

Sierra College

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

AP 7360

Discipline and Dismissal, Academic Employees

Date Adopted:	11/9/2004
Date Revised:	12/8/2023
Date Reviewed:	12/8/2023
References:	Education Code Sections 87623, 87669, 87732

Causes for Discipline

A regular employee or academic employee may be dismissed or penalized for one or more of the following causes:

- Immoral or unprofessional conduct;
- Dishonesty;
- Unsatisfactory performance;
- Evident unfitness for service;
- Physical or mental condition that makes them unfit to instruct or associate with students;
- Persistent violation of, or refusal to obey, the school laws of the state or reasonable regulations prescribed for the government of the community colleges by the Board of Governors or by the Board of Trustees of the District;
- Conviction of a felony or of any crime involving moral turpitude;
- Conduct specified in Section 1028 of the Government Code. (i.e., knowing membership in the Communist Party or of any organization which advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States by force or violence).

Placement on Involuntary Paid Administrative Leave Pending Investigation of Misconduct

An academic employee who is placed on involuntary paid administrative leave and is subject to accusations of misconduct is entitled to be provided with the general nature of the accusations made against them at least two business days before the employee is placed on leave. At least two business days before they are placed on involuntary paid administrative leave, the employee shall be notified in writing of the general nature of the allegation or allegations of misconduct upon which the decision to place the employee on leave is based.

The two business day advance notice requirement does not apply in the event of a serious risk of physical danger or other necessity arising from the specific allegations, and the

employee may immediately be placed on involuntary paid administrative leave. The employee shall be provided with, at minimum, the general nature of the accusations made against them within five business days of the employee being placed on leave.

Within 90 working days of placing an employee on involuntary paid administrative leave, the District should complete its investigation of the accused misconduct and initiate disciplinary proceeding against, or reinstate, the employee, unless the period of paid administrative leave is extended by agreement of the employee and the District. This extension may not exceed 30 calendar days. "Working days" under this procedure means Monday through Friday and does not include weekends and state holidays.

Notice and Appeal

The District shall not act upon any charges of unprofessional conduct or unsatisfactory performance unless during the preceding term or half college year prior to the date of the filing of the charge, and at least ninety (90) days prior to the date of the filing, the employee against whom the charge is filed has been given written notice of the unprofessional conduct or unsatisfactory performance, specifying the nature of the conduct with specific instances of behavior and with particularity to permit the employee an opportunity to correct their faults and overcome the grounds for the charge. The written notice shall include the most recent evaluation of the employee.

If the Board decides it intends to dismiss or penalize a contract or regular employee, a written statement, signed and verified, shall be delivered to the employee setting forth the complete and precise decision of the Board and the reasons for the decision.

The written statement shall be delivered by serving it personally on the employee or by mailing it by United States registered mail to the employee at their address last known to the District.

If the employee objects to the decision on any ground, the employee shall give written notice of the objection to the Superintendent/President of their objection within thirty (30) days of the date of the service of the notice.

Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the employee's demand for a hearing, the employee and the Chief Human Resources Officer shall attempt to agree upon an arbitrator to hear the matter. When there is agreement as to the arbitrator, the Chief Human Resources Officer shall enter into the records of the Board written confirmation of the agreement signed by the employee and an authorized representative of the District. Upon entry of such confirmation, the arbitrator shall assume complete and sole jurisdiction over the matter.

If within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the employee's demand for hearing, no written agreement has been reached between the employee and the District regarding appointment of an arbitrator, the District will certify the matter to the California State Office of Administrative Hearings and request the appointment of an administrative law judge.

Upon appointment, the arbitrator or the Administrative Law Judge shall conduct the proceedings in accordance with the California Administrative Procedures Act, except that the right of discovery shall not be limited to those matters set forth in Section 11507.6 of the California Government Code but shall include the rights and duties of any party in a civil action brought in a superior court. In all cases, discovery shall be completed prior to one (1) week before the date set for hearing.

The arbitrator or Administrative Law Judge shall determine whether there is cause to dismiss or penalize the employee. If the arbitrator finds cause, the arbitrator shall determine whether the employee shall be dismissed, the precise penalty to be imposed, and whether the decision should be imposed immediately or be postponed.

No witness shall be permitted to testify at the hearing except upon oath or affirmation. No testimony shall be given or evidence introduced relating to matters that occurred more than four (4) years prior to the date of the filing of the notice. Evidence of records regularly kept by the District concerning the employee may be introduced, but no decision relating to the dismissal or suspension of any employee shall be made based on charges or evidence of any nature relating to matters occurring more than four (4) years prior to the filing of the notice.

The decision of the arbitrator or Administrative Law Judge will be made in writing and provided to all parties.

See Board Policy 7360.