

Ozarks Technical Community College

Career Center Student Handbook

2022-2023

Dear Students:

Welcome to our campus! We at the Career Center commend you for choosing to participate in this unique educational endeavor. As a student in the Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) Career Center, you will be challenged to excel in well-equipped laboratories and with an up-to-date curriculum, which will enable you to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to help you progress toward your educational and career goals. As a Career Center student, you are jumpstarting your college education and not only earning high school credit but also college credit leading to a college certificate or degree.

Our success is measured through your accomplishments. We want your experience to be uniquely rewarding. We hope you will find us helpful when you need assistance, knowledgeable in the program you have chosen for training, responsible for providing a safe and well-equipped environment for learning, and demanding of your very best.

To that end, we provide qualified teachers committed to your success, supportive staff, a relevant and rigorous curriculum developed with the help of business and industry advisors, and an excitement about the possibilities the future holds for those who prepare for it. On behalf of the Career Center staff, we extend our best wishes for a successful year.

Sincerely,

Kelli Akers

Mrs. Kelli Akers
Career Center Director

About the OTC Career Center Student Handbook

The Career Center Student Handbook is published by our staff and is intended to be a supplement to the Ozarks Technical Community College Student Handbook.

While enrolled in the Career Center program, students fall under the designated authority of the Career Center Director and must abide by all policies set forth in this handbook and Ozarks Technical Community College standards. Students may also be held responsible for their individual home high school rules, policies, and handbook. All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this handbook; however, the College handbook may take precedence if a student violates a rule or policy.

All policies, procedures, tuition and fees, and curricula are subject to change. This is not intended to be a contract explicit or implied, and the college reserves the right to make changes to the information contained herein.

All Career Center students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to read this handbook and the OTC Student Handbook thoroughly. The rules and policies set forth will be honored and implemented as appropriate and when deemed necessary by the appropriate administration. Questions regarding the handbook should be directed to the Career Center director.

OTC prohibits discrimination and harassment and provides equal opportunities in its admissions, educational programs, activities, and employment, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, political affiliation, veteran status, legal immigration status, citizenship, disabilities that include HIV and AIDS, medical conditions or any other status protected by federal, state, and local laws.

This extends to admissions, employment, services, and educational programs and activities that the College operates (collectively “programs and activities”).

The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding the College's non-discrimination policy:

For Employee Inquiries: 417-447-2631
College Director of Human Resources
1001 E. Chestnut Expressway
Springfield, Missouri 65802

For Student Inquiries: 417-447-8188
College Director of Equity and Compliance
1001 E. Chestnut Expressway
Springfield, Missouri 65802

**OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CAREER CENTER DIRECTORY**

Office 417-447-8126

Fax 417-447-6998

Industry and Transportation Technology Center (ITTC) 222

careercenter@otc.edu

Office Hours

7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Monday— Friday

Session Schedule

8:00 a.m.— 10:30 a.m.

12:20 p.m.—2:50 p.m.

Kelli Akers, Director	447-8122
Lisa Beebe, Administrative Assistant to the Director.....	447-8120
Elizabeth Aley High School Programs Specialist.....	447-8126
Stacy Johannsen, Coordinator, Counselor.....	447-8123
Marcus Clark, Coordinator, Counselor.....	447-8121
Jason Morgan, Coordinator, Career Resource Educator.....	447-8190
Andrea Twyford, Technical Education Coordinator.....	447-8125

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ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

OTC Mission Statement

The College's mission is to provide accessible, high-quality, and affordable learning opportunities that transform lives and strengthen the communities we serve.

Career Center Mission Statement

The Career Center's mission is to educate high school juniors and seniors from its consortium schools in quality technical programs to produce college and career-ready graduates.

About the Career Center

"Career Center" is the name commonly used to refer to the *one-half day career and technical (CTE) program option* offered to high school juniors and seniors.

The Career Center began when OTC was designated in 1990 by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as the area vocational-technical school for school districts in Greene and surrounding counties. High school juniors and seniors from these schools are eligible to apply for college enrollment in technically-oriented career preparatory programs. Career Center students have access to curriculum, equipment, and materials used in the post-secondary (college) programs.

Career Center Enrollment

Enrollment in Career Center technical programs is a privilege and a unique opportunity for high school students. Students are enrolled in college-level courses and, in many cases, learn alongside post-secondary college students and may work toward an Associate of Applied Science degree or Certificate of Achievement. OTC strives to set standards that ensure students are equipped to handle the technical content of their chosen field of study, experience success, and continue to an advanced degree or employment in the field of their choice. The Career Center's consortium school districts pay tuition and provide daily transportation to and from the Career Center. Textbooks and other instructional supplies are provided at no cost but must be returned in good condition.

Confidentiality of Student Records

The Career Center complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. FERPA was enacted to protect student privacy and to provide for the right to inspect and review education records. Please address questions to the Career Center director.

Textbooks, Supplies, Machinery, and Tool Usage

Textbooks and most instructional supplies will be provided by the Career Center. All loaned materials must be returned to the instructor prior to taking the final exam. If items need to be returned after the end of the semester, they may be returned to the Career Center office in ITTC 222. Students will be billed for lost or damaged materials and will not be allowed to register for classes at OTC or receive transcripts until payment is made.

Student Transportation

Each sending school district is responsible for transporting Career Center students to and from OTC. Students are encouraged to ride the school bus provided by their high school. Bus drivers are appointed members of the sending high school staff and have the same authority and responsibility for safety and conduct as is given to the classroom teacher. Drivers are responsible for enforcing safety regulations.

Fire Science Technology and Health Science seniors must provide their own transportation to and from lab/clinical sites. Students attending agriculture programs at the OTC Richwood Valley Campus in Nixa, Missouri should check with their high schools about transportation.

Field Trips

At times, instruction can take place outside of the typical classroom and lab areas. OTC faculty are encouraged to pursue instructional activities through first-hand experiences that relate directly to the respective subject area. Some field trip locations are within walking distance of the College. For field trips of greater distance, transportation will be by school bus or rental vans through a local transportation provider; Career Center students must use the transportation provided by OTC.

Prior to a field trip that takes place beyond regular Career Center session times, instructor(s) are to provide students with a student/parent consent form. The form must be completed in advance of the field trip and signed by the student, OTC instructor, parent/guardian, and sending high school principal or principal's designee.

During field trips, students are under the supervision of the instructor(s) or other OTC representative(s), and Career Center rules and regulations apply.

Student ID

The OTC SmartCard is the official OTC student ID and is mandatory for every OTC student. *While the SmartCard resembles a credit card, it is not a credit card.* Students register for the OTC SmartCard at the OTC Bookstore on the Springfield campus. For a student to obtain an OTC SmartCard, he or she must present a valid government-issued picture ID (an unexpired driver's license or state ID from Department of Motor Vehicles, U.S. unexpired passport, or unexpired bank-issued credit or debit card with photo). Students sixteen or older will receive their OTC SmartCard by mail at their primary address on file with OTC.

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO)

Students are able to showcase their skills and develop leadership qualities through participation in career technical student organizations (CTSOs). The primary CTSO available for Career Center students is SkillsUSA (www.skillsusa.org). The Career Center pays for SkillsUSA membership for all students. Successful participation in a CTSO is important and is recognized by employers as evidence of work readiness. Since participation in a CTSO is a privilege, students must meet certain academic standards, demonstrate acceptable citizenship and behavior and maintain appropriate attendance in order to be eligible to participate.

Student Support

Program advisors are assigned to each program to provide students with academic and program guidance. Two certified school counselors are on staff to assist with academic and/or personal problems. Students and parents are encouraged to contact the Career Center counselors at any time with questions and/or concerns.

Students are eligible to receive free career assessment and career counseling. In addition, Career Center counselors can assist students who are considering or pursuing careers that are non-traditional for their gender and provide information and expertise in the areas of career awareness, exploration, and planning.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

A career resource educator (CRE) reviews IEPs and 504 plans for students with disabilities and arranges for accommodations. The CRE contacts new students prior to the start of school to discuss their accommodation plans. Students should communicate directly with instructors about accommodations, and the CRE is available to support the provision of accommodations.

Admission/Withdrawal Process

Currently admitted students are considered to be enrolled for the entire year, pending student performance. Students may not choose to withdraw from one class only. It is understood that there are times when it becomes necessary for students to withdraw from programs or to change to other programs. A request to change programs at semester should be made as early as possible to your program advisor before the registration process begins. Students should also consult with their parents/guardians and sending high school counselors regarding program change requests.

Withdrawing from the Career Center

Official withdrawal from the Career Center will be communicated with the student's sending high school counselor. Officially withdrawing from classes before classes begin and during the first five days of the term will not show on the student's transcript. A grade of "W" will be recorded thereafter for classes from which students are confirmed officially withdrawn prior to the withdrawal deadline. Sending high schools may charge students who withdraw after the first five days. Check with your high school counselor for specific withdrawal policy information.

Application Process to Return for Second Year

Program advisors meet with each first-year student during the second semester to assist with the decision to continue for a second year or not in the Career Center. Enrollment is not guaranteed and is based upon the student's past performance, attendance, and recommendation of Career Center administration, instructors, and the sending high school counselor and/or administration. It is not necessary to reapply in order to return for a second year or to enroll at OTC after high school graduation.

Attendance

OTC expects all students to be present for scheduled classes and labs. Regular attendance and participation are required. Student participation often factors into a student's grade, attainment of technical competency, and overall growth. Absences, tardies, and early dismissals are reported daily to students' sending high schools. Students are expected to be in attendance each day classes are in session at OTC.

Note: The College will issue specific guidance related to any needed adjustments to attendance made necessary to protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Absences

Due to the importance of regular attendance and the possibility of a reduction in course grade or administrative withdrawal from a course, students need to monitor their attendance. If a student must be absent, it is his/her responsibility to communicate with the instructor prior to the absence when possible to make arrangements to make up any missed assignments, if allowed. If students have concerns about their attendance, they should communicate with their instructor. Students may also visit with their Career Center program advisor if needed.

Administrative Withdrawal

Students may be administratively withdrawn from a course due to a lack of attendance in seated classes. OTC policy mandates a student be withdrawn from a course if he/she misses 20% of class time by a designated date. Withdrawn students will receive a "W" on their OTC transcript for the course and receive no credit for the class.

Early Dismissal

If a student needs to leave campus early, the student must communicate with his or her instructor before leaving class and sign out at the Career Center office in ITTC 222. Students under the age of 18 must have parent/guardian consent before leaving campus. Parents/guardians are encouraged to call the Career Center office at 447-8126 to give their consent if they know in advance their student will be leaving early.

When Sending High School is Not in Session

While enrolled in the Career Center, students are expected to attend OTC on all days that the College is in session. This remains the expectation even when sending schools are not in session. School districts will provide bus transportation to the OTC campus when the sending high schools are not in session, but OTC is in session. The one exception to this policy occurs when students' sending high schools are not in session due to inclement weather.

College Closure Due to Inclement Weather

In the event the College must close, or classes are canceled due to inclement weather, a notice will be placed on the OTC website, and the College will notify local radio and TV stations. Text alerts will also be sent out to all students and staff who have signed up for the Emergency Notification System. For more information and directions to sign up, see Emergency Notification System on page 11.

When 'students' sending high schools are closed due to inclement weather and OTC is in session, the Career Center does not require students from those sending schools to be in attendance and does not encourage students to drive on their own in hazardous weather conditions. **Students are strongly encouraged to communicate with their instructors anytime they are absent.**

Grades

Career Center staff will provide grade reports to the sending high school four times each school year. These grades will represent quarterly grades at the high school level. College credits earned and final grades will be posted to the student's OTC official transcript at the end of each course. Students can access their grades in Canvas or by speaking with their instructor.

It is possible seniors may participate in their school commencement ceremonies before schools have received final OTC grades. However, they are expected to attend classes and take finals until the semester concludes at OTC.

Progress Reports

Students, parents/guardians, and sending high school counselors may receive a progress report from the instructor at mid-term if a student has a grade of "D" or "F." Students should communicate with their instructor with questions or concerns about grades or visit with their Career Center program advisor.

Grading System

Final grades are issued for each student at the end of each semester or when an eight-week block class has ended. Students will be graded by the letter grade system and assigned a grade point average (GPA) each semester. Students should refer to their instructor's syllabus for grading criteria.

Academic and Course Grade Appeals Process

The Academic and Course Grade Appeal Process exists for students to request an equitable and orderly process to resolve academic dissatisfaction at the college. For appeals related to final grades, it is the student's responsibility to prove that the grade is incorrect or unjustified. A grade of "F" received due to improper course withdrawal is not subject to this procedure. Every reasonable effort should be made by both parties (i.e., student and instructor) to resolve the matter through informal discussion.

For questions or guidance on the process, students should communicate with their instructor or, Career Center program counselor.

Computer Use

OTC students will be expected to use online technology to assist them in the learning process. Career and technical education classes use the Canvas learning management system as part of course design, and students will be expected to use Canvas as directed by their instructors.

All currently enrolled Career Center students have an OTC email account. Email is considered a primary method of communication on the OTC campus, and Career Center students should check their email regularly.

Student Computer Help Desk – IT Service Center

Students may go to the Career Center office for IT assistance. There is also an IT Service Center located in the atrium of the Information Commons building. Students can receive assistance with technology resource information, wireless Internet access, computer kiosk locations, campus maps, and student accounts. Students may contact the Help Desk at helpdesk@otc.edu or call 477-447-7548.

MyOTC

MyOTC is a portal that offers fast and easy access to resources at OTC with a secure single login. To log in to MyOTC, students will need their OTC username and password. Students can access MyOTC on the OTC home page.

Wi-Fi Wireless Network and Wired Internet Access

Wireless Internet access is available in the common areas of classroom buildings throughout the campus. It is the student's responsibility to know the terms and conditions outlined in the Computer Use Agreement before using OTC-WIFI to access the Internet

Use of Social Media

Online social media such as Instagram and Twitter offer students the opportunity to interact with and learn more about an extraordinary array of people. However, take great care in what you post; you have absolutely no expectation of privacy. You could expose yourself to someone who may not have the same values, assumptions about appropriate behavior or who may put you at risk as a victim of criminal behavior. You must also be concerned about the privacy of others. Be careful that you do not post anything that could be considered defamatory, libelous, harassing, or violates any codes of conduct in the Career Center or College student handbooks.

Career Center Emergency Information

Emergency medical information is kept on file for every Career Center student and can be updated by contacting the Career Center office at 417-447-8126.

Students must report injuries or illnesses immediately to their instructor, who will notify Safety and Security and Career Center administration. Students who are ill and intend to leave campus must notify their instructor and report to the Career Center office before leaving campus.

If an injury or illness is determined to require immediate treatment for a student's health and well-being, an ambulance may be summoned. Parent's/guardian's signature on the student enrollment form gives consent for OTC employees to seek medical assistance for medical emergencies. Every attempt will be made to notify the parent/guardian or emergency contact. The parent/guardian will be legally responsible for the cost of any medical service or care provided.

OTC personnel cannot dispense any medication to students.

Accident Insurance

It is recommended that parents/guardians consider carrying an accident or medical policy on their students while enrolled in OTC programs that require lab or clinical experiences. Students may be exposed to hand tools, power equipment, machinery, and contagious diseases. Medical and accident insurance is the responsibility of the individual student and his/her parent/guardian.

Emergency/Crisis Plans

A comprehensive Crisis Management Plan has been developed that includes procedures to be followed in all types of emergencies/crises. Building maps are posted in each facility giving quick reference for evacuation routes, location of fire extinguishers, and first aid kits. Please review the maps for the locations of emergency equipment and evacuation routes before you need them. In addition, students are encouraged to sign up for the text message emergency notification system (see the "Emergency Notification System" section for more information). For more information regarding emergencies or injury reports, contact OTC Safety and Security Department, Information Commons, Room 208 at (417) 447-6911. You may also speak to your instructor or Career Center staff.

Emergency Notification System

A messaging system is in place to alert students and staff of college emergencies and closings. The messages are sent to your cell phone via text. If your cell phone does not accept text messages, you can still receive the campus alerts via email. Participation in the messaging system is voluntary, but it is strongly recommended. To sign up, go to "MyOTC". OTC will not send spam or advertising through this system.

Laboratory Equipment/Health Care Consent

Students are required to submit an enrollment form signed by their parent/guardian prior to participation in any laboratory work. Failure to complete and submit a signed enrollment form could result in withdrawal from the program. Enrollment forms are located on the Career Center Canvas course site. You may also speak to your program advisor for assistance.

Law Enforcement

When law enforcement officials find it necessary to question students during the school day or during periods of extracurricular activities, a designated OTC official and/or OTC high school administrator will be present. The interview will be conducted in private.

OTC Safety & Security Department

OTC provides trained and experienced Safety and Security officers who work closely with local law enforcement and are equipped with up-to-date equipment and communications capabilities for the protection of students. Safety and Security officers are on call 24/7 for any emergency at all campuses and centers. The Safety and Security Department can be reached by calling 447-6911 or emailing safety@otc.edu. In the event of any emergency threatening life, health or property, call 911 immediately.

Proper Use of Computer Technology

Users are not to submit, publish, view, or display any defamatory, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually-oriented, or illegal material. The OTC Computer Use Agreement is based on common sense, common decency, and civility. The use of the computer is a privilege, and acceptance of the agreement assumes responsible, ethical, and legal conduct by the user. Any abuse of the privilege can result in appropriate disciplinary action, and flagrant cases can result in dismissal.

Safety and Attire

Proper equipment/clothing offers protection to students in a laboratory/shop environment. Before being allowed into a laboratory/shop environment, students will be required to wear appropriate attire, including shoes, coveralls, aprons, smocks, and other apparel determined necessary for safety by their instructor. The instructor's syllabus will detail the appropriate dress/attire for their classroom/lab. Students who do not wear proper attire will be prohibited from participating in the laboratory/shop environment, and their course grade may be affected.

Career Center students are provided one pair of safety glasses for participating in labs and work areas that require safety glasses. Students may opt to purchase their own. Students are responsible for the glasses and the cost of replacement for lost glasses. Damaged glasses will be replaced at no cost by the Career Center office. Students will not be allowed to participate in labs and earn points if proper safety practices are not followed. Students who repeatedly violate the mandatory safety glasses requirement will be subject to disciplinary action which could include dismissal from the Career Center. In some programs, students will be required to wear assigned uniforms in lab settings. It is the responsibility of the student to properly care for his/her uniform. If replacement becomes necessary, it will be at the student's expense.

Sales on Campus

Nothing may be sold on campus by any individual or organization unless through approved distribution channels such as the bookstore or food service, or unless specifically approved of by the Chancellor or his/her designee. Students are prohibited from canvassing other students or staff members for the purpose of sale.

Tobacco-Free Campus

OTC is committed to providing its students and employees a safe and healthy environment. In view of this commitment, the College is a tobacco-free institution. No consumption of tobacco or use of e-cigarettes will be allowed on college property. According to the 'College's Tobacco Free Policy, "In addition to traditional tobacco products, the College considers electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, as a tobacco product. This is to include any electrical device that simulates the act of tobacco smoking by producing an inhaled mist bearing the physical sensation, appearance, flavor, or nicotine content of inhaled tobacco smoke.

Traffic and Parking Regulations

Students must safely operate vehicles and follow all parking regulations, municipal ordinances, and state laws. Students should register their vehicles with the Safety and

Security office. A link to the vehicle registration form is located on the Career Center Canvas course site or the college website.

Students found in violation of campus policies regarding the operation of vehicles and parking could be issued a citation, levied a fine, or have the privilege of driving to OTC revoked. Parking and traffic regulations are described in detail on the OTC Safety and Security webpage.

Failure to comply with a lawful directive of anyone charged with the responsibility of enforcement of the traffic regulations, or failure to pay any fines owed, may result in the following penalties:

- The College may prohibit a student from enrolling in classes for the next term.
- The College may withhold grades, transcript and deny graduation.
- The College may revoke the driving privileges of the offender on campus.

Visitors to the College

Parent/guardian involvement is encouraged, and guests are welcome to visit campus. However, to ensure safety, visitors may not be in shops, laboratories, or other hazardous areas (as defined by the College or individual college personnel) at any time unless they are escorted by a member of the college staff for brief business visits. Visitors must have instructor approval prior to visiting classrooms or laboratories. For more information, contact the Safety and Security Department at (417) 447-6911.

STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT

OTC students are expected to behave as responsible members of the college community and be honest and ethical in their academic work. Students have rights and responsibilities. OTC students should demonstrate conduct that upholds the good name of the college and fellow students by full recognition of responsibilities under the law and the community, state, and nation's moral and social standards. Students are responsible for knowledge of OTC's Standards of Student Conduct and regulations as set forth in the OTC and Career Center student handbooks. Instructors will provide a course syllabus and include instructors' classroom policies, attendance standards, conference hours, office phone numbers, and email addresses. For more information, see Policy 5.15 Standards of Conduct in the 2022-2023 OTC Student Handbook.

Abusive Language

All students have a right to attend College without hearing profane and/or threatening language. Obscenities and/or name-calling do not show respect for the rights of others. Students showing this type of behavior are subject to disciplinary action.

Acts of Violence & Weapons Possession

The College prohibits acts of violence and weapons possession. Violent behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Acts of school violence inflicted upon another person while on school property, including a school bus in service on behalf of the district, or while participating in school activities as defined in RSMo 160.261, subsection 2 to include but not limited to:

- Harassment
- Stalking
- Sexual assault, sexual misconduct, or sexual abuse
- First or second-degree assault
- First-degree robbery, first or second-degree burglary
- Distribution of drugs
- First-degree property damage
- First-degree arson
- Weapons possession*

"*...the term 'weapon' shall mean...a blackjack, a concealable firearm, an explosive weapon, a firearm, a firearm silencer, a gas gun, a knife, knuckles, a machine gun, a projectile weapon, a rifle, a shotgun, a spring gun or a switchblade knife... but may also include other weapons. Weapons are not allowed on the OTC campus or property. The following policy, 4.02(t) was established by the Board of Trustees on December 8, 2003: With the exception of licensed law enforcement officers, all persons including those licensed to carry weapons, concealed or not, are prohibited from possessing at any time a handgun, firearm, knife (blade length exceeding 2-1/2 inches) or other weapon, concealed or visible, on the property or in a vehicle owned, leased or used by the College for classes or activities.

2. Any actions, in whatever form, which constitute a danger or threat to the life or physical safety of a person.
3. Assault or threatening behavior toward school personnel.

Students who commit threatening or dangerous acts can expect disciplinary action which could include withdrawal from classes at OTC. Students accused of an act of misconduct of this nature will be afforded due process.

Bullying (including cyberbullying)

Bullying, whether physical or verbal will not be tolerated. These behaviors interfere with an individual's performance and create an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment. Students found to be doing so will be subject to disciplinary actions. Those wishing to report bullying should contact the Career Center Director or counselor.

Cell Phone Use

Students should not use cell phones, including sending or reading text messages, while in class and labs. Cell phones should have the ring feature turned off to avoid disturbing others. Instructors will address any cell phone misuse. If a student does not respond to the direction of the teacher, it may become necessary to be referred for disciplinary action.

Classroom/Lab/Shop Conduct

Inattentiveness to safety procedures as established by instructors, including horseplay, willful misconduct, or neglect in a classroom/laboratory/shop setting, is disruptive, demonstrates a lack of professionalism, and can lead to accidents. Misconduct in a lab or shop is a serious offense and will not be tolerated.

Students should come to class/lab/shop area prepared to work with all necessary materials (textbooks, supplies, safety gear, etc.) and proper attire. Students who are not prepared for class will see a reduction in their course grade and will likely not return to the Career Center for the next semester or school year.

All students are expected to be in their assigned class area at all times. **Students who leave their assigned area (for example, going to the restroom, water fountain, or to take a break) should do so only with the permission of the instructor.** Students who leave their assigned area or the OTC campus without instructor and the Career Center office permission shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Defiant Behavior

All students who attend the Career Center are expected to recognize the importance of cooperation with all officials/employees of the institution. Any student who refuses through verbal or other action to immediately comply with any legitimate request of an instructor or administrator acting in the performance of their duties is subject to suspension or dismissal.

Disruptive Behavior

Any activity which interrupts the scheduled classroom activities or processes of education may be classified as disruptive. Examples of disruptive behavior include but are not limited to the following:

- Inciting others to violence and/or participating in violent behavior, e.g., assault, loud or vulgar language spoken publicly, or any form of behavior acted out for the purpose of inciting and influencing others toward violent behavior.
- Behavior inside or outside the classroom that disrupts the learning environment, and infringes on the rights and/or safety of other students or staff.

In the event of a classroom disruption, the instructor will deal with the issue in the confines of the classroom. If a student does not respond to the direction of the instructor, it may become necessary to refer the student to Career Center administration for discipline. The student's sending high school principal, assistant principal, counselor, and parent/guardian may be contacted.

Drugs & Alcohol

OTC's Drug and Alcohol Prevention policy prohibits the unlawful possession, use, distribution, and sale of alcohol and illicit drugs on College owned or controlled property and at events sponsored by OTC. For more information, see Policy 5.37 Drug and Alcohol Prevention in the 2022-2023 OTC Student Handbook.

Students who attend classes, laboratories, or any college function under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs shall be subject to strong disciplinary actions. Students in possession of or under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs may be withdrawn or placed on suspension from the Career Center. In these cases, Career Center administration will be in contact with sending high school administration, parent or guardian, and OTC Safety and Security.

Any Career Center student may contact the Career Center counselor or Career Center administration for crisis intervention or for information about available community resources and referral assistance for drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, rehabilitation.

Fighting and Verbal or Physical Abuse

Verbal or physical conflicts among individuals will not be tolerated. Students have an obligation to avoid any such incidents. Students who initiate such incidents or become involved in them are subject to suspension or expulsion from the program.

Off-Campus Conduct Expectations

The Career Center expects students to conduct themselves off-campus during Career Center related activities with the same standards as are expected when they are on campus.

Public Display of Affection

Inappropriate displays of affection, such as kissing, may be offensive to other people and therefore not acceptable at school. All students are expected to refrain from this kind of behavior. Students who do not comply with this regulation shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Sexual Misconduct

Sexual misconduct, whether verbal or physical, against another member of the campus community, will not be tolerated. In accordance with Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), OTC has a Sexual Misconduct policy and set of procedures related to sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence (including sexual assault), dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking (collectively referred to as "sexual misconduct"). This policy and set of procedures govern all reports of sexual misconduct made to the College.

Reports of possible sexual misconduct should be made to Career Center administration. Reports and questions about the policy and procedures or available resources may also be made to the following:

OTC's Title IX Coordinator
Kevin Luebbering
College Director of Equity and Compliance
1001 E. Chestnut Expressway
Springfield, MO 65802
417-447-8188
luebberk@otc.edu

OTC's Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Ocki Haas
College Director for Human Resources
1001 E. Chestnut Expressway
Springfield, MO 65802
417-447-2631
haaso@otc.edu

Theft or Extortion

Stealing college property, personal property of students or staff, or any item(s) on or associated with College owned, rented, or leased facilities shall not be tolerated. A student who steals or extorts shall be subject to suspension or expulsion from the program.

Vandalism and Destruction of Property

It is important that all students properly utilize the equipment and facilities. Damaging, defacing, or destroying college property or the property of a college community member or campus visitor shall be looked upon as a serious matter. Any student who is found to have willfully engaged in vandalism shall be required to make restitution and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Violations of Academic Integrity

Dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the College are regarded as particularly serious offenses and are not condoned or tolerated at OTC. The penalty may be failing the course or dismissal from College after proper due process proceedings. Students assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the coursework they submit. To falsify or fabricate the results of one's research; to present the words, ideas, data, or work of another as one's own; or to cheat on an examination corrupts the essential process of higher education.

Actions constituting violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Plagiarism:** the use of another's words, ideas, data, or product without appropriate acknowledgment, such as copying another's work, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project and then submitting it as one's own.
- **Cheating:** the use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids; an act of deceit by which a student attempts to misrepresent academic skills or knowledge; and unauthorized copying or collaboration.
- **Fabrication:** intentional misrepresentation or invention of any information, such as falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.
- **Collusion:** assisting another to commit an act of academic dishonesty, such as paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, taking a test or doing an assignment for someone else, or allowing someone to do these things for one's own benefit.
- **Academic misconduct:** the intentional violation of college policies, such as tampering with grades, misrepresenting one's identity, or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a test or any information about the test.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The following are some of the consequences used to reinforce college rules and regulations. Consequences will be administered in a professional manner based on frequency and severity of the student's behavior. A student should expect more severe consequences for repeated or serious violations.

Types of Consequences:

- administrative conference
- parental notification
- suspension or restrictions from activities or privileges
- billing for restitution
- confiscation of property
- notification of College Director of Safety and Security and/or appropriate law enforcement agency
- contract for continued enrollment
- withdrawal from the Career Center, which would result in loss of course grade or credit

Contract for Continued Enrollment

Career Center administration has the authority to implement appropriate consequences as needed for failure to meet standards of behavior, including placing a student on a contract for continued enrollment or recommendation for dismissal from the program. Failure to improve while on probation would require parent/guardian and student to confer with Career Center administrators as to circumstances and/or could result in OSS or dismissal from OTC during the current school year and rejection of future enrollment. For cases in which a student is placed on a contract for continued enrollment, the duration of the contract is at the discretion of the Career Center administration. Stipulations of the contract will be outlined in communication with the student, the parent/guardian, and the sending high school administration.

A first behavioral referral serves as a notice of the need for the student to modify behavior. A serious first offense, however, could result in immediate probation, suspension, or even dismissal. Students will receive coaching by Career Center staff to encourage adult-like behavior consistent with the expectations of the College.

In-School Suspension (ISS) and Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

The Career Center works in collaboration with sending high schools in cases of student discipline. Most in-school and out-of-school suspensions are administered by sending high school administration.

Students who are suspended in or out of school by their sending high school administrators for violations of student conduct while at the Career Center are also suspended and counted absent from the Career Center for the duration of the suspension. Students may lose credit for work missed during the suspension.

Students who are placed in ISS by their sending high school for infractions not related to the Career Center may be eligible to attend OTC during their ISS time if agreed upon by sending high school administrators and the Career Center administrators.

Any student given an OSS by his/her sending high school administration for student conduct violations not related to the Career Center is also suspended and counted absent from the

Career Center. One of the consequences of suspension from school is the lost opportunity for learning. Students may lose credit for missed work and are not allowed to attend classes due to suspension unless arrangements have been made between the sending high school administration and the OTC Career Center administration.

Career Center Suspension

The OTC Career Center administration may administer discipline for violations of standards of student conduct.

The Career Center administration can assign a suspension to a student as part of disciplinary action for failure to meet disciplinary standards.

The Career Center suspension procedures are as follows:

1. When Career Center administration receives information that a student has allegedly violated a board policy, college procedure, or administrative rule, the director shall investigate the alleged violation.
2. The Career Center administration or college official will conduct a conference with the student to discuss the alleged violations. All students are entitled to due process. This means that students will know the charges against them and will have the opportunity to present their version of the incident to the appropriate college official.
3. Following the conference, Career Center administration or college officials may dismiss the allegations. If a violation of policy exists, the Career Center office will notify the student's sending high school administration and parents/guardians regarding the rule violation(s). A disposition statement regarding the length of suspension will be made to the sending high school's administration. During the time of suspension, the student will not be allowed on the OTC campus. In extreme cases, Career Center administration or a college official may immediately dismiss the student from the Career Center. Career Center administration will prepare a written statement of disposition, including the effective date of the action, and provide a copy to all parties involved.
4. Students have the right to appeal suspensions in excess of 10 days. Appeals should be directed to the Career Center director.
5. Upon return to OTC, the student may be placed on a contract for continued enrollment for the remainder of the school year.

SUMMARY OF STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Our goal is to prepare students for college and career readiness. Students achieve more when they understand the expectations. This summary should be used as a reference, and students and parents/guardians should review the handbook in its entirety.

- Good attendance will help students succeed; show up to class daily and on time.
- Communicate with the instructor(s); it is vital to student success.
- Regularly check your OTC email and Canvas account; these are the main methods of communication at OTC and the Career Center.
- Seek out assistance when help is needed; Career Center staff and instructors are here to help students succeed.
- Safety in labs, classrooms, and parking lots is necessary for everyone.
- Treat yourself with dignity and respect; you represent yourself, your high school, OTC, and the Career Center.

- Treat others with dignity and respect.
- Be honest and take responsibility for your actions.
- Take responsibility for your education; college courses normally require more study time.