



Children on Campus

Policy CP010

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Responsible Administrator(s): Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success, Vice President for Human Resource Management and Labor Relations

Responsible Office(s): Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management and Student Success, Human Resource Management and Labor Relations

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Policy Statement

The Fashion Institute of Technology provides a healthy, safe, and effective learning environment for all students and a healthy, safe, and effective workplace for all faculty and staff. FIT understands that occasionally, parents, legal guardians, or other adults responsible for children ¹ may have a legitimate need to bring children onto campus. This policy addresses the circumstances around and restrictions upon bringing children onto campus in order to maintain a healthy, safe, and effective working and learning environment. At no time may a child who is not a currently enrolled FIT student or a registered participant in an official FIT program be left unattended on campus, including in a campus building or on campus grounds. Children must be under the direct supervision of the person who has brought them onto campus at all times while on campus. Parents, legal guardians, or responsible adults of children considered disruptive or unsupervised will be asked to remove the children from the campus immediately.

Reason for the Policy

This policy provides guidance to all members of the college community outlining when children may be present on the college's campus.

Who is Responsible for this Policy

- Academic Affairs
- Enrollment Management and Student Success
- Office of Human Resource Management and Labor Relations
- Department of Public Safety

¹ 1 An individual under the age of 17 years – the term “child/children” shall not include a matriculated student of the College or a person accepted for matriculation or a person enrolled in an official FIT-sponsored program.

Who is Affected by this Policy

- All Students
- All Employees
- All Visitors

Definitions

N/A

Principles

The Fashion Institute of Technology is a diverse environment of classrooms, offices, laboratories, recreation, and other common areas. Visitors to campus are generally welcomed. The College values its students and employees. We strive to provide an environment open to study and work, while respecting family life. However, appropriate precautions and limitations on visitation by minors are necessary to protect health and safety, to maintain productivity, and for regulatory compliance and liability purposes.

Health and safety is a primary concern when considering the presence of children on campus. The majority of our facilities are not designed for occupancy by children, and therefore serious injuries can occur to children on campus facilities, particularly if children are not appropriately supervised. The College assumes no responsibility or liability for child visitors on campus, nor for any accidents or injuries to such children.

For the purposes of this policy, a child is defined as an individual under the age of 17 years who is not a matriculated student of the College or a person accepted for matriculation or a person enrolled in an official FIT-sponsored program. This Policy does not apply to activities which, by their very nature, are designed to be attended by children. It is assumed, however, that children in such circumstances are attending these activities under the supervision of an instructor or other authorized adult, or are otherwise enrolled in an FIT program designed for children. Please see FIT's Child Protection and Mandatory Reporting of Abuse policy regarding children in FIT programs or activities.

- **No Access to High-Risk Areas by Any Children²**
Children brought to campus by employees, students, visitors, or any other persons are not allowed, under any circumstances, in high-risk areas, including but not limited to:
 - Laboratories, shops, studios, the fitness center, mechanical rooms, power plants, garages, food preparation areas, construction zones, rooftops
 - Any areas or spaces, indoors or out, containing chemicals, power tools or machinery with exposed moving parts;
 - FIT vehicles, snow machines, grounds equipment, heavy duty or other motorized equipment; and
 - Any other high-risk areas.

² Children enrolled in FIT programs or activities are permitted in high-risk areas that are designated as part of the host program or activity provided they are supervised by an authorized adult.

- **Employee Guidelines**³

- Employees must always obtain supervisory approval prior to bringing children into the workplace. A supervisor may direct an employee to remove the child at any time if this policy has been violated or if the child's presence is otherwise having any negative impact on the college's interest.
- Children may not be brought to work on a regular basis in lieu of childcare.
- Children may be brought to work only occasionally, for the convenience of the employee or due to a family emergency. Any child with a communicable, contagious, or otherwise infectious disease or illness may not be brought to campus under any circumstances. In circumstances where a child has an illness that prevents them from going to childcare or attending school, and short-term childcare cannot be arranged, the employee should take leave in accordance with policies of the Department of Human Resource.
- The employee bringing the child to campus must provide line of sight supervision at all times and ensure that other employees and FIT activities are not disrupted by the child's presence.
- Children may not be left unattended or with other employees.
- Children may not interfere with workplace or any FIT activities. Children may not play in or be left unattended in common areas or in doorways, stairwells, hallways, or any other means of egress.

- **Student Guidelines**

- A child should not be left unattended while the parent or guardian or responsible adult is attending class or conducting any other business or social function on campus.
- Line of sight supervision by the parent or guardian or responsible adult is required at all times.
- Children are not allowed in classrooms while classrooms are in session unless permission is granted by the faculty member. If a child becomes disruptive, the faculty member may require the student and child to leave. Faculty who are teaching in high-risk areas, as noted above, will not grant permission for children to be in those spaces.
- Any child with a communicable, contagious, or otherwise infectious disease or illness may not be brought to campus under any circumstances.
- Resident students may not 'babysit' children in their rooms. In addition, resident students may not have overnight guests in their rooms who are legal minors, under the age of 18, including relatives.

- **Visitor Guidelines**

- Visitors may, depending upon the circumstances, be required to obtain approval from FIT before bringing a child onto campus. FIT may direct a visitor to remove the child at any time if this policy has been violated or if the child's presence is otherwise having any negative impact on the college's interest. (See the Child Protection and Mandatory Reporting of Abuse policy).

³ Employees who live on campus may have children or dependents in their apartment and appropriate areas subject to Residential Life policies, but this policy otherwise remains in effect with respect to other areas and activities of the children on campus.

- Any child with a communicable, contagious, or otherwise infectious disease or illness may not be brought to campus under any circumstances.
- The visitor bringing the child to campus must provide line of sight supervision at all times and ensure that members of the FIT community and FIT activities are not disrupted by the child's presence.
- Children may not be left unattended or with persons other than the adult responsible for the child.
- Children may not interfere with any FIT activities. Children may not play in or be left unattended in common areas or in doorways, stairwells, hallways, or any other means of egress.
- Parent or guardian or responsible adult must not leave children unattended at athletic or other college activities.
- Children are not allowed in the high-risk areas defined in the No Access to High-Risk Areas section of this policy.

Responsibilities

N/A

Procedures

- All FIT employees, students, and visitors are responsible to abide by this policy and any other applicable policies.
- If an unattended child is observed on campus, the FIT employee observing the child should attempt to obtain the child's name and then report the situation immediately to Public Safety. Public Safety will attempt to locate the adult responsible for bringing the child on campus or otherwise contact the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to remedy the situation. If Public Safety is unable to do so in a reasonable amount of time, it may refer the situation to appropriate state or local authorities.

Violations

N/A

Related Policies

- [Child Protection and Mandatory Reporting of Abuse](#)

Related Documents

N/A

Contacts

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