



Dear Class of 2019-20 Parents,

Snow College strives to provide an environment that is safe, positive, and successful for all of our students. This isn't always an easy task. The college experience is a new one for incoming students who are experiencing new things and are no longer under parental supervision. Unfortunately, one of the risks is that of sexual harassment which can range from unwelcome comments to sexual assault. While incidents of this type are not frequent, sadly they do occur and are often very disruptive to the educational experience. We want you to know what steps Snow College is taking to help provide a safe and successful atmosphere for your student both on and off our campuses.

Snow College starts with educating students about sexual harassment. One training tool we use at the College is an online training module called Respect Matters: Understanding Title IX. The training's interactive modules empower students to make well-informed decisions and create safe, healthy campus environments. Incoming first-year students will be asked to complete this online training at the beginning of the semester. We will be communicating directly with your student regarding the information they will need to complete the training. To help ensure that your student completes this essential part of their college preparation, please remind them to complete the training as soon as possible.

Snow College also complies with federal law in providing to students a way to report any form of sexual harassment—the College has a Title IX Office where students can report sexual harassment or other concerns. The Office will then direct students to resources to help them, provide accommodations at the College, and conduct an investigation to determine if individuals have violated our school policies.

Ultimately, through education and conversation, the College is striving to be innovative, caring, and committed to creating a campus culture of respect and safety. This includes on campus, in the on campus residence halls, and in our college community.

While this transition to college life is an exciting time for students, research shows that the first few weeks of college pose the highest risk for a variety of behaviors, including alcohol use and sexual harassment. During the transition to college, parents and caregivers can play a crucial role by encouraging students to engage in the mentioned training, providing a listening ear and encouraging them to reach out in times of need. Thank you for your help.

For more information regarding Title IX and the online training, please visit www.snow.edu/general/TitleIX/respect_matters.html.

Sincerely,

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TO PARENTS AND FAMILIES OF NEW SNOW COLLEGE STUDENTS

We are honored and excited that your student has chosen Snow College to pursue their higher education. We also want to congratulate you on your student's academic achievement to date. We know the important role parents and families play in helping college students set goals and make good decisions.

We are seeking your help on some very important topics. The Counseling and Wellness Center is dedicated to educating and assisting Snow students in skill development that will enhance their wellness and ability to succeed, in not only the classroom but also all areas of life: intellectual, physical, social, and emotional. Two primary health concerns among college students across the nation are **underage** and **binge** drinking. Your student is experiencing an exciting but intense transition in life and is potentially at risk for experimenting with misusing alcohol and other drugs. We want our students to be aware of the potential consequences associated with these behaviors and how they can affect all aspects of their lives.

With your help, we would like to give your student valuable information that can help them make healthy decisions during college. First, we want to let you know that your student has made a great decision in choosing Snow College. Snow has a low substance use rate compared to other colleges and universities nationwide. Nationally binge drinking is at alarming levels. The vast majority of Snow students choose NOT to drink at all (defined as no alcohol use in the past year). Drug use is low but certainly present (especially marijuana). Thankfully, Snow College does not even come close to the substance use numbers shown nationally, but it would be unwise to think that these realities are not present in our college community even if to a lesser extent.

To prevent the impact of these harsh realities, Snow College would like to offer some brief tips explaining how to communicate with your student about alcohol and other important personal issues. Young adults report parental disapproval of underage drinking as the key reason they choose not to drink (parentsempowered.org). Good communication with your student can assist them in making healthy decisions when it comes to the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and other critical decisions. We encourage you at your earliest convenience to help your student explore their values so that they are clear about what they want while attending college.

Please consider addressing the following ideas with your student:

- ✓ Have clear and realistic expectations regarding academic performance and substance use.
- ✓ Explain that underage substance use and substance-impaired driving are both against the law.
- ✓ Explain that underage substance use may damage the growth process in the brain.
- ✓ Avoid tales of drinking exploits from your college years (if applicable).
- ✓ Encourage your student to stand up for his or her right to have a safe academic environment.
- ✓ Encourage your student to intervene when classmates are in trouble with alcohol, drugs or other threats.
- ✓ Discuss the risks associated with underage substance use.
- ✓ Encourage your student to connect with students who are not using alcohol and drugs.

The following HANDOUT has a sample values clarification exercise that you can use as a template to discuss your student's values as they begin their college experience.

Snow College has a zero-tolerance policy relative to alcohol or substance use/abuse, and students may be removed from college attendance for serious substance-related infractions. It is our practice to work with students first to prevent and then treat any challenges students may have with substance abuse. The Counseling and Wellness Center offers counseling at no charge to students to work confidentially on these and other challenging issues that could threaten the academic and personal success of our students. You may want to review the substance use policy, located here: https://www.snow.edu/catalog/student_rights.html Scroll down to section IV. Student Responsibilities.

Once again, we are excited your student has chosen Snow College. Please feel free to call one of the counselors (434) 283-7136 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jason Springer, MBA, EdS
Interim Vice President of Student Success
435-283-7100

Allen Riggs, CMHC
Director of Counseling and Wellness
435-283-7136

VALUE Name & explain this value and its meaning to you	IMPORTANCE (0-10)	STEPS YOU CAN TAKE To keep this value (if desired)	VALUE CHANGE PROCESS If you later decide to change this personal value, how will you make that decision?
Alcohol Use			
Drug Use (Including Marijuana)			
Safety			
Individual Choice			
Please add other values of importance to you and your student here and discuss ways to ensure their safety and ability to make wise choices.			