Student Transportation Code of Conduct

Benedict College provides transportation for students residing in campus apartments that are remote from the main campus. Shuttles operate via a published schedule to ensure that students arrive on campus in a timely manner for classes, meals, and other campus activities.

Benedict College strives to maintain a community that values academic excellence, institutional integrity, justice, equity, and diversity. In order to fulfill this commitment, the College has established a Student Transportation Code of Conduct to protect the rights of students, while simultaneously giving due process to any person(s) accused of violation of these rights or codes. Students are required to become familiar with these conduct codes and to fully understand their responsibility as members of a college community.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Students Have The Right To:
- Safe travel to and from off-campus locations
- Be treated with courtesy
- Travel free from verbal and physical abuse by drivers
- Board and disembark in a safe manner

Each Student is expected to:
- Present to the driver a current boarding student Benedict College ID for safety and security purposes in order to ride the shuttle
- Obey all points of the Student Behavior Code and common courtesy rules at all times
- Keep hands, arms, legs, and objects to him/herself and inside the bus; keep feet on the floor
- Refrain from using offensive language, gestures, or loud talking
- Refrain from pushing, shoving, or annoying other passengers or the driver
- Refrain from eating, drinking, littering, smoking, or creating distracting behavior on the shuttle
- If standing, remain in the area designated by the driver
- Store school bags under the seat or in appropriate luggage areas
- Comply if the driver asks passenger(s) to exit the shuttle for violation of any of the rules of conduct and the student(s) may be subject to disciplinary action as well

Breaches of the Code of Conduct

To promote consistency in responding to breaches of the Code of Conduct, behavioral problems are divided into four categories. The list below is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather to be used as an indicator of the types of
behaviors under each category. They are to be used as a guide by bus operators in relation to management of behavior on their buses.

1) **Unacceptable behavior** – this includes behaviors that may be irritating, unpleasant but not physically dangerous behaviors.
   - Failing to show appropriate College ID
   - Eating on the bus (unless for medical reasons or with the permission of the driver)
   - Using offensive language
   - Inappropriate interactions by students with bus drivers
   - Inappropriate use of mobile phones or cameras on the bus
   - Excessive movement from seat to seat

2) **Dangerous behavior** – this category includes behaviors where there may be some physical danger to individuals.
   - Distracting drivers by use of persistent noise or activity
   - Harassing other passengers
   - Pushing and shoving when boarding or exiting the bus
   - Verbally or physically threatening drivers
   - Smoking
   - Using a mobile phone to send threatening messages, photographing others without consent

3) **Dangerous and destructive behavior** – this category includes behaviors that are very dangerous to individuals, or very destructive to property.
   - Throwing objects that have the potential to cause harm or damage
   - Fighting
   - Marking or damaging bus property (breaking windows, slashing seats)
   - Using a seat belt as a weapon
   - Being under the influence of illicit drugs and substances or alcohol
   - Repeated occurrences of dangerous behavior (see Category 2 examples)

4) **Life-threatening behavior** – this includes highly dangerous behaviors.
   - Physically attacking drivers or other passengers
   - Recklessly or negligently endangering the safety of other passengers or themselves
   - Lighting a fire on the bus
   - Interfering with the safe mechanical operation of the bus
   - Threatening physical harm with a dangerous weapon

If the driver is concerned that any of the above misbehaviors could present a safety or security risk during transit, he or she should immediately and safely pull the shuttle out of traffic and report any incident involving dangerous, destructive or life-threatening behavior to the Campus Police for appropriate action. The driver will not engage with the aggressor(s) and will stop the shuttle service until Campus Police arrives and gives the “all clear” to do so.

Appropriate disciplinary action will occur for the abovementioned incidents and could include suspended access to shuttle service or other sanction. Severe offenses, such as fighting, possession of weapons, drugs or alcohol, use of tobacco products, any action that endangers the safety of the driver and other students, or damage to the bus will be reported to the Benedict College Campus Police for charges to be filed in addition to imposed sanctions. The bus supervisor and transportation officials have the authority to remove a student from the bus if the student becomes uncontrollable while on the bus. The student may not board the bus again until granted permission by the appropriate College Official(s).