of Westmoreland, Fayette and Indiana counties. Day and evening classes are conducted at Murrysville, Export; Fayette, Uniontown; Indiana, Indiana; Latrobe, Latrobe; and New Kensington, New Kensington. In addition, online courses are offered to students at these sites. Student services such as counseling, advising and financial aid are also available at scheduled times. Students can also pay tuition and fees and purchase textbooks at the centers.

Murrysville

Murrysville is located at 6707 Mellon Road near Murrysville. The center houses traditional classrooms, a distance learning classroom, a computer laboratory, a science laboratory, accommodations for workforce development training, a student lounge with Wi-Fi and offices. 724-327-8090

DIRECTIONS: From Greensburg: Take Route 66 North to Route 22 heading west toward Pittsburgh. At the third traffic light, turn left onto Mellon Road and proceed approximately 1.5 miles to the Murrysville Center on the left.

From Murrysville: Take Route 22 East toward Delmont. Turn right at the intersection onto Mellon Road and proceed 1.5 miles to the Murrysville Center.

From Harrison City: At the intersection of Route 130 and Harrison City Export Road, travel north on Harrison City Export Road 3 miles. Bear right onto Mellon Road past the entrance to Westmoreland Country Club and proceed approximately 1 mile to the center on the right.

Latrobe

Latrobe is located at 130 Depot Street, Latrobe. The new center houses traditional, computer and multipurpose classrooms; a Collaborate classroom; allied health and science labs; student study areas; a conference room; and administrative offices.

DIRECTIONS: From Route 30: Take Route 981 North toward Latrobe. (Route 981 becomes Lloyd Avenue.) Cross the bridge and bear right onto Main Street then take the first left onto Jefferson Street. Turn left onto Depot Street. The center is on your right.

From Route 22-New Alexandria: Take Route 981 South and turn right onto PA 981/Industrial Boulevard at the traffic light. The center is on your right at the intersection of Depot and Jefferson streets.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

New Kensington

Opened in January 2009, New Kensington is located at 1150 Fifth Avenue in downtown New Kensington. The center contains traditional classrooms, computer classrooms/labs, a science lab, administrative offices and a student lounge. The center is also home to PA CareerLink - Alle-Kiski, which provides services to the unemployed. 724-335-8110

DIRECTIONS: From C. L. Schmitt Bridge: At the second traffic signal, turn left onto 4th Avenue. Follow 4th Avenue up to 11th Street and turn right. Turn left onto 5th Avenue. Westmoreland is located on the right.

From Greensburg Road: At the Parnassus Intersection, (CVS), proceed straight through the traffic signal onto Industrial Boulevard. Stay on Industrial Boulevard through town and pass the C. L. Schmitt Bridge. At the stop sign, go straight and make a right onto 11th street (in front of the UniFirst). Proceed through first stop sign and turn left at the following stop sign onto 5th Avenue. Westmoreland is located on the right.

From Vandergrift/Leechburg: Follow Rte. 56 toward New Kensington. Turn right onto 7th Street (next to Valley High School track) and proceed straight to first traffic signal. Turn right onto Freeport Road and proceed to next traffic signal. Turn left onto Locust Street, cross the viaduct to next stop sign. Turn right onto 5th Avenue. The College is located on the right.

Advanced Technology Center

The Advanced Technology Center, located in RIDC-Westmoreland at 1001 Technology Drive in Mt. Pleasant, provides state-of-the-art classrooms, labs featuring specialized equipment for hands-on training and open, flexible instructional space for collaborative learning. In addition to housing the workforce development programs, the center provides advanced training for the region's employers. 724-925-4269

DIRECTIONS: From New Stanton: Take I-70 East toward US-119/Greensburg. Take Exit 1 to merge onto US-119 South toward Connellsville and then exit on Technology Drive. Proceed to traffic light and turn left (intersection of Old 119/State Route 3093) and then make the first right into facility.

From Greensburg: Follow US-119 South/South Main St. Take the exit to stay on US-119 South toward Connellsville and exit on Technology Drive. Proceed to traffic light and turn left (intersection of Old 119/State Route 3093) and then make the first right into facility.

From Pittsburgh: Take I-376 East toward Monroeville then get on I-76 East. Take Exit 75 for US-119/PA-66 toward Greensburg. Take Exit 1 to merge onto US-119 South toward Connellsville Exit on Technology Drive. Proceed to traffic light and turn left (intersection of Old 119/State Route 3093) and then make the first right into facility.

Public Safety Training Center

Designed for firefighter, police and emergency services personnel, the center is located in South Huntingdon Township. The facility features a six-story tower with an attached 2 1/2 story residential building that simulates industrial, commercial and residential structures. Also on site are a classroom/administration building, class A live burn building, outdoor firing range, rubble pile, outdoor training props and pond. 724-872-2447

DIRECTIONS: From I-70 W (New Stanton and PA Turnpike, exit 75): Take I-70 West 8 miles from New Stanton to the Smithton exit (no. 49). Exit, and turn left at the stop sign onto Fitz Henry Road. Proceed 1 mile and turn right onto Reduction Road. Proceed 1 mile to the PSTC entrance on the left.

From I-70 E (Belle Vernon and I-79): Proceed on I-70 East to the Smithton exit (no. 49). Exit and turn left at the stop sign onto Fitz Henry Road. Proceed 1 mile and turn right onto Reduction Road. Proceed 1 mile to the PSTC entrance on the left.

Fayette County

Located at the Fayette County Community Action Agency Inc. Campus in Uniontown, Fayette houses two traditional classrooms, a computer classroom, a videoconferencing classroom and administrative offices. 724-437-3512

DIRECTIONS: From U.S. 119 South: Take the PA Route 51 ramp to Pittsburgh Street. Turn left on Route 51 South/Pittsburgh Road and continue to follow Route 51 South. Turn left onto W. Penn Street and then turn left onto North Beeson Boulevard.

From PA 21 Roy E. Furman Highway: Turn right onto US 40 East. Turn left onto Beeson Boulevard.

Indiana County

The Indiana Center is located at 45 Airport Road, Indiana, near the Jimmy Stewart Airport. Easily accessible from routes 286 and 119, the center contains a computer lab, a nursing lab, six classrooms, an office and a student lounge. 724-357-1404

DIRECTIONS: From Punxsutawney: Take Route 119 South to the Clymer/Indiana Exit and exit at Clymer Route 286. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Airport Road. Continue approximately 100 yards and turn left into the parking lot.

From Blairsville: Take Route 119 North to the Clymer/Indiana Exit and exit at Clymer Route 286. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Airport Road. Continue approximately 100 yards and turn left into the parking lot.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Enrollment Made Easy

To help students re-enroll each semester, the following points should be taken into consideration registering for classes:

1. Complete a scholarship application at www.westmoreland.edu/scholarships. Students that have questions about financial aid or scholarships should email financialaid@westmoreland.edu.
2. Apply for financial aid starting in October of the year prior to starting classes.
3. Visit www.westmoreland.edu/paymentplan to explore payment plan options.
4. Contact an academic advisor to help with enrolling for upcoming semesters. They can assist with program evaluations in the proper selection of courses.
5. Buy books at the Bookstore early - especially if using financial aid to purchase books.
6. International students must submit official English-translated academic credentials, TOEFL scores of 61 or higher (TOEFLiBT), a statement of financial support for the entire period of enrollment and provide documentation of immigration status.

Personal Data Record

The Personal Data Change form is to be used to change name, address or telephone number. This form is available at the Student Services Success Center and online at westmoreland.edu. It is the responsibility of each student to keep his/her personal data record updated.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is a grant, scholarship, loan or employment opportunity which assists students with their educational expenses. Most financial aid is awarded on the basis of financial need, or the difference between the cost of education (tuition, fees, books, transportation, etc.), and the amount parents and/or students can contribute toward these expenses. The college participates in several state and federal financial aid programs.

Basic Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible for many forms of financial aid a student must:

- Be a citizen or eligible non-citizen of the United States.
- Be enrolled in a degree, diploma or certificate program (audited courses do not count toward enrollment status and registered classes must count toward program of study).
- Have a high school diploma, or a recognized equivalent such as a General Education Development (GED) certificate, or completed a high school education in a home school setting approved under state law.
- Be registered with Selective Service if a male.
- Be in good academic standing and maintain satisfactory progress according to college, state, VA and federal regulations.

How to Apply

1. For the 2017-2018 academic year; complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov once your taxes have been filed for 2015. Students should use Westmoreland County Community College's school TIV code of 010176. (The 2017-18 school year runs from August 21, 2017, through August 1, 2018.)
 - a. The FAFSA will be available October 1, 2016 instead of January 1, 2017.
 - b. The FAFSA will collect income information from 2015.
2. If your file is selected for Federal Verification, please submit your federal tax return transcripts, verification worksheet and any other requested documentation to the Financial Aid Office in a timely manner.
3. To ensure timely consideration, students should have paperwork on file in the Financial Aid Office by June 1 for the upcoming fall term. The FAFSA is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
4. To apply for Federal Student Loan(s), you must access studentloans.gov and complete Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note.

Minimum Standards of Academic Progress for Financial Aid

Federal and state regulations governing student financial aid require that an institution develop standards to measure academic progress toward a degree. All students will be monitored for financial aid satisfactory academic progress (SAP) whether or not financial aid was applied for or received during any academic period in which the student was previously enrolled. You will not be eligible for financial aid if you do not meet the financial aid SAP requirements. In order to maintain SAP for financial aid eligibility, students must meet four standards: a 2.0 GPA requirement, a 67% pace requirement, a minimum cumulative unit requirement and a maximum time-frame requirement (150% for your degree-seeking program of study).

Standards of Academic Progress

All students are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress. Satisfactory academic progress requires maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher. Failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress will result in an Unsatisfactory Academic status and suspension from receiving additional financial aid. Students have the right to appeal the suspension of financial aid. A written appeal must be submitted to the financial aid office stating the reasons for not maintaining satisfactory academic progress. The appeal, academic plan and all supporting documents will be reviewed by the Financial Aid SAP Appeals Committee in the order in which they are received. The committee will notify the student of its decision in writing. Students whose appeal is approved will have their aid reinstated for the upcoming term. This term will be called Probation as their continuing eligibility will be determined after their Probationary term is over.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Grades and Grade Points

Letter grades are assigned to inform students how well they have learned the material in their course(s). For each letter grade there is a corresponding number called grade points. The table below shows the grades and their grade point equivalents.

Academic Grade Achievement Grade Points

A superior = 4.0

B considerable = 3.0

C satisfactory = 2.0

D marginal = 1.0

F unsatisfactory = 0.0

W withdrawn = 0.0

M Military withdrawal = 0.0

I incomplete = grade to be computed upon completion of course

AU audit = no credit

The Grade Point Average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the point value of each grade earned by the number of semester hours of the course for which the grade is received and then dividing by the total number of credit hours attempted.

Developmental credits do count for the calculation of Satisfactory Academic Progress and are included in the metrics for the calculation of cumulative GPA, completion rate and Maximum Time Frame. Maximum of 30 attempted Remedial credits are funded with federal financial aid.

All Repeated courses will be counted in the total number of attempted credits for SAP calculation.

Transfer credits accepted by Westmoreland County Community College will be included in overall attempted credits, but not the GPA calculation.

Incomplete coursework will be considered as courses attempted, but not successfully completed.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Review

Students are evaluated at the end of each academic term (fall, spring and summer). The review process will assign a status for each student of:

- **Satisfactory:** Student has met progress standards and is eligible for aid for the following semester or academic year.
- **Warning:** Student has NOT met progress standards, but may continue receiving federal aid. Student is encouraged to seek tutoring to assist with the improvement of his/her GPA and progress. A student in the 'Warning' category is calculated based on cumulative evaluation through prior term enrollment.

- **Unsatisfactory:** Students who fail to meet the conditions of a warning, which are to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a minimum cumulative completion rate of 67%, will be placed on suspension. Students who are placed on suspension forfeit their financial aid. A student may either appeal to have their financial aid eligibility reinstated, or may notify the Financial Aid Office when they are meeting the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy so that their financial aid eligibility can be evaluated.
- **Maximum Time-Frame:** Student is no longer eligible to receive Federal or State financial aid due to having exceeded the maximum allowed credits for earning his/her program of study. Up to 30 remedial credits are removed from the total hour calculation for the maximum time frame equation for 150%.
- **Probation:** Probation occurs when students on suspension have their eligibility for financial aid reinstated by an approved Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal. Students in the status of probation will have their financial aid eligibility reinstated for one more semester. A student on probation may not receive aid for the subsequent payment period unless: The student is now meeting the financial aid Satisfactory Academic progress policy at the end of the probation period (semester); or the student adheres to the financial aid student academic plan.
- **Denied:** If the appeal is denied by the SAP Appeal's Committee, no further financial aid will be awarded to the student until the conditions of the SAP policy have been met. The student will be responsible for the payment of all tuition, fees, book charges, and any other costs associated with enrollment.

Student Right-to-Know

Student Right-to-Know is a public law that requires institutions of higher education receiving federal financial assistance to provide certain information regarding the graduation/persistence rates of students. However, at the time of publication, the method by which this information is to be distributed has not been decided by the federal government. Therefore, students who wish to review information on graduation/persistence rates may do so in the Admissions Office.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Crime Statistics/Reporting

Westmoreland County Community College adheres to the Student's Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act (Public Law 101-542). Crime statistics may be found at www.westmoreland.edu under Security and selecting Clery Report. In compliance with Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, the college collects and reports specific information on campus crime statistics and campus security policies in the Annual Security Report. This federally mandated report is designed to assist students, prospective employees and the public in being aware of institutional security policies and procedures.

Under the federal Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act, any person who is required to register with the Commonwealth as a sex offender under Pennsylvania's Megan's Law requirement must notify the state if they are employed or are enrolled as a student at a college or university. The law also requires institutions of higher education to advise the campus community how to obtain information on current registered sexual offenders and predators residing within the campus community. Information regarding registered sex offenders residing around the college campus and education centers may be obtained by visiting the Pennsylvania Megan's Law website at www.pameganslaw.state.pa.us.

Some school applicants are asked about their criminal history and federal law requires certain disclosures on financial aid forms. Failure to provide such information when required for specific education programs may impact a student's ability to participate in the education program.

All prospective employees are also screened in state and federal criminal records databases and the state child abuse registry consistent with the requirements of Act 153.

Student Identification Cards

Student photo ID cards are provided free of charge to all currently registered credit students. ID cards are issued at the Student Services Success Center or any education center during normal business hours. Returning students should keep their ID cards and must have them validated at the Student Services Success Center each semester. Lost cards are replaced for \$5.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Educational Planning

Student support assistance helps students in choosing an appropriate program of study and develops a schedule of classes for their first semester based upon placement assessment scores and personal interests. Students receive information about the advising sessions after they submit their application for admission to the college.

After the initial registration, students with less than 12 college credits are assigned to the counseling center. The counselor's goal is to facilitate the student achieving degree status, which is completion of 12 college credits. Upon admittance to degree status, students are assigned to a faculty advisor in the student's major area of concentration.

The student and faculty advisor relationship should focus upon completion of degree requirements and helping the student to achieve their career goals.

Counseling

The counseling staff at Westmoreland helps students adjust to college life. Counselors are available to provide assistance with academic or personal difficulties which may hinder students' educational progress. Among the most common reasons students seek counseling are:

- academic advising and planning
- assistance in transferring to a four-year college or university
- career information and planning
- services for students with disabilities
- personal concerns
- probation counseling
- crisis management

Counseling is confidential and free.

Career Planning

A staff of professional counselors is available to assist students in career planning and decision-making. The online version of the COPSystem (Career Occupational Preference Survey) is an assessment tool that can be used. The student and counselor can review the test results. Together they can develop an educational plan that will assist students as they work toward their career goals. In addition, students are encouraged to work with the staff of the Career Development Center who can also assist with career planning and educational goals.

Transfer Services

A transfer counselor's role is to help you determine the academic requirements of the transfer institution and to select coursework at Westmoreland that will meet those requirements. It is important to make sure you communicate with a transfer counselor every semester to ensure you have access to the most recent information. Those who plan to continue their education after completing coursework at Westmoreland should contact a transfer counselor in the Student Services Success Center.

Special Services

The Act 101 and Student Support Services programs help students make a successful transition to college life.

Act 101

The Higher Education Equal Opportunity Program Act 101, established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1971, provides counseling, tutoring, and other supportive services and resources for students so that they can succeed in college and reach their goals. The Westmoreland ACT 101 Program is located in the Student Services Success Center in Founders Hall at the Youngwood campus.

To be considered as eligible for ACT 101, Westmoreland's ACT 101 participants must be full-time residents of Pennsylvania, meet income criteria and have academic potential. For more information about Westmoreland's ACT 101 program, call 724-925-4121, email act101@my.westmoreland.edu, or stop by the Student Services Success Center.

TRiO (Student Support Services)

TRiO/Student Support Services is a federally funded academic support program that strives to help students succeed in college, continue to enroll in classes and to reach their goals of graduation and/or transfer to another institution. To be considered eligible for program services, a student must be a first-generation college student, meet income criteria or have a disability.

To learn more or to apply for the program, stop by the TRiO offices in Founders Hall 565, email trio@my.westmoreland.edu or call 724-925-4006.

Services for Students with Disabilities

The Disability Services Office offers support and guidance to both prospective and currently enrolled students with disabilities. Services and accommodations are offered to ensure that students have access to both college programs and facilities in accordance with all applicable laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Accommodations provided to students are based on individual needs, documentation provided and the impact of the disability on the academic environment. Students requesting accommodations or disability-related support should contact Lauren Eicher, counselor, Disabilities and Student Behavioral Intervention Services at 724-925-4121 or eicherla@westmoreland.edu. All information provided is confidential.

Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

The OVR provides assistance to students who have disabilities that would normally impair their chances of obtaining occupational training and employment. To apply, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Additional information is available from the OVR offices in Pittsburgh, Johnstown and Washington and from the Student Services Success Center.

College Learning Center

The College Learning Center (CLC) offers WCCC students tutoring and other educational services which are essential to academic success.

Tutoring

Tutorial services for credit courses are available through the College Learning Center (CLC) at no cost to students. Tutoring sessions are conducted on a limited individual or small group basis. A staff of professional, peer and volunteer tutors can provide students with assistance. Tutoring for various general courses such as math, reading/writing, biology and psychology is available. Assistance for other subjects varies and may not be available for all courses. Please check with the CLC to find out what subjects can be supported.

Tutors can also assist students to develop the necessary study skills needed to improve classroom performance. Students are welcome to utilize any handouts or to take the Learning and Study Strategies Inventory (LASSI) that we offer. Testing Services

The CLC offers testing services for make-up exams. A valid Westmoreland student ID card with the current semester's sticker affixed is required to take an exam in the CLC. All other items must be placed within a locker that requires a quarter deposit. Personal property cannot be left in the CLC. Appointments are necessary and must be made 24 hours in advance. All tests are filed under the instructor's last name; therefore, students should know their instructor's name prior to making an appointment. Following these procedures will help to provide an efficient and effective testing service. Enforcement of the Academic Dishonesty Policy will be observed by the CLC staff. Students who have been found responsible for violating the policy may not be permitted to test in the CLC for the remainder of the academic school year.

Veterans Benefits

Westmoreland welcomes and honors the men and women who have served our country. As a veteran, a student may be eligible for educational benefits through numerous GI Bill Programs:

- The Post 911 GI Bill offers Higher Education and training benefits to veterans, service members and their families who served after Sept. 10, 2001.
- The Montgomery GI Bill assists active duty and reservists.
- The Dependents Educational Assistance Program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

Students may not be eligible for Veterans Educational Benefits for the following reasons:

- Program of study must be approved by the VA
- Satisfactory Academic Progress
 1. Maintaining a GPA of 2.0 or better
 2. Successfully completing a minimum of 67% of all attempted credits
 3. Must complete a program of study within 150% of the credits required to graduate
- All courses must go toward the student's degree requirements.

Contact the VA Certifying Official in the Financial Aid Office at 724-925-4063 for further information or if you need assistance in applying. Questions regarding compensation, pension, home loans and Vocational Rehabilitation should be directed to the Pittsburgh Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000.

Career Development and Placement Center

Founders Hall, Room 130 • 724-925-4058

Students seeking career information, working to gain experience in their major, or conducting a job search, can get assistance through the Career Development and Placement Center. The center offers a variety of activities for students and alumni that encourage career awareness and promote job-search readiness.

Services include:

- Career Exploration
- Career Resource Center
- Internships/Internship Placement
- Job Shadowing
- Workshops
- On-Campus Recruiting
- Career Fairs
- Career Management Software/Job Postings (College Central Network)
- Reference USA Job Search Software
- Career Planning and Job Search Software

Child Care/Preschool

The Campus Children's Center is located at the Youngwood campus. The center operates a childcare/preschool program for children ages 3-6 years, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m., following the class schedule of the college. The center also operates a preschool program 9 a.m.-noon daily. The center offers a school-age program during the summer for children 3-10 years of age. Campus Children's Center programs are licensed by the Pennsylvania State Department of Public Welfare. It serves students, faculty and staff, as well as community members. Childcare and preschool fees are based on an hourly rate each semester.

The center offers parents a safe, nurturing and creative educational environment for their children. The Campus Children's Center has earned the STAR 4 rating by the voluntary Pennsylvania Keystone STARS Child Care Program. STAR 4 status is the highest rating possible for child care centers in Pennsylvania. The Campus Children's Center has also achieved accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). For more information or to register your child, call 724-925-4156.

Learning Resources Center

The Learning Resources Center supports the instructional process by providing print, audiovisual and digital library services. The LRC also coordinates distance education functions. Students who have questions or comments about LRC services should contact the director of Distance Education, 724-925-4138.

Library

The library's print, audiovisual and digital collections are selected to support the college curricula and to provide materials for leisure reading and viewing. Collectively, these include over 40,000 books, 28 databases, hundreds of instructional videos and popular films. A qualified professional staff is available during library hours to assist students in the use of library materials.

Student Access to Library Resources

All Westmoreland students have access to the library's print and audiovisual materials at the Youngwood campus. Students who take classes exclusively at education centers may make requests through the library's catalog located on the mywestmoreland portal, by telephone or email. Materials are delivered via courier to the appropriate education center. All currently registered students also have access to the digital resources to which the library subscribes by logging in to the mywestmoreland portal. The college participates in the Westmoreland County Academic Libraries Reciprocal Borrowing Program which provides the opportunity for students to borrow library materials directly from the following libraries: Saint Vincent College, Seton Hill University, and the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. Students must present a valid Westmoreland student ID card when requesting borrowing privileges or reference assistance. Students may also borrow from Penn State libraries if they are Pennsylvania state residents and are issued a Resident Borrowers card by any Penn State library. The library also participates in regional and national consortia which facilitate interlibrary book lending and interlibrary photocopy services for materials not held locally.

Bookstore

The college bookstore operates for the convenience of students, faculty and staff. In addition to textbooks and supplies for classes, the bookstore stocks stationery, clothing and gift items.

Prior to the start of each semester, the bookstore publishes a list of required books and their prices for each course, and monthly hours of operation. Students may obtain this information by accessing our website at westmoreland.edu/bookstore, or visiting the bookstore and providing the course code. Students who have misplaced their schedules may request a duplicate copy at the bookstore. The bookstore accepts payment by cash, check, financial aid, MasterCard, or Visa.

Students attending classes at the education centers may purchase their textbooks by using the main campus bookstore in Youngwood. If unable to do so, students should contact their education center or visit westmoreland.edu/bookstore for alternative options.

Refunds on textbooks are allowed only under certain circumstances; requests for refunds must be accompanied by receipts and, if appropriate, a copy of the student's drop form. Copies of the complete bookstore return policy are printed on the back of each bookstore receipt.

Information regarding the bookstore is available online at westmoreland.edu/bookstore.

College Closing Information

Rave Mobile Safety

Information on class cancellations and college closings due to inclement weather or other emergency situations is made available to all students by email from Rave Mobile Safety, the college emergency notification service. Alert messages will also appear prominently on MyWestmoreland portal, westmoreland.edu webpage, Westmoreland Facebook and Twitter pages and digital signs on campus. Credit students are automatically signed-up for email alerts to their MyWestmoreland.edu account but must add additional email addresses and phone numbers manually. To receive additional alerts, log into MyWCCC and select Emergency Alerts-Update Your Account under Bookmarks.

Students will also be notified by television and radio station announcements, the college website (westmoreland.edu), and TV-station affiliated websites. Information of specific TV and radio stations and websites will be published on the website and in The Grapevine.

As road conditions vary widely during inclement weather, students are advised to use their own judgment in deciding whether to attend classes. For more information and alternate routes to the Youngwood Campus, visit MyWestmoreland and select the Closing/Class Cancellation Guide under Bookmarks.

MyWestmoreland Portal

The MyWestmoreland portal (<https://my.westmoreland.edu>) offers access to a variety of college online services, including email; WebAdvisor, which allows students to register for classes, pay for tuition and access grades and transcripts; Blackboard, for online courses; Campus Announcements, News and Events and information on Student Life/Athletics.

Bulletin Boards

The campus and education center bulletin boards are one of the main sources of information for students. Students may post signs and notices on the activities boards following the stamped approval by the Student Government Association. There are restrictions regarding sign size and content and posting is permitted only on the bulletin boards. To obtain posting approval or more information, contact the Student Life Office, Student Center, Founders Hall or call 724-925-4055.

Wireless Internet

Westmoreland has free wireless Internet service available at several locations on the Youngwood campus including the The Den, library, Student Center and Student Activities Office area, Founders Hall lobby and South Entrance, Commissioners Hall lobby and dining rooms, and Science Hall lobby. Students must register their laptops with the Information Technology Department in Founders Hall, Room 148 in order to use the wireless Internet service.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Transportation

Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the college. Bus transportation is available via the Westmoreland County Transit Authority and schedules can be obtained by calling 1-800-834-WCTA.

Ride sharing is encouraged and registered carpools are eligible to use specific parking spots on campus. Students needing rides and those willing to provide rides are encouraged to use the college's partnership with CommuteInfo, a program that helps Southwestern Pennsylvania residents find ways to share rides and use transit systems. Visit westmoreland.edu/commute for more information and to register as a commuter.

Student Parking

Free and ample parking is available for students at the Youngwood campus and the education centers. Students may park only in designated areas. Illegally parked cars will be ticketed and fined. Consistent violators may have grades withheld and be unable to register for additional classes until fines are paid.

Carpool parking (two or more students riding together) is available in the front row of the student lot located in front of the Founders Hall main entrance (Lot B). 30-minute visitor parking is available in front of the Founders Hall main entrance (Lot H). ADA and van-accessible parking is available in all campus parking lots and marked accordingly. Overflow parking when lots are full is available behind Commissioners Hall (Lot F).

Vehicle Regulations

To ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors, the college has established parking rules and enforces all provisions of the vehicle code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Hempfield Township. A 15-mile-per-hour speed limit is in effect at all parking lots and college roadways.

Fines will be levied according to the following schedule: (The timeframe for the offenses is one semester.)

FINES	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
Trespass	\$10	\$25	\$50
Blocking Traffic/Walkways	\$10	\$25	\$50
Parking in the Fire Lane	\$10	\$25	\$50
Not Parked between Lines	\$10	\$25	\$25
Use of Restricted Parking without a permit	\$10	\$25	\$25
Use of Disabled Parking without a permit	\$50	\$50	\$50

Recurring offenses may carry higher fines. Fines may be paid at the Student Services Success Center. All fines are financial obligations to the college. WCCC reserves the right to withhold grades, transcripts or diplomas until all fines have been paid in full.

Disabled Student Parking

Students who wish to use the disabled student parking areas must have either a valid handicap license plate from the state or a state-issued plaque indicating the individual has a disability. A temporary parking permit may be issued for short-term use only. Students may call the Disability Services Office at 724-925-4121 to discuss individual needs.

Student Use of Buildings

The Youngwood campus buildings are generally open for student use from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Student use of the buildings at other times is permitted only with administrative permission. Hours for the education centers are determined by class schedules and vary each semester.

Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Leisure Programs
Intercollegiate sports competitions include coeducational golf, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer and women's volleyball in the fall and men's and women's basketball, men's and women's bowling, women's softball, men's baseball and coeducational golf in the spring. The teams compete for honors in the Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference and also for regional and national honors that are sponsored by the National Junior College Athletic Association. All student athletes must satisfy the eligibility provisions of the National Junior College Athletic Association and the academic probation policy of the college.

An intramural program, incorporating a variety of sports, is offered for full- and part-time students who wish to enter team or individual tournaments regardless of their ability levels. Offerings are available for women and men as well as in a coeducational format. The key ingredient to participation is interest, not skill level.

The indoor physical education facilities at the college include a gymnasium, auxiliary gym, an indoor jogging track, locker rooms and a fitness center that features a variety of strengthening machines and aerobic equipment. Hours are posted at the gym entrance. Students should check the weekly schedule of events that may close portions of the gymnasium facilities.

The outdoor facilities include softball, baseball and three soccer fields.

Students are encouraged to utilize the facilities for their leisure use so a pattern of lifelong physical fitness is developed. A variety of credit and noncredit physical education courses are scheduled to assist in this endeavor.

Children are not permitted in the gymnasium.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Lock/Locker Rental

The Student Activities Office located in Founders Hall, rents a limited number of locks/lockers to students, staff and faculty on a semester basis. Only school-issued locks are permitted on lockers and all others will be removed. A \$10 deposit is required; \$7 of that deposit will be refunded at the end of the semester when the lock is returned. Lockers are located in Founders, Commissioners and Science halls and the Business and Industry Center.

Food Service for Students

AVI Fresh provides fresh food daily throughout the campus for our students, faculty and staff. In Founders Hall at The Den, Joe's provides flame-grilled burgers, chicken fingers, French fries and grilled chicken sandwiches. Wrapped offers delicious custom-crafted sandwiches and a variety of our signature salads including Chicken Caesar Salad and Turkey Bacon Club Salad. Piazza offers hand-crafted freshly baked pizza with a variety of interesting toppings and healthy options. We feature premium stromboli's and pepperoni rolls stuffed with your favorite ingredients. Our kiosk in Commissioners Hall lobby offers fresh portable meals, snacks, pastries, Starbucks coffee and refreshments.

The newest addition, Westly's Café, is located in the main lobby of Founders Hall offering Starbucks We Proudly Brew products, portable meals, snacks and pastries as well as other cold refreshments.

Fall & Spring Semester Hours

The Den – Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Westly's Café – Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday's 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Commissioners Kiosk – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Summer Semester Hours

Westly's Cafe - Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Dining cards may be purchased at the Bookstore using financial aid and may be used at any of our locations.

In addition, there are vending services in each building at the Youngwood campus and the Westmoreland education centers.

Café at 145, a mini-restaurant operated by the college's hospitality students and faculty, is also available to students. Café at 145 serves lunch and/or dinner in the Commissioners Hall dining room on designated weekdays during the fall and spring semesters. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Call 724-925-5925 or 724-925-5980 for more information.

Student Life

The Student Life Office provides the foundation for student involvement, promoting personal, social, and intellectual growth through student engagement, leadership development and student focused programming.

To achieve this mission, the department will work to:

- Encourage student involvement/engagement
- Provide learning through experience
- Create a challenging environment that fosters time management and personal accountability
- Strengthen respect for all persons
- Help students work collaboratively with others
- Promote all aspects of community/campus life
- Support programming, leadership development and student organization formation
- Support students in their self-directed activities and events
- Provide social, educational and cultural opportunities for all students

Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA) is the representative voice of the student body. Executive board officers and voting members promote and represent the rights and interests of students. Every student of the college becomes a non-voting member of the Student Government Association upon payment of their student services fee. There are five officers on the SGA Executive Board and a maximum number of voting members that match a 1:200 member to student body ratio. The executive board is composed of a student president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and communications officer. The executive board officers are appointed following an application and selection process of the SGA appointment committee. Any student enrolled in a credit program at the college may be eligible to become a SGA voting member provided he or she follows attendance guidelines as stated in the Student Government Association Constitution.

The purpose of the Student Government Association is to:

- To encourage superior standards in academics, leadership, loyalty, honesty and mutual respect.
- To provide an effective means for students to express their wishes on matters directly concerning them and the college
- To encourage student participation and generate student spirit through supporting college, student organization, and extra-curricular activities
- To act in the best interest of the study body at all times and to encourage activities of a social, educational, community service and cultural nature
- To provide a means of communication and representation among the student body, the Student Government Association, student organizations, faculty and the administration of the college
- To provide a basis through which the students of Westmoreland may communicate with the students of other institutions of higher learning
- To recognize and encourage all officially approved student organizations on campus
- To oversee expenditures of funds allocated to the SGA to benefit the student body
- To carry out the provisions of the SGA Constitution

STUDENT SUCCESS

Regular meetings of the SGA are held bi-weekly to discuss issues and concerns that arise within the college community, especially those which directly affect students, and seek solutions to these problems. Each recognized student organization is required to send representation to these meetings, where they are given the opportunity to report on organization issues, activities and seek support for their endeavors. The SGA also adopts practices and procedures that integrate the activities of other student organizations with the total college program and serve as a liaison among students, faculty and administration.

The SGA sponsors and conducts a variety of collegewide educational and service-based activities each semester. Such events include a Red Cross Blood Drive and a food drive through the Westmoreland County Food Pantry.

Cultural Programs

The mission of the Cultural Programming Committee is to expose students and the residents of the communities served by the college to a diversity of cultural experiences, ideas and expressions.

Prevention and Awareness Committee

The primary focus of the Prevention and Awareness Committee (PAC) is to educate the college community about topics of substance abuse, mental health, and gender violence. PAC seeks to do this by sponsoring educational events on campus and providing support and referrals for students who are dealing with these topics.

College clubs provide opportunities for growth in areas of special interest and leadership. Many organizations are centered on areas of study while others are open to all students. All student clubs and organizations must be officially recognized by the Student Government Association and the college. Coordinated through the Student Life Office, the following clubs are officially recognized college student organizations:

American Welding Society

The Westmoreland chapter of the American Welding Society is devoted to promoting welding and related processes, and to supporting all those who contribute to the industry.

Anime Club

The Anime Club was established for students who enjoy anime. Members of the club watch and discuss anime together, draw anime and write Fan Fictions to share. The Anime Club also hosts movie nights for its members.

Art Club

The Art Club provides a forum for students to exchange ideas, learn about their field and showcase artwork. Activities are organized that expand awareness of the art profession and take advantage of cultural events in the area. Numerous field trips are arranged.

The Business Society

The Business Society is dedicated to teaching and providing hands-on experience to business students. Throughout the semester members will help bring awareness and recognition of successful business leaders from around our area, giving students and community members an opportunity to interact and network with one another. Our mission is to create, manage and grow a successful campus business with the supervision of full-time business instructors and the entire business department. Although this was created for business majors, any student can join.

Campus Activities Board

The purpose of the Campus Activities Board (CAB) is to organize, promote and participate in campus activities and social events for all students. Events of a recreational, social, educational, cultural and community-service nature are supported, sponsored, planned and coordinated by the CAB. Membership in this organization is open to all Westmoreland credit students who have interest in activities and social planning.

Criminal Justice Fraternity

The Criminal Justice Fraternity is an outlook organization on legal procedures in the community. It is designed for students interested in law enforcement as a career. The purpose is to familiarize criminal justice students with situations within the environment that they may encounter in the future. Some group projects include visits to a prison, a court trial and a correctional institute.

Early Childhood Education Club

The Early Childhood Education Club is designed to promote community interest and involvement in the field of child care and to give a broader range of knowledge in this career area. The club also helps with community activities involving children.

Fortnight Film Club

Based at the Murrysville Education Center, the Fortnight Film Club welcomes all students with an interest in film. Members meet bi-weekly and vote on films to view and discuss in depth.

Gaming

Westmoreland Gaming is dedicated to bringing anyone who plays games together in a fun, collaborative environment. Membership is open to all students. Westmoreland Gaming plays video games, board games, card games, tabletop games and anything else club members wish to play at events each semester. Student trips include visiting the Pittsburgh Symphony for video game-inspired orchestras and traveling to local/national video game conferences, among others. The student organization is also active in the community with a variety of activities aimed at helping others.

History Club

The History Club promotes the study of history by encouraging research and the exchange of learning and ideas among those students who are history enthusiasts. The club provides ideas outside the classroom for students interested in historical study and debate.

Horticulture Club

The Horticulture Club strives to help its members learn more about horticulture through field trips, guest speakers and campus projects. It also promotes fellowship among the members through various events. It is open to all Westmoreland students.

Human Services Social Work Club

the Human Services Social Work Club provides an opportunity for students in the Human Services Social Work program to gain knowledge and experience in the field of human services social work outside of the classroom. Members participate in community service projects. They also participate in educational opportunities and networking events with professionals in the community.

NSNA/SNAP - Westmoreland Chapter

NSNA (National Student Nurse Association) is a national professional organization open to all student nurses. SNAP (Student Nurse Association of Pennsylvania) is a state professional organization for student nurses. Students on both levels are invited to join the professional groups. Students participate in health education activities and work toward promotion of nursing as a profession. They participate at the regional, state and national level by attending workshops and conventions that focus on current professional interests and concerns.

Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa is the only nationally acclaimed honor society serving America's two-year colleges and associate degree granting institutions. Election to the honor society is open to any student who has completed at least 12 credit hours (either full- or part-time) at Westmoreland. Candidates must possess a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better in order to be considered for selection. The purpose of the society is to recognize academic excellence among students in two-year colleges, provide opportunities for intellectual interchange and assist those seeking to transfer to four-year institutions. Phi Theta Kappa also offers scholarship opportunities, student directed honors projects and the chance to attend regional and national meetings of the society.

Reach Out Christian Club

The purpose of the ReachOut Christian Club is to unite Christians from all denominations to support one another in their faith and to learn more about God through various Bible studies that meet the interests and needs of college students. ReachOut holds a weekly prayer and Bible study, participates in community service and plans other events for members. The club also finds opportunities to share their faith with the rest of the student body.

Robotics Club

Grinding, destruction, science, technology, engineering and math are the ingredients that make up the Robotics Club. The club is dedicated to helping students learn about the world of manufacturing through the creation of robots. Members of the club are able to participate in competitions including BotsIQ and National Robotics League.

Sigma Alpha Pi (National Society of Leadership and Success)

The National Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi, is the nation's largest leadership honor society. Membership is open to any student with a one-time membership fee. In addition to honorable distinction, the society provides a step-by-step program for members to build their leadership skills through participation at Westmoreland or online. Upon completion of the program, members receive their leadership certificate and take their place among the top student leaders on campus. Membership is for life and provides access to benefits including scholarships.

Student American Dental Assistants Association

The Student American Dental Assistants Association is an organization composed of dental assisting students. The association helps to promote the profession of dental assisting and educational gain outside of the classroom. It also promotes awareness of the Dental Assisting program.

Student American Dental Hygienists Association

The Student American Dental Hygienists Association is the student organization of the American Dental Hygienists Association and is composed of dental hygiene students. The mission is to promote dental health and the prevention of dental diseases by providing dental education to all age groups – children, adolescents, adults and geriatric populations. Students participate in many community oriented activities including visits to schools, community groups, nursing homes and head start programs. Once a year, students provide free dental products such as toothbrushes, dental floss and toothpaste, which the students purchase through fundraising.

Veterans Club

the Westmoreland Veterans Club offers a friendly environment of diverse individuals who share many of the same challenges, excitement and pride of returning to formal education after completing our country's call to service. The club participates in community service opportunities and supports fellow members transitioning from the everyday structure of military service to the new rigors of college life. Membership is open to current students who are veterans, active duty personnel, Reservists, National Guard or retired military.

Writers' Guild

The Writers Guild is a group of writers, varying in skill from masters of the craft with years of experience, to beginners looking for new ways to express themselves. If you enjoy writing of any form, whether it be technical writing or poetry, creative nonfiction or novel-writing, this is the place for you! An informal group of peers each working toward the goal of bettering our understanding of the art and business of being a writer, we also have a subcommittee that works on the "Writers Corner," a monthly publication aimed at entertaining and informing the student body with fun-to-read articles and stories!

STUDENT POLICIES

Code of Student Conduct

Purpose and Rationale

Westmoreland County Community College (Westmoreland) is a learning-centered college focused on student success thus a positive educational environment is imperative. In order to ensure the health, safety, protection, and positive learning environment, Westmoreland has established the Code of Student Conduct.

Westmoreland holds that the purpose of the policies regarding the student conduct and disciplinary process is to establish guidelines for the educational environment within the college. Further, Westmoreland views the student conduct in a holistic and developmental manner; thereby, seeking educational growth and development throughout the process. Whereas Westmoreland is a learning-centered environment, every member of the campus community should familiarize themselves with the Code of Student Conduct, Student Handbook, and College Catalog.

Statement of Jurisdiction and Authority of Administration of the Code of Student Conduct

The following policies and procedures regarding conduct and disciplinary action are applicable to any Westmoreland location or function, the use of college properties, college-sponsored events and activities on or off campus. Westmoreland reserves the right to take any necessary and/or appropriate steps to protect the safety and well-being of the campus community. While Westmoreland's jurisdiction will generally be limited to conduct occurring on campus properties or at Westmoreland sponsored activities, a student who is charged with a crime as a result of off campus behavior, and who represents a risk to the reputation, health, or safety of the campus community may also be subjected to the Code of Student Conduct disciplinary process. Finally, jurisdiction may be extended when a student, or student organization, commits a prohibited act off campus against a student, faculty, or employee of Westmoreland, or the college itself, when such an act is related to the student or accuser's status within the college.

The vice president of Enrollment Management has been designated by the college president as the person responsible for implementing and enforcing the Code of Student Conduct. In cases where conflicts of interest arise, the vice president of Enrollment Management's designee will coordinate the process.

Definitions

Student Rights and Responsibilities

All students have the basic right to have the freedom to learn, meaning that they are free to take advantage of the educational opportunities available to them both through the curriculum and co-curriculum. This right is based on mutual respect and responsibility. When a student enrolls at Westmoreland, they agree to abide by all College policies and regulations. The violation of any rule within the Code of Student Conduct could result in disciplinary action. Further, Westmoreland will abide by any and all state, local, and federal laws with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Westmoreland County.

Standards of the Student Code

- I. Westmoreland students are expected to positively contribute to the positive learning environment. Violations of this standard include:
 - a. Engaging in behavior that is discriminatory, bullying, harassing, or abusive to any individual or groups of individuals on the basis of their gender, gender identity, race, color, creed, religion, ethnicity, age, marital status, military status, national origin, sexual orientation, and/or disability. Violations can occur through various modalities including email, texts, phone calls, social media, and/or in-person.
 - b. Intentionally, or knowingly, engaging in conduct that endangers the life or property of another individual or entity. This includes the threat of harm, attempt of harm, or actual harm to oneself, another person, or the cause for a reasonable fear of such harm. Threatening behavior can include written statements, actions, gestures, etc., and can occur via emails, texts, phone calls, social media, verbally, in writing, and/or in-person.
 - c. Engaging in conduct that is disorderly, lewd, or otherwise disruptive to the learning and/or educational process.
 - d. Engaging in sexual contact with another person without consent. This type of conduct is referred to as sexual assault (Please see Title IX Policy as a cross-reference).
 - e. Stalking (including through social media), dating or domestic violence committed by one student against another that occurs on or off campus that negatively affects the learning environment of the student/s (Please reference Title IX Policy).
 - f. Engaging in any act of hazing, or any other kind of initiation to any student organization or athletic organization.
 - g. Engaging in retaliation of any kind.
 - h. Unauthorized use of electronics or other devices that make audio, visual, or photographic recordings.
 - i. Interfering with the normal operations of the college.
 - j. Interfering with classroom instruction.
- II. Westmoreland students are expected to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the campus community. Violations of this standard include:
 - a. Entering, or remaining, in any lab, classroom, office, building, or campus facility after closing time without proper authorization.
 - b. Use, possession, distribution, sale or purchase of illegal substances on college property or at college sponsored events.
 - c. Use, possession, sale, or purchase, of alcoholic beverages without following the procedures as outlined in the college's Student Drug and Alcohol Policy.
 - d. Use, possession, or sale of illegal drugs (Please reference the college's Student Drug and Alcohol Policy)
 - e. Incapacitation due to the use or abuse of alcohol or a controlled substance, or appearing in an intoxicated or altered state on college premises, at college-sponsored events, or while officially representing the college - particularly when there is a danger to self, others, or property.

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- f. Smoking in areas of the campus not designated as smoking areas.
- g. Operating a motor vehicle in a reckless manner.
- h. Use, possession, sale, purchase or concealment of any firearms, licensed or unlicensed, including BB/Pellet guns, sling shots, and sharp edged objects which can be used as weapons, explosives or dangerous chemicals.
- i. Theft, willful defacement or willful destruction of college property or personal property of others.
- j. Theft, including, but not limited to intellectual property such as work products and computer software, either physically or through unauthorized invasion of computer files.
- k. Using another person's ID to gain access to the data communications network or the Internet.
- l. Using the data communications network for private or personal business or for any other purpose which is inconsistent with the research or instructional needs of the college.
- m. Failure to identify oneself when requested to do so by a college administrative official, security officer, faculty, or staff member.

III. Westmoreland students are expected to observe the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures of the college and local, state, and federal laws. Violations include:

- a. Knowingly engaging in behavior that is disruptive to the educational process, both inside the classroom and out. Examples of this conduct include conduct that disrupts college activities, such as blocking entrances and exits to classrooms, or conduct that infringes on the rights of others, or organizing such conduct.
- b. Unlawful gambling
- c. Underage possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- d. Possessing, distributing, or using illegal drugs, or prescription drugs not prescribed by a medical doctor for one's use.
- e. Withholding, or intentionally giving false information to a college official.
- f. Forging, altering, or misusing any college document, i.e. transcripts, diplomas, etc.
- g. Violating any federal, state, or local law on or off campus at a college-sponsored event.
- h. Failing to comply with college policies as outlined in the college Catalog and/or Student Handbook.

Procedures for Dealing with Violations to the Code of Student Conduct

The vice president of Enrollment Management, or their designee handles all violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

Reporting a Violation

1. Any student, faculty member, college official, college employee, or member of the campus community may file a charge(s) of misconduct against a student.
2. All alleged violations should be submitted in writing within two weeks of the point in which the violation was known to occur.

Investigation an Alleged Charge of Misconduct

1. Upon receiving a charge of misconduct, an investigation of the charge will occur.
2. The investigation will typically include an interview with the person within the campus community filing the charges of misconduct, the complainant, or victim, possibly witnesses, and finally, the respondent, or the student who the charges of misconduct were filed against.
3. Temporary Suspension- The vice president of Enrollment Management, or designee may suspend the student from the college for an interim period pending disciplinary proceedings.
 - a. The time period should be clearly defined, i.e., two days, three days, etc.
 - b. The temporary suspension may come immediately effective without prior notice if needed to conduct further investigation of the alleged violation.
 - c. The student suspended on a temporary basis will have an expedited Conduct Hearing (within five business days).
 - i. If insufficient evidence is found prior to the first Conduct Meeting, and further investigation is needed, then the temporary suspension may continue until the next Conduct Meeting.
4. As a result of the investigation, the college may:
 - a. Dismiss the allegations as unfounded, or
 - b. Administer disciplinary act as deemed appropriate based upon the severity of the violations.
 - i. If the investigation yields that disciplinary actions are needed, the respondent will be informed in writing and asked to meet with the vice president of Enrollment Management, or designee for a Conduct Meeting.

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Disciplinary Actions

1. As aforementioned, the respondent will be informed of the alleged violation of the Code of Student Conduct in writing, and subsequently scheduled for a Conduct Meeting.
2. During the Conduct Meeting, the respondent will have the opportunity to present their side of the alleged violation.
3. All steps will be taken to resolve the charges through mutual agreement and to determine the appropriate disciplinary actions. Steps to resolve the conduct violations could include mediated discussions with students and/or faculty, letters of apology, and letters of corrective action. A written summary will be provided at the conclusion of any mutual agreement.
4. If a mutual agreement is not reached, then the student will receive notification of disciplinary action within three (3) working days.
5. Disciplinary actions can include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Educational Sanctions- A student may be assigned a paper, a project, and/or readings which must be completed within a prescribed timeframe and are designed to help students who violate the Code of Student Conduct reflect and learn from their violations.
 - b. Probation- Terms of probation may include restricted access to designated areas of campus (e.g. Cafeteria, Library, etc.) and/or restricted participation in college activities or athletics. If a student violates the restrictions imposed, or becomes involved in any other violations of conduct while on disciplinary probation, additional sanctions may be imposed after a meeting with the vice president of Enrollment Management, up to and including suspension or dismissal from the College. Probationary notice is to be given to the student in writing with the terms of the probation and the rationale carefully detailed.
 - c. Written Warning- A Written Warning is a letter from the vice president of Enrollment Management to a student found in violation of the Code of Student Conduct. The specific violation is to be stated in the letter along with a rationale for why it violates the Code of Student Conduct, and it will be copied to the President of the College.
 - d. Restitution- Any student found in violation of the Code of Student Conduct that has an associated expense to the college or members of the campus community may be required to make financial restitution to all parties involved. Failure to do so within a given period of time could result in further disciplinary action.
 - e. Monetary Fines- Monetary fines could be imposed in cases where deemed necessary.
 - f. Community Service- an unpaid service to the benefit of the campus community, or community at large. Failure to comply within a given period of time could result in further disciplinary action.
 - g. Dean's Hold- A hold applied to the student's account that prohibits all academic and financial transactions without the consent of the vice president of Enrollment Management.
 - h. Mandated referral to an evaluation by psychologist, or mental health professional.
 - i. Withdrawal for a Course- The vice president of Enrollment Management, or designee, may choose to withdraw a student from a course or transfer them to another section.
 - j. Classroom Removal- A faculty member may temporarily remove a student from class who disrupts the educational environment. If the faculty member removes the student for more than one class session, he/she will submit a written report within 48 hours of the incident for review by the vice president for Enrollment Management. A Conduct Meeting will be scheduled on a priority basis and decisions as to whether or not a student can return to class will be made in consultation with the faculty member.
 - k. Suspension- Suspension shall be a specific period of time in which a student is prohibited from enrolling at the institution. Typically, a student who is suspended will receive a "W" for all of his/her courses.
 - l. Expulsion- Expulsion is the immediate removal of a student from the college prohibiting future enrollment at the institution. Typically, a student who is suspended will receive a "W" for all of his/her courses.

Appeal Process

A student who wishes to appeal the decision concerning a violation of the Code of Student Conduct must appeal the decision by filing a written appeal with the Judicial Board within 10 business days of the decision.

Judicial Board: The Judicial Board has been designed to treat adjudicated incidents of violation of the college rules and regulations by students who appeal the decision made by the college. Such incidents exclude behavior that can be defined as academic in nature. Appeals can only be forwarded to the Judicial Board for consideration if there is: (1) additional information not available for initial consideration; (2) extenuating circumstances not made known; (3) an error or irregularity in the Code of Student Conduct process.

The Judicial Board shall consist of five members, which will include three student representatives selected and approved by Student Government Association and one faculty and one staff appointed by the vice president of Enrollment Management.

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Procedures: All appeals made in connection with a non-academic matter will be forwarded to the chairperson of the Judicial Board.

1. The appeal must be presented in written form, and should include all facts. This should include particular dates, times, actions, and people involved.
2. All parties asked to appear at the hearing will be given five business days' notice of the hearing. They will also be given a written statement of charges and the procedure which will be followed in the hearing. In order for a hearing to take place, a quorum of three members must be present with at least one of whom must be faculty and/or staff. The Judicial Board will assume responsibility for its procedural operation which will include electing a chairperson and conducting hearings according to the following guidelines:
 - a. Hearings shall be conducted in private.
 - b. Admission of any person, not a party to the hearing, shall be at the discretion of the chairperson.
 - c. The complainant and/or the accused student are responsible for presenting his or her own case.
 - d. Both the student and complainant shall have the right to present witnesses and shall have the opportunity to cross examine the other's witness.
 - e. Relevant records, exhibits and written statements may be admitted as evidence for consideration by the Judicial Board, at the discretion of the chairperson. These records, exhibits and written statements must be submitted to the chairperson at least three days before the Judicial Board meets.
 - f. Formal rules of civil and criminal procedures, and/or technical rules of evidence, will not be strictly applied in Judicial Board proceedings.
 - g. There shall be a transcript of the hearing, provided by the college, in the form of an electronic recording. No unauthorized recording devices will be permitted in the room. The record shall become the property of the college.
 - h. After the hearing, the Judicial Board shall meet in closed session to determine, by majority vote, whether the student's appeal should be upheld and/or to determine a different sanction.
 - i. All proceedings presented to the Judicial Board should be kept confidential.
 - j. The Judicial Board's decisions and recommended sanctions shall be prepared in writing within five business days and directed to the vice president of Enrollment Management. The decision of the Judicial Board is final.

Children on Campus

Children are not permitted in classrooms during scheduled classes because of the potential for disruption. Children are permitted on college property only when supervised by a parent or parent-designated adult.

Procedure for Resolution Involving Grades and Academic Issues

The following procedure is recommended for those instances in which a student has an academic concern:

1. The student should make an appointment with the faculty member and discuss the problem.
2. If the student feels that he/she cannot meet with the faculty member, he/she should seek the advice of his/her faculty advisor and/or counselor.
3. If he/she has seen the faculty member and is still not satisfied, the student should make an appointment with the division dean to whom the faculty member reports.
4. If the concern is not resolved at the division level, the student should make an appointment to see the vice president of Enrollment Management.
5. If the concern is still not resolved after meeting with the vice president of Enrollment Management, the student may request an appointment with the president. The decision of the president in these matters is final.

The college expects students to maintain high standards of academic integrity in all college courses.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. The following procedure has been developed to prevent occurrences of academic dishonesty and to guide faculty and students should they become involved in such incidents.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Cheating: the use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or other aids in an academic exercise
2. Fabrication: the unauthorized falsification or creation of any information or citation in an academic environment
3. Facilitating academic dishonesty: helping or attempting to help another to commit a dishonest academic act
4. Plagiarism: the use of the works of another as one's own in any academic environment.

Faculty Responsibilities

The student will be notified no later than five working days after observation or discovery of a specific dishonest incident. Notification will include a description of the infraction, the potential penalty and the student's right to appeal. A copy of the written notification will be forwarded to the appropriate division dean and the vice president for Academic Affairs.

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Vice President of Academic Affairs Responsibilities

The vice president for Academic Affairs shall retain a master file of all documented cases of academic dishonesty. The faculty-assigned penalty may be revised if the master list shows multiple infractions. If the penalty is revised, the student will be notified immediately in writing.

Student Appeal Process

A student may appeal the charge of academic dishonesty by contacting the division dean within five days of the date of the notification letter. At this time, the student must submit a written request for appeal with appropriate justification to support the appeal. The appeal process is limited to challenging the charge of academic dishonesty; once the charge of academic dishonesty has been established, the penalty is not subject to appeal.

The student's appeal, including review of the merits of the charge, will be heard by the division dean and two division faculty selected on a rotating basis. The faculty member making the charge will be present. If the student's concern is not resolved, he/she may appeal to the vice president for Academic Affairs, whose determination will be final.

Penalties

Any infraction could result in one of the following: grade of F on the assignment/examination in question, completion of an alternate assignment, or a grade of F for the course. Multiple infractions, whether within the same course or in a combination of courses, will be grounds for suspension and/or dismissal from the college.

Academic Dishonesty Appeals Hearing

- 1 The Academic Dean will arrange the date, time, and location of the hearing and notify two faculty members from the Academic Dean's School(s) in addition to the instructor for the course in question, the student making the appeal, and other parties such as proctors or staff who may have witnessed the alleged infraction.
- 2 The hearing will begin with all aforementioned parties present, and the Academic Dean will give a brief overview of the incident as reported.
- 3 The instructor and/or staff witness(es) will describe the incident(s) and give justification for his/her decision. After, the student will be invited to justify her/his request for appeal.
- 4 The two aforementioned faculty members and Academic Dean will be invited to ask questions for clarification, but the discussion will be restricted to the particular incident.
- 5 After all parties have made their contributions and the two aforementioned faculty members have had questions about the incident answered to their satisfaction, the Academic Dean will escort the student out and then the instructor and any other staff besides the two faculty members.
- 6 The Academic Dean will join the two faculty members to deliberate and will contact the student with the decision.

Ethical Statement for Student Computer and Data Communications Network Use

Westmoreland County Community College's data communications network and the systems by which it is interconnected and accessed exists to support the research and instructional needs of the college. Access to this system is a privilege granted to students and this privilege can be revoked for inappropriate conduct. While the right of free speech applies to communication in all forms, the college encourages civil and respectful discourse.

Some prohibited forms of communication include:

- Obscenity
- Defamation
- Threats
- Disruption of the academic environment
- Harassment based on sex, race, disability or other protected status
- Anonymous or repeated messages designed to annoy, abuse or torment

Some prohibited forms of behavior include:

- Creating excessive noise or other actions that interfere with the work of others in the computer lab
- Using the computer system's capabilities to represent another person's work as your own; this action is considered a form of plagiarism
- Using another student's ID to gain access to the data communications network or allowing others to use your network ID
- Malicious attempts to harm or destroy another person's data, including uploading or creating computer viruses
- Attempting to gain unauthorized access to data, software or systems
- Using the data communications network for personal or private business

All ethical principles that apply to everyday college life also apply to using the data communication network. The use of this network is encouraged for scholarly communications within the constraints of the Westmoreland County Community College Student Code of Conduct and this ethical statement.

Student Email Policy

Westmoreland County Community College (Westmoreland) provides electronic mail (E-Mail) resources to support an environment conducive to teaching and learning; specifically, to assist students in their educational endeavors, to encourage communication and engagement with peers, faculty, and staff, and to provide a primary mode of communication to the Westmoreland community.

A student's Westmoreland e-mail account will serve as the official e-mail account through which the college will communicate when communicating via e-mail.

STUDENT POLICIES

The following policy is in place to ensure the proper use of Westmoreland student e-mail accounts. Policy violations will be investigated by designated Westmoreland officials, and may result in actions including the loss of computer privileges, or appropriate legal action if acts constitute a civil or criminal offense.

This policy encompasses all use of student e-mail regardless of the platform.

Acceptable Use

- A means of communication between faculty, staff, and students.
- As a method of sending and receiving important notifications and information.
- As a tool for collaboration in the instructional process.

Prohibited Use

- Sending documents that include forgery, plagiarism, or violations of copyright laws.
- Sending or forwarding e-mails that are obscene, abusive, threatening, or otherwise harassing.
- Using the e-mail system to violate a law or regulation, or that encourages illegal activity.
- Knowingly, or recklessly transmitting email messages that contain viruses, worms, spyware or any form of malware.
- Use of e-mail that interferes with other's ability to conduct institutional business.
- Use of e-mail that will effect direct costs to the institution or for commercial purposes and/or personal financial gain.
- Providing a third party with an individual's e-mail address or a list obtained from within the institutional system without express written permissions.

Termination of Student E-Mail

- Westmoreland students will not have their e-mail terminated unless separated from the college due to suspension or expulsion.

Disclosures

- Students have no individual rights to privacy with regard to a student Westmoreland e-mail account.
- The college has the right to review sent or received e-mails at any time for monitoring purposes or for purposes related to institutional business. Westmoreland reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of a student's e-mail without consent of the user to the extent permitted by law. This will occur when Westmoreland believes it has a legitimate business or legal need and after proper authorization has been obtained from the appropriate authority at Westmoreland.
- Westmoreland may monitor e-mail communications at any time, if it is deemed necessary.
- Westmoreland reserves the right to access, review, and disclose the e-mail addresses of students to the extent required by the PA Right to Know laws, and allowed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

Drug and Alcohol Policy

Westmoreland County Community College is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students, employees, and community members. This includes the college and its centers being an alcohol/drug free environment.

Alcohol and Drug Use

In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and Drug-Free Schools and Campus Regulations (34 CFR Part 86), students are encouraged to read and understand all information pertaining to the college's drug and alcohol abuse prevention policies and programs.

Alcohol

The college maintains the following guidelines pertaining to alcoholic, or otherwise intoxicating, beverages:

1. The use of alcohol, or other intoxicating beverages, is prohibited in college classroom, laboratories, faculty and administrative offices, libraries, computer labs, athletic facilities, and all other public campus areas. However, with prior consent of the Board of Trustees and the President, the provisions herein may be waived with respect to any specific affair that is sponsored by the institution and/or the Westmoreland County Community College Educational Foundation. State law will be enforced at all times on college property as it pertains to the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
2. The college will not sponsor student events which focus primarily on the consumption of alcohol.
3. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any student event held on the college campus.
4. Students seeking assistance or educational materials about alcohol should contact the Counseling personnel found in Student Success Services in Founders Hall on the Youngwood Campus.

Controlled Substances

The College maintains the following guidelines in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug-Free Campus regulations (34 CFR Part 86):

1. No student shall, or attempt to, possess, manufacture, deliver, distribute, sell, purchase, use, or be under the influence of controlled substances, abuseable volatile chemicals, dangerous drugs as defined by state and federal law, steroids, "designer drugs" (i.e., substances such as the inappropriate/illegal use of prescription drugs, use of inhalants, use of herbal, natural, or look-alike controlled substances), any other intoxicating or mood-altering substance, or behavior altering drugs at the college, on the college property, or while attending on-campus or off-campus college sponsored activities.
2. Possession of any pipe, syringe, hypodermic needle, or any instrument adapted for the use of smoking, injecting, or ingesting any narcotic or hallucinatory drug is strictly prohibited.

STUDENT POLICIES

- College officials will cooperate with local, state, and federal authorities to ensure compliance with laws for unlawful use, possession manufacture, distribution or sell of illicit drugs or alcohol and will advise students that convictions or violations of these laws can lead to fines and/or imprisonment.
- Students seeking assistance or educational materials regarding drugs and other controlled substances should contact the Counseling personnel located in Student Success Services in Founders Hall on the Youngwood Campus.

Violations

Students who violate the drug and alcohol policy are subject to disciplinary action as stated in the student Code of Conduct. Further, they may be subject to legal sanctions if convicted of a crime or offense.

Legal Sanctions for Possession, Use and Sale of Illegal Drugs and Alcohol

Alcohol

Pennsylvania Liquor Code, 47 Pa., C.S.A., 1-101 controls the possession, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Conviction of offenses or crimes related to the Pennsylvania Liquor Code may result in the imposition of a fine, suspension of a driver's license, and/or imprisonment.

Drugs

Federal law, i.e., the Controlled Substances Act, and state law, i.e., the Pennsylvania Controlled Substances Act, establish five schedules of controlled substances based on level of danger and medical use, and penalties of offenses related to each schedule. Conviction of crimes or offenses pertain to the five schedules of controlled substances may result in fines or imprisonment.

References

<http://www.lcb.state.pa.us/PLCB/index.htm>
[http://www.dmv.pa.gov/Information-Centers/Laws-Regulations/Pages/DUI Legislation.aspx#.VpgGE7YrLcs](http://www.dmv.pa.gov/Information-Centers/Laws-Regulations/Pages/DUI%20Legislation.aspx#.VpgGE7YrLcs)
<https://www.dea.gov/druginfo/ds.shtml>

Alcohol/Drug Related Issues

Substance Abuse Helpline of Westmoreland County

1-844-897-8927

- Provides 24/7 support and information for individuals and families struggling with substance abuse issues

Gateway Rehabilitation

724-853-7300 or 1-800-472-1177

www.gatewayrehab.org

- Provides inpatient, detox, and outpatient therapy
- Locations in Greensburg, Mount Pleasant and Monroeville

SPHS Behavioral Health

1-800-220-1810

- Provides outpatient therapy, partial hospitalization, case management, etc.
- Locations in Greensburg, Monessen, Latrobe and New Kensington

Domestic and Sexual Violence

Blackburn Center

1-888-832-2272 or (724)836-1122

www.blackburncenter.org

- Provides education, emergency shelter, counseling and support groups, and legal assistance
- Hotline provides 24/7 support and information

Mental Health/Crisis/Suicide Prevention

Crisis Text Line

Text START to 741-741

www.crisistextline.org

- Provides 24/7 crisis support and information

Westmoreland County Crisis Hotline

1-800-836-6010

- Provides 24/7 local crisis support and information
- Mobile crisis unit provides face-to-face intervention for those needing immediate assistance

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-8255

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

- Provides 24/7 support and information

Seton Hill Center for Family Therapy

41 W. Otterman Street, Greensburg

724-552-0339

www.setonhill.edu/therapycenter

- Provides outpatient therapy for individuals and families
- Services are provided on a sliding scale fee – no insurance accepted
- Westmoreland students can receive first three sessions free with their student ID

Smoking Policy

Westmoreland County Community College prohibits smoking/tobacco use throughout all college locations except for designated areas. Smoking/tobacco use is permitted only in the smoking shelters and inside personal vehicles. Smoking/tobacco use is defined as the use of cigarettes, pipes, cigars, electronic cigarettes, hookahs and smokeless tobacco, such as chew and snuff.

The first offense will be a written warning, second offense will be a \$25 fine, and the third offense will be a \$50 fine. Failure to pay a fine within 10 days will result in the student's account being flagged, which means he/she cannot register for classes or receive grades or degree. Persistent violators will be reported and will be handled in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Compliance with this policy will be a collaborative effort among all members of the college community. Persons observed to be smoking and/or using tobacco in a non-designated area will be requested to extinguish or discard tobacco products and will be provided with the location of the nearest designated smoking/tobacco use area. Any member of the college community can make such a request.

STUDENT POLICIES

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act - FERPA

Federal law requires that Westmoreland County Community College provide every student with access to his/her academic file. Information contained in the academic file relates only to the student's academic history and performance.

At the present time, the following information is maintained in a student file:

1. Application form
2. Permanent transcript
3. Placement assessment scores
4. Course registration information
5. Course approval forms (i.e. course substitution forms, course waiver forms, advanced standing forms, etc.)
6. Graduation information (when applicable)

Any student wishing to inspect the contents of his or her file may do so by completing a "Request for Academic File Review" form and submitting it to the Student Records Office. Students may inspect their academic file during normal working hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.), provided they have made a written request at least two working days in advance.

You have the right, by law, to keep all the information in your file confidential. However, the College has established a category of information known as Directory Information.

Directory Information may include: student name, address, phone number, date of birth, major field of study, participation in activities and sports, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received and previous schools attended

Because of its very general nature, the student normally releases Directory Information without a signed consent.

Since Directory Information does not include grades, financial data or any other strictly personal data, we expect very few students will wish this information withheld. If, however, you do not wish directory information released without your signed consent, please complete a Request to Prevent Disclosure to Directory Information form at the Records Office immediately. Your written notice to keep Directory Information confidential will be placed in our file and no information will be released unless a signed release form is presented with your signature. Any further questions you may have concerning this may be directed to the Student Records Office.

Westmoreland County Community College will disclose personally identifiable information (PII) from a student's education records to appropriate parties in order to address a health or safety emergency. FERPA's health or safety emergency provision permits such disclosures when the disclosure is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

Civil Rights/Title IX Policy and Complaint Procedure

Nondiscrimination Policy

Westmoreland County Community College will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state law including the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and with federal law, including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Inquiries should be directed to the Affirmative Action Officer (presently Sylvia Detar) at 724-925-4190 or in Room 4100D, Westmoreland Business & Industry Center, Youngwood, PA 15697.

Scope of Procedure

Westmoreland County Community College has adopted an internal procedure providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging discrimination, harassment and/or retaliation in violation of federal or state civil rights laws, including those laws enforced by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. The departments of the Federal Government enforce the following laws that prohibit discrimination, harassment and/or retaliation in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance:

- **Title VI** of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin.
- **Title IX** of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. Section 1681, et. seq.) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex/gender; including sexual misconduct, sexual harassment and/or sexual violence.
- **The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act)** as amended by the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act) prohibits sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and acts of sexual violence, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.
- **Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA)** which imposes new obligations under the SaVE Act including reporting requirement, student discipline and training for students and employees.
- **Sections 503 and 504** the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.
- **Age Discrimination Act of 1975** prohibits discrimination on the basis of age.
- **Title VII** of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (governed by U.S. Dept. of Labor), as it relates to employment.
- **Title II** of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (prohibiting disability discrimination by public entities, whether or not they receive federal financial assistance).

STUDENT POLICIES

This policy and procedures are available and applicable to all members of the college community:

- **Students**
- **Employees**
- **Trustees**
- **Guests**
- **Third Party Vendors**

Types of behavioral misconduct, on the basis of actual or perceived membership in a protected class, that are covered under this policy and procedures include, but are not limited to:

- **Bullying**
- **Discrimination**
- **Harassment**
- **Hazing**
- **Intimidation**
- **Sexual Misconduct Offenses:**
 - Sexual Assault
 - Sexual Harassment
 - Domestic Violence
 - Dating Violence
 - Sexual Exploitation
- **Stalking**
- **Cyber-bullying, cyber-stalking, cyber-harassment**

This procedure does not apply to Academic complaints, with the following exceptions:

- Complaint alleges that an academic decision was determined as a result of discrimination and/or harassment.
- Complaint alleges that an individual was denied participation in an academic program or activity due to discrimination and/or harassment.
- Complaint alleges that discrimination and/or harassment impacted or altered an individual's ability to perform academically.

Procedural Jurisdiction

This procedure applies to conduct that takes place in the following:

- All Westmoreland locations (inclusive of parking lots and grounds)
- Any activity that is sanctioned, organized or coordinated by the college, on or off campus, including but not limited to:
 - Clinicals, internships and externships
 - Community activities
 - Off-campus sites offering credit or noncredit classes and/or programs

Definitions

Complainant(s) is a person who is subject to alleged protected class discrimination, harassment or related retaliation.

Respondent(s) is a person whose alleged conduct is the subject of a complaint.

Bullying is defined as behavior which is inappropriate and unwelcomed harassment regardless of whether it occurs verbally or through other communication or physical contact that targets an individual or group because of characteristics about that group. Title IX bullying includes discrimination based on gender and/or sexual orientation. Bullying behavior may include any of the following forms and is not limited to these examples:

- Verbal abuse, such as the use of name-calling, using the targeted person or group as the butt of a joke or jokes, derogatory remarks, insults, maligning ridicule
- Inappropriate electronic communication, such as electronic mail, text messaging, voice mail, pagers, website, online chat rooms, and social media in a threatening, intimidating, or humiliating manner
- Verbal or physical conduct meant to threaten, intimidate, and/or humiliate the target individual or group
- Sabotage behavior (undermining) a target individual or group with regard to their work performance or efforts in attaining an education
- Implicit physical contact, which may include but is not limited to pushing, shoving, kicking, poking, tripping, assault, threats and damage to personal or work property.

Consent is defined as knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Consent is active, not passive. Silence, in and of itself, cannot be interpreted as consent. Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create mutually understandable permission regarding the conditions of sexual activity. Consent to one form of sexual activity cannot imply consent to other forms of sexual activity. Previous relationships or consent cannot imply consent to future sexual acts. Consent cannot be procured by use of physical force, compelling threats, intimidating behavior or coercion. If you have sexual activity with someone you know to be—or should know to be—mentally or physically incapacitated (by alcohol or other drug use, unconsciousness or blackout), you are in violation of this policy. A person is incapable of giving consent if that person is under the age of consent (16 in Pennsylvania), incapacitated due to the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, or mentally disabled. Additionally, consent may be withdrawn during the course of a sexual encounter, such that the encounter would thereafter constitute sexual misconduct, if continued.

STUDENT POLICIES

Dating Violence is defined as abusive behavior or pattern of abusive behaviors used to exert power and control over a dating partner. Whether such a relationship exists will be gauged by the length, type and frequency of interaction between the partners.

Discrimination is defined as actions that deprive members of the college community of educational, extracurricular (including athletics) or employment access, benefits or opportunities on the basis of their actual or perceived membership in a protected class.

Discrimination on the Basis of Sex is illegal under both federal and state law and is strictly prohibited by the College. Sex discrimination can be manifested by unequal access to educational programs and activities or employment on the basis of sex, unequal treatment on the basis of sex in the course of conducting those programs and activities, or the existence of a program or activity that has a disparate impact on participation, improperly based on the sex of the participants.

Domestic Violence is defined as a felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by either a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of this jurisdiction receiving grant monies under VAWA, or by any other person against a youth victim or adult who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of this jurisdiction.

Harassment is defined as acts of systematic and/or continued unwanted actions of one party or a group, including verbal abuse, threats and demands.

Intimidation is defined as implied threats or acts that cause an unreasonable fear of harm in another.

Reasonable Accommodation for students, defined as approved modifications of programs, appropriate academic adjustments, or auxiliary aids that enable them to participate in and benefit from all educational programs and activities, unless to do so would cause undue hardship.

Reasonable Accommodation for employees is defined as any modification or adjustment to a job or the work environment that will enable a qualified applicant or employee with a disability to participate in the application process or to perform essential job functions, unless to do so would cause undue hardship.

Sexual Assault is defined as a person engaging in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse with another person without their consent; includes rape, fondling, grabbing someone sexually, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic and dating violence, and many other behaviors. Sexual assault is a forcible or non-forcible sex offense under the Uniform Crime Reporting System of the FBI. Under Pennsylvania law, sexual assault is a felony of the second degree and is defined as sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse with a complainant without the complainant's consent.

Sexual Exploitation is defined as behavior that takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for the abuser's advantage or benefit, or to benefit or advantage anyone other than the one being exploited, examples are, but not limited to:

- Prostituting another student;
- Non-consensual video or audio-recording of sexual activity;
- Going beyond the boundaries of consent (such as letting your friends hide to watch you having consensual sex);
- Engaging in peeping behaviors
- Knowingly transmitting an STI or HIV to another student.

Sexual Harassment is defined as unwelcome, gender-based verbal or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that unreasonably interferes with or deprives someone of educational or employment access, benefits or opportunities. Sexual Harassment is a form of sex discrimination that is illegal under both federal and state law and is strictly prohibited by the college.

Three types of Sexual Harassment:

1. **Hostile environment** includes any situation in which there is harassing conduct that is sufficiently severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it alters the conditions of education or employment, from both a subjective (the alleged victim's) and an objective (reasonable person's) viewpoint.
2. **Quid pro quo** sexual harassment exists when there are unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, and submission to or rejection of such conduct results in adverse educational or employment action.
3. **Retaliatory harassment** is any adverse employment or educational action taken against a person because of the person's participation in a complaint or investigation of discrimination or sexual misconduct.

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Sexual Violence is defined as a form of sex discrimination that is illegal under both federal and state law and is strictly prohibited by the college. Sexual violence is defined as physical sexual acts conducted either against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent, including but not limited to, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual coercion, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and sexual violence based on the intentional selection of a victim based on criteria related to the victim's national origin, ethnicity, gender identity, gender presentation, or sexual orientation.

Stalking is defined as engaging in a course of conduct or repeated acts directed at a specific person, which would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress. For the purposes of the definition of stalking, "course of conduct" is defined as two or more acts including but not limited to acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through a third party, by any action, device, method or means, follows, observes, monitors, surveils, threatens or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property. "Reasonable person" is defined as a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim. "Substantial emotional distress" means significant mental anguish or suffering that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

Guidance on Reporting a Complaint

Prompt reporting is encouraged, because facts often become more difficult to establish as time passes. The college will take prompt and appropriate action in response to all reports in order to end the conduct, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects. The ability of the college to take disciplinary action against the respondent is limited if the respondent is no longer a member of the college community. If the respondent is a staff member, faculty member, or student and leaves the college with a pending complaint, the respondent will not be permitted to return to the college until the complaint is resolved through this complaint procedure.

Due to the potential severe nature of discrimination and/or harassment issues, the complainant does not have to address the issue directly with the respondent and/or with the respondent's supervisor (if applicable), as the initial means of resolution.

Civil rights complaints can be submitted initially in the form of a verbal statement or written complaint. If the complaint progresses to a formal phase, a written statement will be required. If the complainant does not want to submit a written statement, the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator can prepare a statement of facts, which is approved by the complainant. A Complaint Form is available for written statements.

Students

Any student (credit or noncredit) can report misconduct (described above) directly to the vice president of Enrollment Management. Students can also report misconduct to the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator or any other Reporting Agent(s) named in this policy without fear of retaliation.

Employees

Any employee (faculty, staff or administrator) can report misconduct to their direct supervisor or the Director of Human Resources. Employees can also report misconduct to the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator or any other Reporting Agent(s) named in this policy without fear of retaliation.

Guests and Third Party Vendors

Any guest or third party vendor can report misconduct to the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator and/or to the Director of Human Resources directly.

Mandatory Employee Reporting Responsibility

All employees who are aware of any incidents of sexual misconduct or other potential civil rights violations are responsible for bringing any such complaints to the direct attention of the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator or to a Reporting Agent. In addition, designated responsible employees, to include deans, directors, coordinators, advisors, counselors, coaches and all members of Human Resources, Security and Student Services, have a duty to assist and inform complainants as to the following:

1. The availability of counseling services and appropriate referrals.
2. The complainant's reporting options, including the choice to decline notifying law enforcement authorities altogether.
3. The responsible employee's affirmative duty to appropriately report the incident to the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator.

The college is required to conduct a prompt, thorough, and impartial investigation of sexual misconduct and other civil rights violations regardless of whether or not a formal complaint is filed. Failure on the part of a college employee to report an incident can result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Statement of Complainant's Rights

- To be treated with respect by college officials.
- Interim measures to prevent continued discrimination, harassment or retaliation, if deemed necessary.
- To be free from retaliation.
- To have complaints heard in substantial accordance with these procedures.
- To be informed in writing of the outcome/resolution of the complaint, sanctions where permissible, and the rationale for the outcome where permissible.

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Statement of Respondent's Rights

- To be treated with respect by college officials.
- To have complaints heard in substantial accordance with these procedures.
- To be free from retaliation.
- To be informed of the outcome/resolution of the complaint and the rationale for the outcome, in writing.

False Reporting

It is a violation of college policy to file a knowingly false or malicious complaint of an alleged civil rights violation. A false report will result in disciplinary action. A complaint filed in good faith under this provision will not result in disciplinary action.

Retaliation

Complainants who make good faith complaints are protected from retaliation pursuant to Title IX, VAWA and the Campus SaVE Act, this policy, and the college's Whistle-blower Policy. Any retaliation against an individual who has complained about sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination or sexual violence, to include sexual assault, stalking/cyber-stalking, bullying/cyber-bullying, dating violence or domestic violence, or retaliation against individuals for cooperating with an investigation of a complaint of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or unlawful discrimination, is a violation of this policy. Retaliation of respondents is also against this policy and procedure. Acts of retaliation need brought to the attention of the Civil Rights/ Title IX Coordinator and/or Reporting Agent(s) for further investigation.

Complainant Request for Confidentiality or No Action

If at any point the complainant requests that his/her name or other identifiable information be held confidential with respect to the respondent or decides not to pursue action by the college, the college will make all reasonable attempts to respond to the complaint consistent with the complainant's request. However, the college's ability to investigate and respond to the conduct may be limited. Recognizing that the college has a legal obligation to review all reports, the college will weigh the complainant's request against such factors as the seriousness of the alleged conduct, whether there have been other complaints of a similar nature against the same respondent, the college's commitment to provide a reasonably safe and non-discriminatory environment, and the rights of the respondent to receive notice and relevant information before disciplinary action is taken. If the college determines that it is necessary to proceed with the complaint procedure or implement other appropriate remedies, the complainant will be notified by the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator of the college's chosen course of action.

Information provided by college employees shall be shared with other college employees and law enforcement on a "need-to-know" basis.

Reporting Agents

The following Reporting Agents are designated as those persons who are charged with coordinating the college's implementation of this policy with the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator, and investigating complaints of unlawful discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation for the college. They may be contacted to initiate an investigation under the policy and/or to answer questions regarding this policy. The college also reserves the right to retain an outside investigator(s) to investigate complaints regarding violations of this policy.

- Vice president of Enrollment Management
- Director of Human Resources

The complainant or the respondent might allege that the investigator has a substantial conflict of interest that might impair his/her ability to conduct a fair and impartial investigation of the allegations. In that event, details supporting the alleged conflict of interest must be submitted, in writing, to the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator within 5 days of receiving notice of the identity of the Reporting Agent. A determination will be made about the existence of a conflict of interest and, if such a conflict is found to exist, an alternative investigator will be appointed as expeditiously as possible. In the event that a request is made and an alternate investigator must be appointed, any specific timeline provided for in the complaint procedure shall be suspended pending the determination and/or appointment.

Reporting Agents' Contact Information

Title IX Coordinator

145 Founders Hall
Youngwood, PA 15697
Email: titleixcoordinator@westmoreland.edu
Phone: 724-925-4050

Affirmative Action Officer

145 Pavilion Lane
Youngwood, PA 15697
Phone: 724-925-4190

Contact for Student-Related Concerns

Vice President of Enrollment Management
145 Founders Hall
Youngwood, PA 15697
Phone: 724-925-4050

Contact for Employee-Related Concerns

Director of Human Resources
145 Founders Hall
Youngwood, PA 15697
Phone: 724-925-4079

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Filing a Complaint

Anyone who believes that he or she has encountered unlawful discrimination, sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual bullying, sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking as prohibited by this policy is advised to preserve all evidence that may assist in proving the allegations of the complaint. Such evidence may also be helpful in obtaining a protective order if necessary. A complaint should be filed within 24 to 48 hours of the incident or knowledge of the incident. Within two business-days of receipt a complaint, the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator and/or Reporting Agents (as listed above) will determine if an investigation is needed.

Depending on the facts and circumstances of the specific complaint, the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator and/or Reporting Agents will immediately contact agencies and organizations to effect immediate relief, care, and support for the complainant and/or the victim in any given case including but not limited to:

1. The closest, competent health care facility
2. The Police Department and Campus Safety
3. A Student Support Referral
4. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
5. Available county victim services

As an immediate priority, care will be taken to ensure the safety and well-being of the complainant and/or victim, and to exercise all precautionary measures to prevent a repeat of the alleged incident of sexual misconduct. Accordingly, interim measures such as a temporary suspension, may be implemented pending a hearing on the matter. The Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator and/or Reporting Agents will inform the complainant in a case of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, of the right to file a criminal complaint with the authorities.

Investigation

The Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator and Reporting Agents will enable a prompt, fair and impartial investigation into any allegation of unlawful discrimination, sexual misconduct or retaliation, by trained investigators, so as to enable a prompt and equitable response under all circumstances and in a fair and expeditious manner. The investigation will be completed within fifteen business-days of receipt of the complaint by a trained and designated investigator for the college, unless the time-frame must be extended for good cause by the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator. The designated investigator will allow the parties to present witnesses and other evidence during the investigation. The investigation will continue whether or not the complaint is also being investigated by another agency or law enforcement unless this investigation would impede law enforcement's investigation. If the investigation is suspended during an investigation by law enforcement, the college will implement interim steps to protect the complainant and/or victim's safety.

This procedure gives an overview of the manner of investigating complaints, but point should be taken that not all complaints are of the same complexity or severity. For this reason, the procedures are flexible, not exact since situations can vary, but there will be a priority to be consistent with similar situations.

Process following the investigation will be dependent upon the determination of the investigation, as follows:

1. A decision not to pursue the allegation due to the lack of or insufficient evidence. The matter will be closed.
2. A decision on the complaint for an informal or administrative resolution, particularly in uncontested allegations.
3. A decision to proceed with a formal hearing.

Conclusion of an Investigation with an Administrative Resolution

Upon completion of the investigation, the individual(s) who made the complaint and the individual(s) against whom the complaint was made will simultaneously be advised of the results of the investigation in writing and, where a remedy is determined to be appropriate, to inform the parties of the steps that will be taken to remedy the situation. Any case of discrimination, sexual harassment or retaliation, or sexual misconduct will be referred to the appropriate administrative division's Vice President for further prompt and equitable proceedings, commensurate with the recommendation and findings of the resulting from the investigation.

The entire process, from complaint to recommendation for resolution prior to any appeal, should be conducted in a prompt and equitable manner, and should be completed no later than forty-five days from receipt of a complaint. Extensions may be granted under extenuating circumstances, upon review by the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator. All actions taken to investigate and resolve complaints through this procedure shall be conducted with as much privacy, discretion and confidentiality as possible without compromising the thoroughness and fairness of the investigation. All persons involved are to treat the situation with respect. To conduct a thorough investigation, the investigator(s) may discuss the complaint with witnesses and those persons involved in, or affected by, the complaint, and those persons necessary to assist in the investigation or to implement appropriate disciplinary actions. For purposes of Clery Act reporting and recordkeeping, the complainant's personal identifying information will not be disclosed.

Formal Hearing Requirement for Sexual Violence Allegations

In accordance with Title IX and VAWA, sexual violence allegations between any two parties will require a formal hearing. Both parties will have the right prior to the hearing to review all evidence and investigative reports beforehand, to have a support person/advisor present, and to present their version of the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged incident of sexual misconduct. Care will be taken to preserve the rights of complainants to privacy without

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sacrificing the rights of respondents to due process. The Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator will conduct a hearing based on the alleged incident(s) of sexual violence and a determination of culpability will rest on the evidence presented and reviewed, using a "preponderance of the evidence" (i.e. more likely than not) standard of proof. Formal hearings for incidents involving students will follow judicial procedures used by Student Services. Formal hearings for employees will follow procedures established by Human Resources.

Disciplinary Action

In the event that the investigation reveals that discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, discrimination based on sex, retaliation or other inappropriate or unprofessional conduct (i.e. sexual bullying) (even if not unlawful) has occurred, further action will be taken, including disciplinary action, such as but not limited to reprimand, change in work assignment, loss of privileges, mandatory training or suspension, and/or immediate termination. If it is determined that inappropriate conduct has occurred, the college will act promptly to eliminate the offending conduct and where appropriate, the college will also impose disciplinary action. The college will take steps to prevent the recurrence and remedy the effects of any sexual misconduct by taking the appropriate action, which may, depending upon the circumstances, include but not be limited to, disciplinary action, reprimand, change in work assignment, loss of privilege, mandatory training or suspension, expulsion and/or immediate termination.

The outcome and sanctions of a civil rights investigation can become part of the educational record or the employment record of a respondent. This information will not be further released or disclosed except to the extent required or authorized by applicable law.

Circumstances under which such information may be released or disclosed include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Complainants in sexual misconduct and sexual harassment incidents have an absolute right to be informed of the outcome and sanctions of the hearing, in writing, without condition or limitation for students and/or employees
- The college may release publicly the name, nature of the violation and the sanction for any respondent who is found in violation of a college policy that constitutes a "crime of violence," including: arson, burglary, robbery, criminal homicide, sex offenses, assault, destruction/damage/ vandalism of property and kidnapping/abduction.

Possible Sanctions

Possible Sanctions for Student Respondents

Warning: A formal statement that the behavior was unacceptable and a warning that further infractions of any college policy, procedure or directive will result in more severe sanctions/responsive actions.

Probation: A written reprimand for violation of the Code of Student Conduct, providing for more severe disciplinary sanctions in the event that the student or organization is found in violation of any college policy, procedure or directive within a specified period of time. Terms of the probation will be specified and may include denial of specified social privileges, exclusion from co-curricular activities, non-contact orders, and/or other measures deemed appropriate.

Suspension: Termination of student status for a definite period of time not to exceed two years, and/or until specific criteria are met. Students who return from suspension are automatically placed on probation through the remainder of their tenure at the college. This sanction will be noted as a Suspension on the student's official transcript.

Expulsion: Permanent termination of student status, revocation of rights to be on campus for any reason or attend college-sponsored events. This sanction will be noted as an Expulsion on the student's official transcript.

Withholding Diploma: College may withhold a student's diploma for a specified period of time and/or deny a student participation in commencement activities if the student has a complaint pending or as a sanction if the student is found responsible for an alleged violation.

Organizational Sanctions: Deactivation, de-recognition, loss of all privileges (including college registration), for a specified period of time.

Other Actions: In addition to or in place of the above sanctions, college may assign any other sanctions as deemed appropriate.

Possible Sanctions for Employee Respondents

Warning

Required Training

Job Reassignment

Suspension with or without Pay

Termination

Other Actions

Appeal

Either the complainant or respondent may file an appeal of any decision concerning the resolution of an investigation related to this policy. An appeal by either party must be made in writing to the office of the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator within fifteen days of receipt of the notice of resolution of the matter. The written appeal must state, in detail, the reason(s) for the appeal and shall address one or more of the following:

- If the appeal alleges that the findings of the investigator included relevant factual errors or omitted relevant facts, the appeal shall specify each factual error and/or details of each relevant fact that was omitted from the investigation.
- If the appeal alleges substantive procedural errors, the person appealing shall identify each instance of said substantive procedural error.

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- If the appeal alleges relevant or substantive issues or questions concerning interpretation of college policy, the person appealing shall state, in detail, the issues or questions supporting this allegation.
- If the appeal alleges that new information or evidence exists, the appeal shall specify the reason why this information was not available or not provided to the Investigator during the course of the investigation, including the reason why the information could not have been provided on a timely basis.
- If the appeal alleges either that action or inaction of the supervisor in response to the findings of the investigation will not prevent future violations of this policy, the person appealing will specify, in detail, the reason(s) and basis for this allegation.

No disciplinary or other action based upon the original complaint findings shall be taken against the respondent during the appeals process, although temporary, interim measures may remain in place. The appeal process will be conducted in an impartial manner by an impartial decision-maker. The entire process, from complaint to notification of resolution and appeal, shall not exceed 60 days.

Time Frame

The college seeks to fully resolve all reports within sixty days of the initial report. Extenuating circumstances may arise that require the extension of time frames, including extension beyond sixty days. Extenuating circumstances may include the complexity and scope of the allegations, the number of witnesses involved, the availability of the parties or witnesses, or other unforeseen circumstances. In the event that the process exceeds these time frames, the college will notify the complainant and respondent of the reason(s) for the delay and the expected adjustment in time frames. Timelines set forth herein may also be extended upon mutual agreement of the parties.

Education and Training

The college is committed to ensuring both preventive and responsive training and relevant educational opportunities for all members of the college community in the area of unlawful discrimination and sexual misconduct.

In the area of responsive education and training, the college is committed to ensuring that all college personnel designated as investigators, counsellors and adjudicators in the area of unlawful discrimination and sexual misconduct will receive specialized and regular training, and will be cognizant of the special needs of complainants, while also ensuring the rights of respondents.

The college has a dedicated webpage on its website to address concerns related to unlawful discrimination and sexual misconduct and will contain relevant information regarding the college's policies, procedures, information updates and ongoing training opportunities for the college community with respect to information on the various

areas of unlawful discrimination and sexual misconduct, opportunities for community assistance, and the resources available in the event of unlawful discrimination and sexual misconduct.

Documentation

The college shall maintain documents related to complaints under this procedure as required by law. The Civil Rights/ Title IX Coordinator shall be primarily responsible for records related to all civil rights complaints.

Reporting Options Outside of the College

The college's complaint procedures are administrative in nature, and are separate and distinct from the criminal and civil legal systems. The college encourages individuals to pursue whatever remedies are available to them, through internal or external complaint resolution processes. The following external agencies may also receive and investigate complaints of civil rights violations:

PA Human Relations Commission (PHRC)
Pittsburgh Office
300 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-565-5395

Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education Headquarters
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-1100
Customer Service Hotline #: (800) 421-3481
| Facsimile: (202) 453-6012 TTY#: 800-877-8339
| Email: OCR@ed.gov | Web: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>

Equal Opportunity Employment Commission (EEOC)
Pittsburgh Office
William S. Moorhead Federal Building
1000 Liberty Avenue, Suite 1112
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
1-800-669-4000

Reporting to the Police

In cases involving potential criminal misconduct, the college encourages individuals to report the conduct to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the location where the incident occurred. If the conduct is reported to the college, the individual will be informed of his or her option to also report any potential criminal activity to the police. Members of the college Security Offices are available to assist the complainant in contacting the police.

The procedures described above will apply to all complaints involving students, staff or faculty members (with the exception that unionized or other categorized employees will be subject to the terms of their respective collective bargaining agreements to the extent those agreements do not conflict with federal or state compliance obligations). Redress and requests for responsive actions for complaints brought against non-members of the community, such as guests and third party vendors, are also covered by these procedures.

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Residency Policy

Residency requirements are established for the purposes of assessing tuitions and fees. Residency is determined on a student's true and fixed home, and for a dependent student (as defined by the IRS) is determined by the parent's residence.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Residency

To establish residency in the state of Pennsylvania, you must demonstrate continuous residence for twelve consecutive months prior to registration at Westmoreland County Community College. Documentation must be received prior to the start of the term.

Westmoreland County Residency

To establish residency in Westmoreland County, a student must demonstrate continuous residence for at least four months. Documentation of proof of residency must be received prior to the start of the term.

Exceptions may be made for students moving into Westmoreland County if they can provide documentation that demonstrates an intent to remain in Westmoreland County. These exceptions may include a move due to employment, or parent's employment or for other purposes than attending college full-time. All documentation of proof is necessary. Further, a student may also need to demonstrate financial independence as a part of establishing residency.

Veterans and their Dependents (House Bill 131)

Westmoreland County Community College allows veterans, their spouses, and dependent children; military personnel, their spouses, and their dependent children; and civilian personnel working on a military base, their spouses, and dependent children, who are admitted to a community college, to be charged the in-state, in-county rate, provided that the student is a resident of the state on the first day of the semester.

Documents for Residency:

- PA Driver's License showing current address
- PA State ID Card with current address and issue date
- Voter Registration Card
- Utility bills in student's name
- Documentation from employers

Animals on Campus

Introduction

Westmoreland County Community College strives to create a safe environment conducive to learning. As such, the Westmoreland campus community, in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, outlines the requirements for accessibility, behavior, and treatment of animals on campus within the below Policy.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, employees, and visitors to the Youngwood Campus or Centers.

Policy

- 1 All domestic animals on College property, including open space, athletic fields, playing fields and intramural areas, must be leashed and under personal control of the owner at all times. Animals are not to be tied to or secured to trees, posts, shrubs and/or left unattended. Each owner is responsible for his/her animal, including clean-up.
- 2 To protect public health and safety, animals are not permitted in College buildings, subject to the following exceptions:
 - a. A service animal assisting an individual with a disability;
 - i. The service animal must be under the control of its handler. Where it is not readily apparent that an animal is a service animal, the College may ask if the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform,
 - ii. Westmoreland may exclude a service animal if the animal is not housebroken; would pose a direct threat to the health, safety or property of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by a reasonable accommodation; is out of control and the individual does not take effective action to control it; would fundamentally alter the nature of a program or activity; or is not being cared for by the individual,
 - iii. Westmoreland is not responsible for the care or supervision of service animals. Individuals handling a service animal are responsible for the control of their animals at all times and for ensuring the immediate clean-up and proper disposal of all animal waste. Individuals must comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including vaccination, licensure, animal health and leash laws,
 - iv. Although Westmoreland may impose charges for damages caused by a service animal in the same manner the College imposes charges for damages to property,
 - b. A service animal or professional therapy dog accompanied by a qualified handler or professional trainer in certain areas open to the general public, subject to the restrictions and requirements set forth in the applicable Pennsylvania state statutes;
 - c. Animals used as part of an academic, or college sponsored, program.
- 3 Emotional support animals are not allowed on campus without prior approval. If a student has a diagnosis that is included in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or Title II of the American with Disabilities Act, then the support animal will be considered in the request for accommodations that is coordinated by the Counselor for Disability

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Services. Students must follow the accommodation request process.

- 4 All animals on a Westmoreland campus must have current vaccinations evidenced by a tag on the animal or a vaccination certificate in the immediate possession of the owner.
- 5 A control agency will be called to remove and impound disruptive, aggressive, unattended or at-large animals. All animals are subject to the applicable county and/or borough codes regulating animals.

Definitions

Service Animal: A “service animal” is one that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, and the work or tasks performed by the animal are directly related to the individual’s disability. This definition encompasses all “service animals” as defined by the applicable regulations to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Domestic Animal: Domestic animals are those species of animals that normally and customarily share human habitat and are normally dependent on humans for food and shelter, including dogs, cats, and other common domestic animals, but not including feral or wild animals. Service animals are not considered domestic animals for the purpose of this policy.

Withdrawal Policy

A student who wishes to initiate the course withdrawal process should talk with their instructor and/or advisor or counselor. The withdrawal period begins at the end of the drop period that is typically after the third week of class, or at the 20% point in their course. From the 20%-60%, a student may withdraw from a course by completing an official withdrawal form. An official W (withdrawal) grade will be noted on the transcript. After 60% of the course and before 90%, the student must secure the instructor’s permission for withdrawal from the course. After 90% of the course, students may not withdraw with the exception of excused withdrawals.

For an excused withdrawal, such as a medical withdrawal or a withdrawal due to extenuating circumstances, a student may request a withdrawal at any point in the semester with supporting documentation. The Director of Student Success, Director of Admissions and Registrar, or Dean must review the documentation, and provide a recommendation to the appropriate Vice President.

Transgender Student Policy Related to Gender Identity and Expression

Westmoreland has created policies and procedures intended to provide direction for people on campus with varied gender expressions. We encourage students and staff to speak with the Office of Student Services for guidance on navigating the policies and practices of the college.

Privacy

Transgender students have the right to discuss their gender identity or expression openly, or to keep that information private. The transgender student decides when, with whom, and how much private information to share. Information about a student’s transgender status can constitute confidential medical information under privacy laws.

Faculty, staff and administrators should not disclose information that may reveal a student’s transgender status or gender non-conforming presentation to others. Such personal or confidential information may only be shared with the transgender student’s consent and only with faculty, staff, and administrators who truly need to know to perform their jobs.

Records and Documents

Name Change

The college recognizes that as a community many of its members use names other than their legal names to identify themselves. The college acknowledges that a “preferred name” can and should be used wherever possible in the course of college business and education. However, if a legal name change has taken place, please provide legal documentation so that your academic records can be updated accordingly.

A legal name change can be initiated through the state of the person’s legal residence. Once this is accomplished, the student can go to the local Social Security office to get a new Social Security card, and then use that to change everything else, including a driver’s license or state-issued ID.

Campus In-Use Name Policy

In order to change a name on institutional records such as a transcript, please follow instructions outlined in the change of name procedure which can be obtained from the Registrar.

Directories & Identification

Email Account

Once a student completes a Change of Name Form with the Registrar’s Office and it is approved, they may contact the Information Technology Help Desk (helpdesk@westmoreland.edu) to request an update to their email display name with their preferred name. Please note that the student’s actual username always remains the same from the initial creation, typically from the original legal name. Students can request this change by emailing the college’s Information Technology Help Desk at helpdesk@westmoreland.edu.

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Westmoreland ID Card

The college recognizes that it is important for a student's college identification card to reflect their current appearance and name. In order to meet this need, we offer the following options:

- If the student has legally changed their name and has changed their name with the Registrar's office, they can obtain a new ID card with your new name from Student Services, Room 130.
- If the student has not yet changed their name, they can obtain an ID card that only lists their first initial and last name. Please contact Student Services for further information.
- If the student has set a preferred name, then they may use their preferred name on their ID card. Please see the Registrar's Office for assistance.

Westmoreland does not discriminate on the basis of gender or sexual orientation. Westmoreland is committed to creating an inclusive environment for all students. If you have noticed something that could help to make the campus friendlier to gender diversity, please feel free to contact one of the offices below:

Student Services

145 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood Campus
724.925.4000

Office of Administrative Services

145 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood Campus
724.925.4000

Restrooms

The college is committed to having safe and accessible campus restrooms. Gender-inclusive (GI) restrooms are available in some campus buildings. Gender-inclusive restrooms provide a safe and comfortable facility for all, regardless of gender identity and expression. All students have a right to safe and appropriate restroom facilities, including the right to use the restroom that corresponds to the student's gender identity, regardless of the student's sex assigned at birth.

Policy Definitions

Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming- Anyone whose gender identity and/or gender expression does not match society's expectations of how an individual who was assigned a particular sex at birth should behave in relation to their gender.

Gender Identity - An individual's sense of being either male or female, man or woman, or something other in-between.

Gender Spectrum - A linear model, ranging from 100% male to 100% female, with various states of androgyny in between. The gender continuum or matrix is a multidimensional extension of the spectrum that includes additional gender identities outside of the spectrum. Both terms challenge the traditional notion of the gender binary, in which only male or female genders are acknowledged.

Gender Expression - The external characteristics and behaviors that are socially defined as masculine or feminine, such as dress, mannerisms, speech patterns, and social interactions.

Biological or Legal Sex - The sex legally assigned to an individual at birth, usually reflected in a birth certificate.

Title - This includes a prefix such as "Mr.," "Mrs.," "Miss" and "Ms." **Legal Name** - The name legally given to an individual, which may be memorialized on a birth certificate, a court order, or certificate of naturalization.

Preferred First Name and Pronoun - The name and pronoun used by a transgender student that corresponds to the student's gender identity/expression.

Solicitation

Only authorized students, student groups or personnel are allowed to sell goods to Westmoreland students, faculty or staff on the Youngwood campus, the Advanced Technology Center, or at any education center site. Individuals and groups must obtain permission from the Student Life Office, Student Center, Founders Hall.

Westmoreland offers a variety of services and activities designed to enrich the learning experiences of all students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age or religion. These services are available without charge to students enrolled in credit classes.

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Academic Advisor – An individual (usually a faculty member) who helps students decide what courses to take and chose a major of study. Academic advisors also make certain students fulfill graduation requirements and provide guidance when the student has academic difficulties.

Academic Calendar – A list of important dates for the academic year, including vacation breaks, registration periods and other pertinent information.

Academic Probation – A student whose cumulative GPA falls below a designated number (2.0) can be placed on academic probation. If the GPA does not improve, then the student may be prohibited from registering for classes for a designated number of semesters.

Accreditation – Approval given to a college that meets accepted standards concerning its academic programs, library facilities, faculty, policies, physical plant, financial assets and similar criteria is known as accreditation.

Westmoreland County Community College is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The Commission on Higher Education is an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

Articulation – Articulation deals with the transfer of credits among colleges and universities. Articulation agreements guaranteeing acceptance of certain courses and programs are in place between Westmoreland County Community College and a number of area colleges, including California University of PA, Seton Hill University, Saint Vincent College and University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg among many others.

Articulation Agreement – A signed document stating that one college will accept the courses from another college.

Associate Degree – A degree granted by community and junior colleges after successful completion of the credits equivalent to two years of college work. A student of Westmoreland County Community College can receive an associate of arts, an associate of fine arts or an associate of applied science, depending on the curriculum pursued.

Auditing – When you audit a course, the credits do not apply toward your degree program and a letter grade is not assigned for the course audited. You may enroll in a class with your status recorded as “auditor” only with the written permission of the instructor. Otherwise, at the end of the second week of a semester, you may request that your status be changed to “auditor.” The instructor must approve the request in writing. At the end of the semester, your record will show audit (AU) in place of a grade. Financial aid does not pay for audited courses. Full tuition and fees are required to audit a course.

Baccalaureate Degree – A degree awarded upon completion of a four-year program of study by a college or university.

Bachelor’s Degree – See Baccalaureate Degree

Blended (Hybrid) Courses – Classes meet real-time in a face-to-face setting, at a predetermined location, date, and time. Instruction is split between learning activities online and in a specified location, based on subject matter. Students and instructor will meet in a face-to-face classroom/lab setting at least once a week and complete work asynchronously (outside of the classroom) for the remaining class time. A portion (no more than 50%) of the planned instruction and testing will occur outside of the classroom, when the students and instructor(s) are not in the same place. Courses use a course management system and other technologically enhanced components.

Certificate – A certificate is granted by community and junior colleges after successful completion of a number of specific courses in a curriculum. This number is less than the equivalent of two years of college.

College Catalog & Student Handbook – The college catalog provides students with information about the college’s academic calendar, tuition and fees, and degree/diploma/certificate programs. The Student Handbook provides students with information about student services, resources, rights, responsibilities, and student life.

Commencement – The ceremonies held upon completion of a student’s studies and the beginning (commencement) of the rest of his or her life; this is also known as graduation.

Community College – A community college is a two-year, public college funded by local or state governmental units. It offers transfer and career programs leading to associate degrees or certificates.

Comprehensive Examination – A thorough examination often given to students at the end of their studies to determine their knowledge of their majors. At many institutions, students must pass “comps” to graduate.

Core Curriculum – A core curriculum is the heart of a program of study. Many schools require students to take a sampler of courses (known as distribution requirements) before they graduate to ensure they receive a well-rounded education.

Corequisite – A course that can be taken at the same time as another course. For example, if intermediate algebra is a corequisite for physical science, then both courses can be taken during the same semester.

Dean – A dean is an administrator who is in charge of the faculty and/or a division in the college.

Developmental Classes – Sometimes referred to as remedial classes, developmental classes focus on basic college-level skills such as reading, writing and math. Students who earn a certain score on standardized testing may be required to take developmental classes before enrolling in a course.

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Drop/Add – Drop/add refers to changing from a specific course or adding a new course during a specific time period early in a semester. Questions concerning drop/add should be directed to the Counseling Department or the Office of Student Records and Registration in Room 130, Founders Hall.

Early High School Enrollment – Early high school enrollment introduces students to the advantages of postsecondary education and helps students make a successful transition to the culture and expectations of college life. Students enrolled in the Early Enrollment Program will have the opportunity to experience college life while simultaneously completing their high school requirements. The program's intent is not to speed up the high school curriculum, but to provide an early start on a collegiate career.

Education Centers – The college operates education centers that conduct day and evening classes: Murrysville, Fayette County, Indiana County, Latrobe, New Kensington and the Advanced Technology Center.

Elective – A course that students may choose to take that is not part of the required curriculum.

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) – The federal law that pertains to access to educational records.

Final Exam – An examination taken by students at the end of each term in each of their classes to test their knowledge of the material covered in the class during the term. Grades on finals generally carry more weight than other grades received during the term.

First-Generation Student – Individual not having a parent who has earned a 4 year degree; institutions often have free programs, support services, and scholarship opportunities designed for such students.

First-Year Experience – Series of activities designed to help students transition successfully to college, such as orientation, first-year seminar, learning community, or a common reading experience; may be brief or last the entire year.

Grade Point Average (GPA) – Westmoreland uses a letter system with associate quality points which are used to compute cumulative grade point averages.

A = 4 Superior

B = 3 Considerable

C = 2 Satisfactory

D = 1 Marginal

F = Unsatisfactory

I = Incomplete- Grade to be determined upon completion of hours.

W = Withdrawal

AU = Audit No Credit

Z = No report from your instructor

Hold – A hold is a notation placed on a student's records that indicates that he or she has outstanding financial obligations to the college, such as unpaid fees, unreturned equipment or overdue library books. A hold could also be placed on a student's record for disciplinary or academic reasons. If a student has a hold on their account, it means that the student is ineligible to receive academic documentation from the college such as a transcript, or to use college services such as the placement service.

Humanities – Humanities include the study of English, foreign languages, history, philosophy, art, music and photography. The study of these disciplines is concerned with the excellence of human thought and the grandeur of human emotion. These studies encourage a spirit of inquiry and reflection which lead to better understanding of cultures throughout history and our world today.

Intercollegiate Athletics – Westmoreland competes with other two-year colleges in baseball, golf, women's volleyball, co-ed tennis and women's softball in the Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference. The college is affiliated with the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). Students must satisfy the eligibility provisions of the NJCAA.

Internships – Work-related learning offering students hands-on, applied experience for which they may receive pay and/or academic credit.

Intramurals – This program incorporates a variety of activities (within the college) with team or individual tournaments regardless of their ability level. The main motive is interest, not skill level.

Learning Outcomes – Specific knowledge and/or skills identified by the institution, academic department, or course instructor that students are expected to gain as a result of their learning experiences.

Loan Programs – Provide financial assistance to students who qualify and must be repaid with interest.

PLUS Loans – Parents Loan for Undergraduate Students. These are for parents of dependent students.

SLS Loans – Supplemental Loan for Students. These are for independent students.

Stafford Loans – Loans available to assist students based on financial need. For subsidized loans, repayment begins six months after the student stops attending college. With unsubsidized loans, interest will accrue on the loan while the student is in school.

Learning Resources Center – Provides library services, media services and a learning assistance center where the student may obtain individual and small-group tutoring, attend workshops or access a variety of other help sources.

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

New Student Orientation (NSO) – Prepares new students to successfully begin their academic careers by providing critical information and academic advising for the first term; special sessions for family members are typically included.

Office Hours – Times when faculty are in their offices or online to assist students enrolled in their classes.

Online Courses – Classes conducted completely online via a course management system. Students have the options of using a personal computer at home, campus lab, library, or at a preferred location. Some online courses may require real-time collaboration at specific dates and times using web conferencing technology.

Major – A concentration in a specific field of study in a department is referred to as a major.

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) – The national honor society for two-year colleges.

Pell Grant – This is a federal grant. Students must complete the free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

PHEAA Grant – Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency Grant; available to full-time students who are residents of Pennsylvania.

Career Development Office – An office that provides students with career information and helps them find jobs during the summer and when they graduate.

Prerequisites – These are courses that are required before a student can register or enroll for a particular curriculum or take as particular class. Prerequisites are listed in the program description in the college catalog.

Quality Points – WCCC uses a letter system with associated quality points to computer cumulative grade point averages. See definition "Grade Point Average" for more information.

Retention – Re-enrollment or returning for the next academic term; measure of student persistence, progress and/or success.

Selective Admission – Competitive majors with enrollment limited to students meeting specific requirements, i.e., Health Professions.

Semester – Semesters are periods of academic instruction into which an academic year is divided.

Service Learning – Teaching or learning strategy that combines classroom instruction with meaningful community service or volunteer experiences.

SGA (Student Government Association) – The governing body of the entire student body. It conducts activities each semester and support and finance various ongoing services.

STEM Education – An acronym for the fields of study in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; STEM majors are emphasized by many institutions as critical areas for solving the complex problems of today's world and its future.

Syllabus – A course syllabus is a specific course plan which provides information about the course which is specific to that semester and instructor. In addition to the general course information, the syllabus also includes the number of exams and specific dates, instructor office hours, textbook information, supplemental material to be used, the grading system to be followed, plus course outline. The course syllabus for a given course will be slightly different for each instructor teaching the course. The student should use this to plan their academic responsibilities for each term.

Transcript – A transcript is the official record of a student's grades and the credits earned at Westmoreland.

Transfer Student – A student may transfer into Westmoreland from another college or they may transfer out to another college after taking courses at Westmoreland.

Undergraduate – An undergraduate is a student at a college or university who has not yet earned a bachelor's degree.

Web Conferencing Courses – Classes conducted real-time in a face-to-face setting at specific dates and times, involving two or more locations. Courses may be offered at the Youngwood campus or any of the college education centers (Advanced Technology Center, Bushy Run, Fayette County, Greene County, Indiana County, Latrobe, and New Kensington). Instructors may alternate instructing from each location, communicating through a TV monitor, microphone, or telephone conferencing system. Students may attend at any of these locations or from their personal computer at home and will see and speak with the instructor and students at all sites in real time. A learning management system and web conferencing technology will be utilized.

Web Supplemented Courses – Classes offered face-to-face in a physical classroom setting using an online course component. The use of a course management system is required to access course documents, materials, assignments, and grades.

Wolfpack – Westmoreland County Community College's athletic teams.

Work-Study – Federal work-study provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses.

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Acronyms

AtD- Achieving the Dream – Westmoreland is proud to be one of the 84 colleges selected to participate in the national initiative, Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, which aims to help student achieve success- be it earning a degree, diploma or certificate, or transferring to a senior institution to pursue a bachelor’s degree.

CLC- College Learning Center – The College Learning Center offers credit students comprehensive services which are essential to academic success. Tutoring services, placement testing and make-up testing is administered in the CLC.

CRC- Computer Resource Center – The Computer Resource Center currently has more than 50 computers. Students can do research, complete college assignments and print (free of charge) their assignments. A scanner is also available for student use. A Help Desk is located in the center of the CRC. Lab assistants are available to provide assistance throughout the day and evening hours.

FERPA-Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act – A federal law that ensures that a student’s educational records, including test grades and transcripts, are not accessed or viewed by anyone who is not authorized by the student to do so.

GPA-Grade Point Average – The number that is used to determine a student’s progress in college. It refers to the number of quality points divided by the number of credit hours a student has taken.

VID-Interactive Videoconference Classes – VID courses are offered at Youngwood and at other college locations at the same time. This allows the students at a Westmoreland location other than the Youngwood campus to participate in classes that are not traditionally offered at the center. Students have face-to-face interaction with the instructor of their course at times and also watch and participate in lectures through a live video feed.

LRC-Learning Resources Center – The Learning Resources Center supports the instructional process by providing library, audiovisual and digital database services.

WON-Online Classes – Online classes are designated as WON in the class schedule. Online classes allow students to complete coursework using a home computer or a computer at another location. These classes do not have specific meeting days or times and all coursework is completed online.

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