

**TITLE: POLICY REGARDING STUDENTS WITH
HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)**

**AUTHORITY:
Florida Statute 1006.68**

POLICY:

The following guidelines are established regarding students with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV):

1. **DEFINITION:** For purposes of this policy, a student with HIV falls into one of the following categories:
 - a. An individual who tests positive for HIV antibody but who has no symptom manifestations, or
 - b. An individual who is diagnosed as having Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)—displaying one or more opportunistic infections.

2. **STUDENT RIGHTS:** The College recognizes that the rights of students with HIV to obtain education and employment must be balanced against the rights of persons without HIV who wish to be reasonably protected from contracting the virus.
 - a. Both the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Florida Educational Equity Act prohibit discrimination against disabled persons, and students with HIV are classified as disabled.
 - b. Precautions will be provided to students in Allied Health Programs and science laboratory classes.
 - c. Any student who reveals that he/she has HIV will be afforded confidentiality in accordance with appropriate statute and state law.

3. **ADMISSIONS:** No student will be denied admission to the College solely on the basis that he/she has HIV.
 - a. The College will not require a student to reveal whether or not he/she has HIV when applying for admission to the College.
 - b. Furthermore, the College will not require serological testing to determine if a student seeking admission has HIV.

4. **ATTENDANCE, WITHDRAWAL, AND/OR SUSPENSIONS:** Under most circumstances, no student will be required to cease class attendance solely on the basis of having HIV.
 - a. If a student with HIV requests special accommodations due to illness (i.e., disability), the College will acquire sufficient information about such disability to make a determination regarding the requested accommodation(s).

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- (1) Any student wishing to request special accommodations should contact the District Vice President for Student Services.
- (2) On the Charlotte and Collier campuses, a student should contact the Campus President's Office.
- b. The College will not impose any rule(s) or restrictions upon a student with HIV that will have the effect of limiting that individual's participation in the College's educational programs and/or services solely on the basis of that person's disability.
- c. Current research has indicated the possibility that the central nervous system may become affected by HIV, which may lead to progressive neurological and cognitive dysfunction and subsequent inability of the student to maintain scholastic performance. Decisions as to such a student continuing to attend class or being suspended or withdrawn from class(es) will be made on a case-by-case basis after reasonable accommodations have been examined or tried, and after an examination of the facts demonstrates to the College that the student can no longer function as necessary to meet the requirements of the student's course or program, or that the student presents a health or safety risk to self or to the College community.