



# **V.S.B. ENGINEERING COLLEGE**

**KARUR – 639111  
Tamil Nadu**

## **CRITERION 7**

### **7.1.10 Students Code of Conduct**

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## **1. PREAMBLE**

This Handbook indicates the standard procedures and practices of V.S.B. Engineering College (hereinafter referred to as the 'Institute') for all students enrolling with the Institute for pursuing varied courses. All students must know that it is incumbent upon them to abide by this Code of Ethics and Conduct (hereinafter referred to as the 'Code') and the rights, responsibilities including the restrictions outlined within it.

That the Institute's endeavor by means of enforcing this Code is to pioneer and administer a student discipline process that is egalitarian, conscientious, effective and expeditious; and providing a system which promotes student growth through individual and collective responsibility.

All Students are requested to be well conversant with this Code, which can be also reviewed on the official website of the Institute

## **2. JURISDICTION**

2.1 The Institute shall have jurisdiction over the conduct of the students associated/enrolled with the Institute and shall take cognizance of all acts of misconduct, including incidents of ragging or otherwise, which occur on the Institute campus or in connection with Institute-related activities and functions.

2.2 Institute may also exercise jurisdiction over conduct which occurs off-campus violating the ideal student conduct and discipline as laid down in this Policy and other regulations as if the conduct has occurred on campus which shall include

- a) Any violations of the Sexual Harassment Policy of the Institute against other students of the Institute.
- b) Physical assault, threats of violence, or conduct that threatens the health or safety of any person including other students of the Institute;
- c) Possession or use of weapons, explosives, or destructive devices off-campus
- d) Manufacture, sale, or distribution of prohibited drugs, alcohol etc.
- e) Conduct which has a negative impact or constitutes a nuisance to members of the surrounding off-campus community.

The Institute, while determining whether or not to exercise such off-campus

jurisdiction in situations enumerated hereinabove, the Institute shall consider the seriousness of the alleged offense, the risk of harm involved, whether the victim(s) are members of the campus community and/or whether the off-campus conduct is part of a series of actions, which occurred both on, and off-campus.

### **3.ETHICS AND CONDUCT**

- 3.1 This Code shall apply to all kinds of the conduct of students that occurs on the Institute premises including in University sponsored activities, functions hosted by other recognized student organizations and any off-campus conduct that has or may have serious consequences or adverse impact on the Institute's Interests or reputation.
- 3.2 At the time of admission, each student must be made aware of this Code that
  - a) He/she shall be regular and must complete his/her studies in the Institute.
  - b) In the event, a student is forced to discontinue studies for any legitimate reason, such a student may be relieved from the Institute subject to written consent of Principal
  - c) As a result of such relieving, the student shall be required to clear pending hostel/mess dues and if a student had joined the Institute on a scholarship, the said grant shall be revoked.
- 3.3 Institute believes in promoting a safe and efficient climate by enforcing behavioral standards. All students must uphold academic integrity, respect all persons and their rights and property and safety of others; etc
- 3.4 All students must deter from indulging in any and all forms of misconduct including partaking in any activity off-campus which can affect the Institute's interests and reputation substantially.
- 3.5 Any act of discrimination (physical or verbal conduct) based on an individual's gender, caste, race, religion or religious beliefs, color, region, language, disability, or sexual orientation, marital or family status, physical or mental disability, gender identity, etc.
- 3.6 Intentionally damaging or destroying Institute property or property of other students and/or faculty members
- 3.7 Any disruptive activity in a classroom or in an event sponsored by the Institute

- 3.8 Unable to produce the identity card, issued by the Institute, or refusing to produce it on demand by Discipline committee members
- 3.9 Participating in activities including
  - 3.9.1 Organizing meetings and processions without permission from the Institute.
  - 3.9.2 Accepting membership of religious or terrorist groups banned by the Institute/ Government of India
  - 3.9.3 Unauthorized possession, carrying or use of any weapon, ammunition, explosives, or potential weapons, fireworks, contrary to law or policy.
  - 3.9.4 Unauthorized possession or use of harmful chemicals and banned drugs
  - 3.9.5 Smoking on the campus of the Institute
  - 3.9.6 Possessing, Consuming, distributing, selling of alcohol in the Institute and/or throwing empty bottles on the campus of the Institute
  - 3.9.7 Parking a vehicle in a no-parking zone or an area marked for parking of other types of vehicles
  - 3.9.8 Rash driving on the campus that may cause any inconvenience to others
  - 3.9.9 Not disclosing a pre-existing health condition, either physical or psychological, to the Chief Medical Officer which may cause Hindrance to the academic progress.
  - 3.9.10 Theft or unauthorized access to others resources
  - 3.9.11 Misbehavior at the time of any activity of the Institute.
  - 3.9.12 Engaging in disorderly, lewd, or indecent conduct, including, but not limited to, creating unreasonable noise; pushing and shoving; Inciting or participating in a riot or group disruption at the Institute.
- 3.10 Students are expected not to interact on behalf of the Institute with media representatives or invite media persons on to the campus without the permission of the Institute authorities.
- 3.11 Students are not permitted to either audio or video record lectures in class rooms or actions of other students, faculty or staff without prior Permission.
- 3.12 Students are not permitted to provide audio and video clippings of any activities on the campus to media without prior permission.

- 3.13 Students are expected to use the social media carefully and responsibly. They cannot post derogatory comments about other individuals from the Institute on the social media or indulging in any such related activities having grave ramifications on the reputation of the Institute.
- 3.14 Theft or misuse of the Institute computers and other electronic resources such as computer and electronic communications facilities, systems, and services which includes unauthorized entry , use tamper, etc. of Institute property or facilities, private residences of staff/professors etc. offices, classrooms, computers networks, and other restricted facilities and interference with the work of others is punishable.
- 3.15 Damage to or destruction of, any property of the Institute, or any property of others onthe Institute premises.
- 3.16 Making a video/audio recording, taking photographs, or streaming audio/video of any person in a location where the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy,without that person's knowledge and express consent.
- 3.17 Indulging in any form of Harassment which is defined as a conduct that is severe and objectively, a conduct that is motivated on the basis of a person's race, color, national or ethnic origin, citizenship, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity marital status, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition.

#### **4. LEAVE LETTER, PERMISSION & ABSENTEEISM**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every period by the respective staff handling the class. Any student who comes late to class or who is unavailable while taking the attendance will be considered absent for that session.

- a. Students who come late or absent themselves for any period in the forenoon / afternoon will be treated absent for half a day.
- b. Students can avail leave only after getting prior permission except for sudden sickness or unforeseen circumstances.
- c. Students who require leave should submit a leave letter and obtain permission from the class adviser, HoD and principal at least a day prior to taking leave. For unforeseen/ sick leave for one day or more, a leave letter should be submitted to class adviser after obtaining sign from the HoD on the day of reporting back to classes. Medical reports should be submitted.
- d. If a student is absent for 4 working days continuously or at random in that semester, his/her parents should meet the Principal.

- e. Leave letters must be submitted to the concerned class adviser only.
- f. Students are permitted to avail On Duty leave as per the requirement, but only with the prior permission from HoD and Principal.

## **5. DRESS CODE**

### STUDENTS ARE INSTRUCTED:

- a. To wear their identity cards as and when they enter the campus and continue to do so until they leave the campus and also during travel by the college bus with respect to those who avail the college transport facility.
- b. To wear the identity card continuously displayed and not hidden, inside their shirt pockets.
- c. Not to wear identity/transport ID card belonging to others and not to indulge in any malpractice that will invite severe action.
- d. To get a new ID card within a week of losing the original ID card, from the college office.
- e. To wear clean appropriate clothes.
- f. To wear formal pants with formal shirts tucked in properly in the case of boys/Churidhars with neatly pinned dhuppatas in case of girls, as long as they are in the college campus.
- g. Not to wear T-Shirts/ Jeans/ pencil pants and other casuals.
- h. Not to wear fancy / wide belts but simple formal belts with small buckles.
- i. Not to sport a beard/French beards and long hair but come neatly shaved with neat hair cut in case of boys.
- j. Not to wear short tops/leggings/tight pants, thin flimsy dresses in case of girls.
- k. Not to wear flashy dresses/fancy jewels or leave the hair loose but come with neatly plaited (braided) hair in case of girls.
- l. To wear black polished leather shoes with black socks on all days in the case of boys and on lab days in the case of girls for safety reasons.
- m. To adhere to the dress code throughout the day till they leave the college.
- n. To wear lab coats for all lab sessions.
- o. Not to deviate from the dress code during any programs conducted by the college/ department.

If there is a case against a student for a possible breach of the code of conduct, then a committee will be formed to recommend a suitable disciplinary action that shall inquire into the alleged violation and accordingly suggest the action to be taken against the said student. The committee may meet with the student to ascertain the misconduct and suggest one or more of the following disciplinary actions based on the nature of the misconduct.

**WARNING-** Indicating that the action of the said delinquent student was in violation of the Code and any further acts of misconduct shall result in severe disciplinary action.

**RESTRICTIONS** - Reprimanding and restricting access to various facilities on the campus for a specified period of time.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE** - For a specified period of time to be extended if need be. However, any future misconduct along with failure to comply with any conditions imposed may lead to severe disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion.

**EXPULSION** - Expulsion of a student from the Institute permanently. Indicating prohibition from entering the Institute premises or participating in any student-related activities or campus residences etc.

**MONETARY PENALTY-** May also include suspension or forfeiture of scholarship for a specific time period

**SUSPENSION-** A student may be suspended for a specified period of time which will entail a prohibition on participating in student-related activities, classes, programs etc. Additionally, the student will be forbidden to use various Institute facilities unless permission is obtained from the Competent Authority. Suspension may also follow by possible dismissal, along with the following additional penalties.

Ineligibility to reapply for admission to the Institute for a period of three years, and

Withholding the grade card or certificate for the courses studied or work carried out

**6 APPEAL:** If the delinquent student is aggrieved by the imposition of any of the mentioned penalties, he/she may appeal to the Principal / HOD / Class advisor / Mentor and may decide on one of the following:

- 6.1 Accept the recommendation of the committee and impose the punishment as suggested by the Committee or modify and impose any of the punishments as stipulated in this Code which is commensurate with the gravity of the proved misconduct, or
- 6.2 Refer the case back to the committee for reconsideration. In any case, the Principal's decision is final after binding in all the cases where there is a possible misconduct by a student.



## 7 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As a premier institution for advanced scientific and technological research and education, the Institute values academic integrity and is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment. Academic Integrity encompasses honesty, responsibility and awareness relating to ethical standards for the conduct of research and scholarship. The Institute believes that in all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the Institute and its research missions, and hence, violation of academic integrity is considered as a serious offense.

### 7.1 Scope and Purpose

- A. This Policy on academic integrity, which forms an integral part of the Code, applies to all students of the Institute. The students are required to adhere to the said policy. The purpose of the Policy is twofold:

To clarify the principles of academic integrity, and To provide examples of dishonest conduct and violations of academic integrity.

**NOTE:** These examples are only illustrative, NOT exhaustive.

- B. Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students. Every member of the University community, therefore, bears a responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of academic integrity are upheld.
- C. The principles of academic integrity require that a student,
- Properly acknowledges and cites the use of the ideas, results, material or words of others.
  - Properly acknowledges all contributors to a given piece of work.
  - Makes sure that all work submitted regarding a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of impermissible materials or impermissible collaboration.
  - Obtains all data or results by ethical means and reports them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions.
  - Treats all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitates academic dishonesty by others nor obstructs their academic progress.

#### **Violations of this policy include, but are not limited to:**

- (i) Plagiarism means the use of material, ideas, figures, code or data as one's own, without appropriately acknowledging the original source. This may involve

Submission of material, verbatim or paraphrased, that is authored by another person or published earlier by oneself.

Examples of plagiarism include:

- a) Reproducing, in whole or part, text/sentences from a report, book, thesis, publication or the internet.
- b) Reproducing one's own previously published data, illustrations, figures, images, or someone else's data, etc.
- c) Taking material from class-notes or incorporating material from the internet graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other non-textual material from other sources into one's class reports, presentations, manuscripts, research papers or thesis without proper attribution.
- d) Self-plagiarism which constitutes copying verbatim from one's own earlier published work in a journal or conference proceedings without appropriate citations.
- e) Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- f) Paraphrasing or changing an author's words or style without citation.

(ii) Cheating

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Copying during examinations, and copying of homework assignments, term papers, theses or manuscripts.
  - b) Allowing or facilitating copying, or writing a report or taking an examination for someone else.
  - c) Using unauthorized material, copying, collaborating when not authorized, and purchasing or borrowing papers or material from various sources.
  - d) Fabricating (making up) or falsifying (manipulating) data and reporting them in thesis and publications.
  - e) Creating sources, or citations that do not exist
  - f) Altering previously evaluated and re-submitting the work for re-evaluation
  - g) Signing another student's name on an assignment, report, research paper, thesis or attendance sheet.
- (iii) Conflict of Interest: A clash of personal or private interests with professional activities can lead to a potential conflict of interest in diverse activities such as teaching, research, publication, working on committees, research funding and consultancy. It is necessary to protect actual professional independence, objectivity, commitment, and avoid an appearance of any impropriety arising from conflicts of interest.

Conflict of interest is not restricted to personal financial gain; it extends to a large gamut of professional academic activities including peer reviewing, serving on

various committees, which may, for example, oversee funding or give recognition, as well as influencing public policy.

To promote transparency and enhance credibility, potential conflicts of interests must be disclosed in writing to appropriate authorities, so that a considered decision can be made on a case- by-case basis. Some additional information is available also in the section below dealing with resources.

### **7.3 Guidelines for academic conduct are provided below to guard against negligence as well as deliberate dishonesty:**

- a) Use proper methodology for experiments and computational work. Accurately describe and compile data.
- b) Carefully record and save primary and secondary data such as original pictures, instrument data readouts, laboratory notebooks, and computer folders. There should be minimal digital manipulation of images/photos; the original version should be saved for later scrutiny if required, and the changes made should be clearly described.
- c) Ensure robust reproducibility and statistical analysis of experiments and simulations. It is important to be truthful about the data and not to omit data points to make an impressive figure (commonly known as “cherry picking”).
- d) Laboratory notes must be well maintained in bound notebooks with printed page numbers to enable checking later during publications or patenting. The date should be indicated on each page.
- e) Write clearly in your own words. It is necessary to resist the temptation to "copy and paste" from the Internet or other sources for class assignments, manuscripts, and thesis.
- f) Give due credit to previous reports, methods, computer programs, etc. with appropriate citations. Material taken from your own published work should also be cited; as mentioned above, it will be considered self-plagiarism otherwise.

### **7.4. INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY: THE RESPONSIBILITY VARIES WITH THE ROLE ONE PLAYS.**

- a) **Student roles:** Before submitting a thesis (M.E) to the department, the student is responsible for checking the thesis for plagiarism using software that is available on the web. In addition, the student should undertake that he/she is aware of the academic guidelines of the Institute, has checked the document for plagiarism, and that the thesis is original work. A web- check does not necessarily rule out plagiarism. If a student observes or becomes aware of any violations of the academic integrity policy he/she is strongly encouraged to report the misconduct in a timely manner.
- b) **Faculty roles:** Faculty members should ensure that proper methods are followed for experiments, computations and theoretical developments, and that data is properly recorded and saved for future reference. In addition, they should review

manuscripts and theses carefully. Faculty members are also responsible for ensuring personal compliance with the above broad issues relating to academic integrity. Faculty members are expected to inform students of the Institute's academic integrity policy within their specific courses, to ensure minimal academic dishonesty, and to respond appropriately and timely to violations of academic integrity.

- c) Institutional roles:** A breach of academic integrity is a serious offense with long-lasting consequences for both the individual and the institute, and this can lead to various sanctions. In the case of a student, the first violation of academic breach will lead to a warning. A repeat offense, if deemed sufficiently serious, could lead to expulsion. It is recommended that faculty brings any academic violations to the notice of the Department Chairperson. Upon receipt of reports on scientific misconduct, the Principal may appoint a committee to investigate the matter and suggest appropriate measures on a case by case basis.

#### **References:**

- [1] National Academy of Sciences article "On being a scientist," [http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record\\_id=4917&page=R1](http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=4917&page=R1)
- [2] <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/plagiarism/>
- [3] <http://www.aresearchguide.com/6plagiar.html>
- [4] <https://www.indiana.edu/~tedfrick/plagiarism>
- [5] <http://www.files.chem.vt.edu/chem-ed/ethics/index.html>
- [6] [http://www.ncusd203.org/central/html/where/plagiarism\\_stoppers.html](http://www.ncusd203.org/central/html/where/plagiarism_stoppers.html)
- [7] <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf>
- [8] <http://web.mit.edu/academicintegrity/>
- [9] <http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/students/integrity/>
- [10] <http://www.ais.up.ac.za/plagiarism/websources.htm#info>
- [11] <http://ori.dhhs.gov/>
- [12] <http://www.scientificvalues.org/cases.html>

## **8. ANTI-RAGGING**

The Institute has a coherent and an effective anti-ragging policy in place which is based on the 'UGC Regulation on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009 [hereinafter referred to as the 'UGC Regulations']'. The UGC Regulations have been framed in view of the directions issued by the Honorable Supreme Court of India to prevent and prohibit ragging in all Indian Educational Institutions and Colleges. The said UGC Regulations shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Institute and the students are requested kindly to abide by it.

### **8.1 Ragging constitutes one or more of the following acts:**

- a) any conduct by a student or group of students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness on any other student;
- b) indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities by a student or group of students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any other student;
- c) asking any student to do any act, which the student will not in the ordinary course do and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame, or torment or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of such a student;
- d) any act by a senior student that prevents disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any student;
- e) exploiting the services of a student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of students;
- f) any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a student by other students;
- g) any act of physical abuse including all variants of it: sexual abuse, stripping, forcing obscene and lewd acts, gestures, causing bodily harm or any other danger to health or person;
- h) any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, post, public insults which would also include deriving perverted pleasure, the vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to any other student ;
- i) Any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of any other student with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by a student over any other student.

### **8.2 ANTI-RAGGING COMMITTEE:**

The Anti-Ragging Committee, as constituted by the Principal and headed by students affairs advisors shall examine all complaints of anti-ragging and come out with

the recommendation based on the nature of the incident. The committee shall be headed by student's affairs advisors and the members should consist of, the Deans, Student Counselors, Faculty Advisors, and Chairperson of the concerned Department.

### **8.3 ANTI-RAGGING SQUAD**

To render assistance to students, an Anti-Ragging Squad, which is a smaller body, has also been constituted consisting of various members of the campus community. The said Squad shall keep a vigil on ragging incidents taking place in the community and undertake patrolling functions. Students may note that the Squad is active and alert at all times and are empowered to inspect places of potential ragging, and also make surprise raids in hostels and other hotspots in the Institute. The Squad can also investigate incidents of ragging and make recommendations to the Anti-Ragging Committee and shall work under the guidance of the Anti-Ragging Committee.

### **8.4 A student found guilty by the committee will attract one or more of the following punishments, as imposed by the Anti-Ragging Committee:**

- j) Suspension from attending classes and academic privileges.
- k) Withholding/ withdrawing scholarship/ fellowship and other benefits.
- l) Debarring from appearing in any test/ examination or other evaluation processes.
- m) Withholding results.
- n) Debarring from undertaking any collaborative work or attending national or international conferences/symposia/meeting to present his/her research work.
- o) Suspension/ expulsion from the hostels and mess.
- p) Cancellation of admission.
- q) Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution for a specified period.
- r) In cases where the person committing or abetting the act of ragging are not identified, the institute shall resort to collective punishment.
- s) If need be, in view of the intensity of the act of ragging committed, a First Information Report (FIR) shall be filed by the Institute with the local police authorities.

The Anti-Ragging Committee of the Institute shall take an appropriate decision, including the imposition of punishment, depending on the facts and circumstances of each incident of ragging and nature and gravity of the incident of ragging.

### **8.5 An Appeal against the any of the orders of punishment enumerated hereinabove shall lie to:**

i) In case of an order of an institution, affiliated to or constituent part, of the Institute, to the Principal of the Institute

## **9. SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Students should note that sexual misconduct or harassment encompasses a range of conduct, including but not limited to sexual assault, unwanted touching or persistent unwelcome comments, e-mails, or pictures of an insulting or degrading sexual nature, which may constitute harassment, which shall depend on the circumstances of each case.

## **10. STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

Any student of the Institute aggrieved by any acts of sexual harassment, misconduct or ragging as defined and summarized hereinabove can approach the Student Grievance Redress committee at the Institute. Further, any student who is aware of any violations must report the same to the Committee.

The Committee shall consist of members as appointed by the Principal. It shall take cognizance of the grievance and inform the Committee formed to enforce this Code or the Internal Complaints Committee, in cases of any sexual harassment complaints.

## **11. STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE**

As Students are members of the Institute campus, they have a substantial interest in the governance of the Institute. The Code, policies and the varied procedures laid down herein intends that the principle of student involvement in governance in both administrative and academic areas is essential and it is pivotal that Students must be, at all junctures, being encouraged to put forth their views and advice, for an informed decision making. Student Participation is encouraged and must be strengthened through the involvement of students in all levels. Therefore, all students who are a part of the Institute and who are going to be enrolled in the Institute are advised to uphold the policy and inform the Institute of any violations and assist individually and collectively to improve the quality and effectiveness of this Code and appended policies.

## **REFERENCES**

[HTTP://DEANOFSTUDENTS.UCSC.EDU/STUDENT-CONDUCT/STUDENT-HANDBOOK/PDF/120.0-POLICY- STUDENT-PARTICIPATION-GOVERNANCE.PDF](http://deanofstudents.ucsc.edu/student-conduct/student-handbook/pdf/120.0-policy-student-participation-governance.pdf)