



LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE

ADMINISTRATIVE & EXEMPT HANDBOOK



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Lower Columbia College's administrative and exempt staff consists of employees, other than classified staff or faculty, who are exempt from the Washington State Civil Service Law as provided in [RCW 41.06.070\(2\)](#). Exempt staff includes overtime eligible and overtime ineligible staff in accordance with [Fair Labor Standards Act](#) (FLSA). Unless otherwise specified, reference to exempt staff includes both overtime eligible and overtime ineligible from this point forward.

The Vice President of Foundation, Human Resources & Legal Affairs is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that positions meet the criteria for exemptions. This is done by reviewing duties of positions and completing the Washington State Minimum Wage Overtime Eligibility Review and Recommendation worksheet. Overall responsibility for administrative and exempt employee positions lies with the President of Lower Columbia College (LCC) and final approval for designating administrative and exempt positions rests with the President.

Written acceptance of the administrative or exempt employment contract means that the employee agrees to conform to the rules, policies, and regulations of Lower Columbia College, District 13, and the laws of the state of Washington. Employment and compensation can be terminated, with or without cause, at the option of either the College District or the employee. No one but the President (or Board) has the authority to make oral commitments regarding employment or to vary the terms of any written employment contract or employment policy.

Policies in this handbook may be amended at any time. Nothing in this handbook is intended to be part of the employment relationship. The items contained in this handbook do not create an employment contract or limit the College's right to terminate an employee at any time and for any reason not prohibited by law.

1. CONTRACTS

Administrative and exempt employees will receive an exempt employment contract upon hire into a new exempt position. Contracts that do not have a termination date will continue unless either the College or the employee terminates the employment relationship, which can occur at any time, with or without cause, and with or without notice as authorized by the employment contract. Contracts for less than a year may be issued anytime during the year but shall terminate on or before June 30 of each year. When the College makes changes to exempt employee's cyclical schedules or FTE, the employee will be notified in writing prior to the effective date of the change.

Non-renewal: The College reviews exempt positions on an annual basis. The College will notify any administrative or exempt employees of non-renewal by April 1 if the College is terminating the Employee's employment contract June 30 of that fiscal year.

Termination for Convenience: The President may terminate an administrative or exempt contract without cause and in their sole discretion by providing written notice to the employee, accompanied by three (3) months current salary payment as liquidated damages. Should the President exercise this clause, the College would have no further obligation to provide salary, benefits, or future employment.

Termination for Cause: Termination for cause can occur at any time when an administrator or exempt employee is dismissed for any reason not prohibited by law, including but not limited to the guidelines of unacceptable conduct outlined in the Workplace Conduct & Expectations Section.

Name Clearing Hearing: A name-clearing hearing will be offered whenever the following three conditions are met: (1) an employee is subject to termination for cause; (2) the employee contends that stigmatizing statements (a statement is “stigmatizing” if it involves allegations of dishonesty, immorality, or other conduct which may damage the employee’s reputation among associates and impair their ability to obtain other employment) by the College have been made public, or such statements are subject to public disclosure; and (3) the employee asserts that the statements are untrue. The purpose of such procedures is to afford the employee with an opportunity to clear their name by responding to the statements. These procedures will not serve as an appeal of any disciplinary action or to gain reinstatement.

2. WORKPLACE CONDUCT & EXPECTATIONS

Lower Columbia College values an environment of integrity, respect, collaboration, cooperation, inclusion, and innovation that fosters personal growth, academic excellence, and accountability. LCC expects all staff to uphold the core value and takes unacceptable conduct very seriously. Any employee who wishes to report a violation of “Workplace Conduct & Expectations” may report to their supervisor or to Human Resources. To assist in guiding appropriate behaviors, the following are examples of unacceptable conduct which could lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination. This list is not exhaustive.

- Misconduct/neglect of duty
- Discrimination or harassment (See LCC’s [Non-Discrimination & Anti-Harassment Policy](#))
- Sexual harassment and/or abuse of fellow co-workers, students or the general public
- Abuse of paid leave, including but not limited to failure to submit leave requests to immediate supervisor for sick, vacation or personal leave
- Failure to maintain satisfactory attendance and punctuality. Absence without proper notification to immediate supervisor, or insufficient reasons for absenteeism. ([Family and Medical Leave Act](#) and/or [Paid Family & Medical Leave](#) absences will not be grounds for disciplinary action.)
- Knowingly making malicious or false statements that are intended or could reasonably be expected to damage the integrity or reputation of LCC or our employees, on or off campus; knowingly submitting false information during an investigation or disciplinary proceeding
- Fighting, encouraging a fight, bullying, acts or threats of physical violence, disorderly conduct, intimidation or coercion
- Use of abusive, offensive, or obscene language, gesture or conduct, or lack of courtesy toward students, the public or fellow employees
- Intentional falsification or unauthorized destruction of records, paperwork, electronic resources required in the transaction of LCC business
- Insubordination, including failure to carry out assigned duties, follow reasonable instructions or requests from supervisors and/or administration or otherwise comply with written policy
- Dishonesty or theft, including deliberate destruction or damage to LCC property
- Unauthorized use or possession of LCC facilities/property
- Violation of LCC’s [Acceptable Use of Information Systems and Services Policy](#)

- Failure to perform duties and operating equipment with care to protect the safety of employees, students, co-workers, and the public
- Dissemination of information to the public that is not of a public concern and has the potential to be disruptive to the educational process and interfere with LCC's ability to effectively manage the workplace
- Failure to report to work fit for duty and/or while under the influence of alcohol and/drugs, as well as using, selling, or possessing controlled substances on College premises or while on College business. While working, employees shall only possess and take drugs that are medically authorized, approved, and determined by the employee and the employee's physician not to impair job performance or cause a safety hazard. Employees are responsible for notifying their supervisors that they are taking a prescribed controlled substance if it would affect their performance on the job
- Behavior contrary to LCC's [Respectful Work Environment Policy](#)
- Any violation of LCC's Administrative Policies and Procedures
- Any violation of State or Federal Laws and Regulations reasonably related to the job

3. COMPENSATION AND EVALUATION

Salary ranges for all existing administrative and exempt positions are established relative to the job duties and market data for similar institutions. For new positions, the salary range will be identified before the President approves the position. HR makes a salary placement recommendation for the new hire to the President based on the employee's experience, skills, education, market data, etc. and in accordance with LCC's compensation strategy. Annual salary decisions will be made based on the availability of funds, legislative authorization, employee performance and other institutional factors as determined by the President.

3.1. **PERFORMANCE REVIEW:** Performance Reviews for administrative and exempt employees are conducted biennially, using the Administrative/Exempt Evaluation form. Position descriptions shall be evaluated and updated at the performance review. More frequent, informal reviews may occur. New Administrators shall be evaluated after one year of service. It is encouraged for other exempt new hires to have a performance review at one year in the position, then biennially thereafter.

3.2. **HOURS OF WORK:**

3.2.1. **Administrative & Overtime Ineligible Exempt Employees**

Administrative and overtime ineligible exempt employees work during such periods as their duties require without overtime pay or compensatory time off. Generally, administrative and exempt employees are expected to be working during the College's normal hours of operations. With the appropriate Administrator's or President's approval, special arrangements may be made with the employee regarding hours of work and location of work. Because of the nature of administrative and exempt positions, the requirement to adhere to a routine work schedule (8 hours a day, 40 hours per week) is not always practical. These positions are expected to accomplish and regulate work consistent with the demands of their position as directed by the appropriate Administrator or President.

3.2.2. **Overtime Eligible Exempt Employees**

Overtime eligible exempt positions are determined through the Washington State Minimum Wage Overtime Eligibility Review and Recommendation worksheet. Overtime eligible exempt employees work during such periods as their duties require and will earn overtime pay or compensatory time-off for hours worked over 40 in a workweek (Sunday through Saturday). Overtime is paid at time and a half (1.5x regular rate of pay). Overtime eligible employees will report their hours on a timesheet in ctcLink. When overtime eligible exempt employees exceed 40 hours in a workweek, they must select the appropriate time reporting code in ctcLink. They can be paid out for their excess time or bank compensatory time to use as paid time-off later. Compensatory time is always used prior to vacation. Unused comp time as of June 30 is paid out at the overtime rate on your first check in July. However, comp time earned for the last pay period in June will carry over and be available for use in the next fiscal year.

Per WAC [357-28-255](#), paid state holidays count for purposes of determining if more than 40 hours were worked in the workweek; however, hours reported as paid leave or other leave with pay (i.e. pay during suspended operations) are not included. That is, you will be paid straight time for paid leave or other leave with pay, but those hours will not be counted for purposes of determining if more than 40 hours were worked in the work week. Any hours worked in addition to your regular work day in the same week as an absence will be paid at straight time.

A lunch period of at least 30 minutes must be included in the typical work schedule. However, employees can arrive late or leave early due to a missed lunch break. Overtime eligible exempt employees are encouraged to work with their supervisor to flex their schedule as needed in an effort to avoid exceeding 40 hours in a workweek. For more information about overtime eligible exempt positions, please refer to the [FAQ](#).

3.2.3. Exempt Cyclical Employees

Exempt cyclical employees are exempt positions that work less than 12 months in the year. Exempt cyclical employees complete cyclical calendars to select cyclical leave without pay days throughout the year. Cyclical days are selected in week blocks for overtime ineligible exempt employees. Overtime eligible exempt employees may select cyclical days as an individual day.

3.3. **COMPENSATED OUTSIDE SERVICE**: Consulting and other types of compensated service performed outside of an administrative or exempt employee's official duties must be approved by the Vice President of Foundation, Human Resources & Legal Affairs or President. Approval is contingent upon the nature of the particular activity and consistency with [RCW 42.52](#), the Ethics in Public Service Act.

3.4. **ALLOWANCES FOR MEALS AND TRAVEL**: Administrative and exempt employees shall receive reimbursement allowance for meals and travel under the guidelines established in the prevailing State Administrative and Accounting Manual and LCC travel policies.

3.5. **HONORARIA**: The receipt of "honoraria," as defined by [RCW 42.52.130](#) is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Vice President of Foundation, Human Resources & Legal Affairs or President. Authorization by the Vice President of Foundation, Human Resources &

Legal Affairs or President will be in keeping with the provisions of [RCW 42.52](#) the Ethics in Public Service Act.

3.6. **PAY PERIODS:** The salary for administrative and exempt employees is paid in 24 equal semi-monthly payments each year. Paydays are twice a month. Payday for services rendered from the 1st through the 15th shall be on or near the 25th; for services rendered from the 16th through the last calendar day of the month shall be on or near the 10th of the following month, as allowed by state law.

4. BENEFITS AND RETIREMENT

All eligible administrative or exempt employees must participate in either the State Board Retirement Plan (SBRP) or the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Plan 3. Those employees newly appointed to an administrative or exempt position who are members of a Washington State sponsored retirement plan (PERS 1, 2, or 3; TRS 1, 2, or 3) may irrevocably elect to retain such membership or irrevocably elect to participate in the SBRP immediately. The rules for governing SBRP participation are subject to change by the [Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges](#).

Human Resources shall assist employees in determining retirement eligibility, medical and dental insurance, life insurance, long-term disability insurance and supplemental retirement options.

The employee and the College contribute equally to OASI (Social Security) taxes in accordance with the prevailing federal schedule. Federal income taxes are automatically withheld from the employee's payroll checks in accordance with Internal Revenue laws and regulations. Employees eligible for exemption from taxes should contact the payroll office for assistance. Employees working remotely from a location outside of Washington may have other tax liabilities for which they are responsible.

4.1. **EDUCATIONAL FEE WAIVERS:** Administrative and exempt employees on permanent appointment are eligible for educational fee waivers under certain limitations as prescribed by Washington State Law. Contact Human Resources.

4.2. **USE OF COLLEGE FACILITIES AND SERVICES:** College facilities and services may not be used for purposes which are unlawful under [RCW 42.52](#), the Ethics in Public Service Act.

5. ANNUAL, ILLNESS, INJURY, BEREAVEMENT, AND EMERGENCY LEAVE

Administrative and exempt employees are eligible for paid and unpaid leaves including bereavement, civil duty, disability, emergency, maternity/paternity, medical, military, professional, shared, sick, and vacation.

Classified employees who accept administrative and exempt positions will carry forward all accumulated sick and annual leave to the administrative and exempt position, but any accrued compensatory time will be paid by the institution at time of departure from the classified position

or the employee shall exhaust the compensatory leave prior to entering the administrative or exempt position whenever possible. Personal leave days do not carry over to the exempt role so the employee is encouraged to use any personal leave days prior to the start in the exempt position.

5.1. **LEAVE PAYOFF:** State employees may not be paid for accrued sick leave when they transfer to other state employment. Accumulated sick leave may be transferred from the College only to another college district, technical college, the State Board, OSPI, any ESD, any school district, or any other institution of higher learning in the state ([RCW 28B.50.551\(5\)](#)). Additionally, if an employee is transferring to a position where the individual is not eligible for annual leave or annual leave does not accrue (e.g., to a faculty position at another college), then the College is authorized to cash out the accrued leave balance (terminal leave pay). If the new position is eligible for annual leave, those accruals may be transferred instead of cashing out the balance. Personal holidays cannot be cashed out. However, they may be transferred if the new position is eligible for personal holidays. The employee may request a copy of their final leave report and a statement of accrued leave to be sent to the new institution/agency. If the employee is leaving state service, their accumulated annual leave will usually be paid in the final paycheck. According to [RCW 28B.50.551\(4\)](#), resigned (employees) or any employee who ceases to be employed by the college district (e.g., dismissals, RIFs) are not paid for accrued sick leave nor unused personal holidays.

5.2. **ANNUAL LEAVE ACCRUALS:** Full-time administrative* and exempt employees shall accrue vacation leave at the following rates:

Years worked at LCC	Monthly	Annual
0 – 5 th years	16 hours	24 days
Starting 6 th year	18.667 hours	28 days

Employees working less than a full-time schedule shall accrue vacation leave on a pro-rated basis. When employees have worked in other classifications at Lower Columbia College and have prior exempt service (e.g., worked in an exempt position, then moved to full-time faculty, and back to an exempt position), their previous years of exempt service will count for purposes of determining their vacation leave accrual rate. Additionally, LCC will honor exempt service towards vacation accrual rates for exempt employees who separate from the College and return within 5 years of their separation date.

Administrative and exempt employees should make every effort to insure they do not carry a leave balance above thirty-five days (280 hours). When it becomes necessary to carry a leave balance above thirty-five days beyond September 30 of each calendar year, the employee is responsible to request deferral of excess annual leave for reason of the College's convenience and a statement of necessity. The President or the Vice President of Foundation, Human Resources & Legal Affairs may approve or disapprove such requests. Approved excess annual leave must be used on or prior to December 31st, of each year. The Payroll Office shall delete all excess annual leave at the close of business on December 31st each calendar year.

All requests for vacation leave must be approved by the supervisor in advance of the effective date unless there are exigent circumstances.

*The President's vacation accrues as established in the employment contract between them and the District.

5.3. **HOLIDAYS**: The College officially designates eleven days per year (New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day and Native American Heritage Day, and Christmas Day) as paid holidays for administrative and exempt employees.

5.4. **PERSONAL HOLIDAYS**: Full-time administrative and exempt employees are entitled to five personal holidays of their choosing per calendar year if they have been continuously employed by the institution in an administrative or exempt position for more than five consecutive months. A personal holiday is equal to a day and cannot be used in hour increments. Personal days are not subject to cash out and must be used during each calendar year of employment.

5.5. **SICK LEAVE**: Full-time administrative and exempt employees shall accrue sick leave at the rate of one day (8 hours) per month. Employees working less than a full-time schedule shall accrue sick leave on a prorated basis.

Sick leave shall be allowed for illness, disability, injury, medical, dental, or optical appointments for the employee or their family member. Family members include child, grandchild, grandparent, parent, sibling, or spouse of an employee, and also includes any individual who regularly resides in the employee's home or where the relationship creates an expectation that the employee care for the person, and that individual depends on the employee for care. "Family member" includes any individual who regularly resides in the employee's home, except that it does not include an individual who simply resides in the same home with no expectation that the employee care for the individual.

- a) Child means, including a biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, a child's spouse or a child to whom the employee stands in loco parentis, is a legal guardian, or is a de facto parent, regardless of age or dependency status;
- b) Parent means biological, adoptive, de facto, or foster parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of an employee or the employee's spouse or registered domestic partner, or a person who stood in loco parentis when the employee was a minor child;
- c) Spouse means husband or wife, as the case may be or state registered domestic partner as defined by [RCW26.60](#);
- d) Grandparent means a parent as defined in 12.2 B.3b above, of the employee's parent;
- e) Grandchild means a child of the employee's child;

Upon retirement, sick leave may be transferred into VEBA at a rate of 25% of the entire sick leave balance to use for qualifying expense, unless amended by state law. Upon death, sick leave will be cashed out at a rate of 25% of the entire sick leave balance.

Former state employees who are reemployed within five years of leaving state service will be granted all unused and unpaid sick leave credits they had upon separation.

5.6. **ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM:** Administrative and exempt employees are eligible for annual payoff of sick leave in accordance with the Attendance Incentive Program, [RCW 26B.50.553](#). Eligible employees will be advised by Payroll of this opportunity.

5.7. **EMERGENCY LEAVE:** When it becomes necessary for an administrative or exempt employee to be absent from work due to an emergency situation, the affected employee should notify their supervisor of the need for such leave and estimated duration of the leave. Emergency leave may be granted as personal holiday, annual leave, sick leave, leave without pay, or any combination of these leaves. Employees returning to work from Emergency Leave should contact Human Resources in order to properly account for their absence.

5.8. **BEREAVEMENT LEAVE:** Administrative and exempt employees may be granted up to five days of paid bereavement leave for the death of any family member or household member, or for the loss of pregnancy. A qualifying pregnancy is defined as the pregnancy of the employee, or employee parent-to-be, including through surrogacy or adoption, where the employee would have been the parent. Qualifying family members under bereavement leave include the same family members as defined under section 5.5 Sick Leave above.

5.9. **CIVIL DUTY LEAVE:** Administrative and exempt employees shall be granted leave of absence with pay for jury duty and subpoena leave. Leave shall be authorized upon notification of the supervisor.

5.10. **LIFE-GIVING LEAVE:** When approved, Administrative and exempt employees will be granted paid leave, not to exceed five days in a two-year period, as needed for the purpose of participating in life-giving procedures. A life-giving procedure is defined as a medically-supervised procedure involving the testing, sampling, or donation of blood, platelets, organs, fluids, tissues, and other human body components for purposes of donation (without compensation).

5.11. **MILITARY LEAVE:** Any exempt employee shall be entitled to leave with pay, not to exceed 21 calendar days during each year beginning October 1st and ending the following September 30th. Such leave shall be granted in order that the person may report for active duty, when called, or take part in active training duty in such manner and at such time as he or she may be ordered to active duty or active training duty as provided in [RCW 38.40.060](#).

An exempt employee shall be granted leave to serve in the armed forces if drafted or called into active service from a reserve status. The employee's position or a position equal in rank will be available provided the employee has returned to the College immediately after obligatory service is terminated and circumstances have not changed as to make it impossible, unreasonable, or against public interest as outlined in [RCW 73.16](#).

5.12. **LEAVE WITHOUT PAY:** Available paid leave must be used prior to leave without pay (LWOP) unless otherwise approved by HR. Requests for LWOP shall be completed and approved as outlined in the [Leave Procedure 250.4A](#).

5.13. **SUSPENDED OPERATIONS:** The President or designee is authorized to suspend the operation of all or any portion of the campus when it has been determined that the public health,

property or safety is jeopardized. Information regarding suspended operations may be found on the [College Closure Procedure Webpage](#).

Employees will receive no loss in pay for the first day of suspended operations. Employees may use annual leave, personal holiday, sick leave, or leave without pay for the remainder of the suspended operation. Employees on preapproved leave will not have their leave reversed upon notice of suspended operations.

Overtime eligible exempt employees who work during suspended operations will receive pay at a rate of time and a half (1.5x rate of pay).

6. OBLIGATIONS

6.1. **ETHICS IN PUBLIC SERVICE:** All administrative and exempt employees of Lower Columbia College shall follow the Washington State Ethics laws ([RCW 42.52](#)). For more information regarding ethics at LCC, please visit the [Human Resources webpage](#).

6.2. **COLLEGE POLICIES & PROCEDURES:** It is the responsibility of all exempt employees to stay current with and follow all College policies and procedures.

6.3. **ASSIGNED TRAININGS:** Quarterly trainings are assigned by HR. All employees are expected to complete those trainings and stay current on the information provided. Supervisors may determine other required trainings for employees.

7. RESIGNATION, RETIREMENT, AND SEPARATION

7.1. **RESIGNATIONS:** An employee is expected to submit a written resignation to the President or designee as soon as practical after the decision has been made to resign. The written resignation shall include the final date of employment. Resignations are deemed accepted upon submission by the employee unless mutually revoked by the employee and the President/designee.

7.2. **RETIREMENT:** Retirements should be planned and announced as far in advance as possible. Assistance in planning or initiating retirement is available in Human Resources.

7.3. **SEPARATION:** Separations of administrative and exempt employees may occur because of convenience, non-reappointment, cause, financial exigency, disability, reorganization or financial considerations or needs.

As a general rule, use of paid leave at the end of an employee's separation from employment will only be approved for the amount of business days remaining in the month of the employee's last working day. Exceptions may be approved by the President or the Vice President of Foundation, HR & Legal Affairs based upon the business needs of the College.

8. RECORDS MAINTENANCE

Human Resources is responsible for the maintenance of administrative and exempt personnel files. Anonymous communications about the employee are not kept in personnel files. All

documentation regarding the employee's application, certification, notification of hire, performance, disciplinary matters, and contract(s) shall be maintained in the personnel files along with other information as prescribed by prevailing federal and state law. All personnel files are to be maintained in a secure and confidential manner.

The employee may examine their personnel file by contacting Human Resources. Upon the employee's separation, the personnel file will become part of the College's permanent records.

Human Resources will maintain position description files for all administrative and exempt positions. A current description must be sent to Human Resources if changes are made to the position duties. Employing officials or the employee holding a particular position may examine these files at any time by arrangement with Human Resources.

9. RETURN RIGHTS TO CLASSIFIED SERVICE

An employee taking an appointment to an exempt position shall be granted a leave of absence without pay, with the right to return to their regular position, or to a similar position, at the conclusion of the exempt appointment; provided that the employee makes an application to return to classified service not more than thirty calendar days following the conclusion of the exempt appointment. Administrative or exempt employees who are terminated for gross misconduct or malfeasance are not eligible for reversion to classified service ([RCW 41.06.070](#)).

2025-2026 EXEMPT SALARY RANGES

Range	Minimum	Q1	Midpoint	Q3	Max
100	\$53,600	\$58,800	\$61,915	\$65,000	\$70,200
200	\$59,500	\$65,300	\$68,700	\$72,100	\$78,000
300	\$65,800	\$72,500	\$76,300	\$80,100	\$86,900
400	\$72,700	\$80,500	\$84,700	\$88,900	\$96,700
500	\$80,300	\$89,300	\$94,000	\$98,700	\$107,600
600	\$88,800	\$99,100	\$104,300	\$109,500	\$119,900
700	\$98,100	\$110,000	\$115,800	\$121,600	\$133,400
800	\$108,400	\$122,100	\$128,500	\$134,900	\$148,500
900	\$119,800	\$135,500	\$142,600	\$149,700	\$165,300
1000	\$132,500	\$150,400	\$158,300	\$166,200	\$184,200
1100	\$146,400	\$166,900	\$175,700	\$184,500	\$205,000
1200	\$161,800	\$185,300	\$195,000	\$204,800	\$228,100
1300	\$178,900	\$205,700	\$216,500	\$227,300	\$254,000
1400	\$197,800	\$228,300	\$240,300	\$252,300	\$282,900
1500	\$218,600	\$253,400	\$266,700	\$280,000	\$314,800
1600	\$241,600	\$281,200	\$296,000	\$310,800	\$350,300
1700	\$267,200	\$312,200	\$328,600	\$345,000	\$390,100