

2522 - The Kansas Intellectual Rights and Knowledge Act

- The First Amendment of the United States Constitution protects the rights of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom of association and to petition the Government for all citizens.
- Barton Community College recognizes freedom of speech as a fundamental right for all.
- Differences of opinion are not to be silenced but are to be debated with civility, reason, and mutual respect.
- Colleges and universities are intended to be bastions of intellectual diversity, embracing open debate and the free exchange of ideas.

In compliance with Kansas HB 2333 (Kansas Intellectual Rights and Knowledge Act) and in accordance with its institutional mission and values, Barton Community College affirms and provides institutional safeguards for the expressive activities of the campus community. As such, Barton will support and protect the rights of any individual who wishes to engage in non-commercial expressive activity that does not violate the law or materially or substantially disrupt the functioning of the college.

- 1) Public areas of the Barton Community College campus are deemed recognized as public forums for the campus community to engage in expressive activities. (Residence Halls are not considered public areas of campus.)
- 2) These public areas of campus are available for expressive activities daily, so long as the activities do not materially or substantially disrupt the functioning of the college.
- 3) Several Barton facilities can be reserved for use by members of the campus community. Please refer to Procedure 2200 - College Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources.
- 4) Individuals must not intentionally, materially, or substantially disrupt another individual's expressive activity
 - a. in a campus space that has been reserved for such activity; or
 - b. through the use of force, violence, or other unlawful behavior;
- 5) Individuals must not intentionally, materially, or substantially disrupt, through physical blocking, threatening, or otherwise preventing other individuals from attending, hearing, viewing, or participating in expressive activities.
- 6) Outdoor public areas of campus not otherwise reserved for a scheduled campus event or activity are available for the campus community to spontaneously and contemporaneously assemble, speak, or distribute literature.
- 7) Sound amplification devices are allowed so long as the amplification does not materially or substantially disrupt the functioning of the college.

Barton Community College will ensure that all individuals responsible for student conduct or student education will receive annual training and updates through various established college

teams, groups, departments, or activities (i.e. President's Staff, Residence Life and Safety Officer departmental trainings and meetings, College Forums, faculty meetings, faculty and instructional program handbooks, email distribution, etc.).

Barton Community College will publish an annual compliance report which will be submitted to the Office of the Governor of the State of Kansas and accessible on Barton's [Taxpayer and Student Transparency](#) and Barton's [Activities, Clubs, and Organizations](#) webpages.

Contact(s): Vice President of Student Services

Related Form(s):

References:

Relevant Policy or Procedure: [1520-Academic Freedom](#); [2520-Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression](#); [2200-College Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources](#)

Approved by: President

Date: 08/05/2026

Revision(s):