

## References:

Title 5 Section 51023;  
ACCJC Accreditation Eligibility Requirement 20 and ACCJC Accreditation Standard I.C.7 (formerly II.A.7)

Recognizing that inherent within all rights are responsibilities, the members of the Napa Valley College community embrace our roles in protecting academic freedom and resolve that we shall

- view scholarly inquiry as an on-going conversation that is enriched by the diverse voices and angles of vision of all speakers and listeners;
- affirm the right to hold and express personal opinions, to seek change, to ask questions, and to investigate freely;
- protect the rights to be heard of those with whom we disagree as zealously as we protect the rights of those with whom we agree;
- protect the rights of all participants to be free from coercion, intimidation, or punitive repercussions;
- teach, study, and work within the rules of a free and civil society, following the state educational code, statutory law, college policy, and class rules and showing equal respect for all persons in the college community;
- protect the First Amendment rights of all who speak and all who listen on this campus;
- welcome the responsibilities of academic freedom, recognizing that freedom means liberty, not license.

To contribute to academic freedom, all faculty members shall:

- adhere to the Course Outline of Record, selecting relevant material, teaching with honesty and fairness, [distinguishing between personal conviction and professionally accepted views in a discipline, and presenting data and information fairly and objectively. and avoiding the substitution of indulgent self reflection for scholarly inquiry;](#)
- base grades on the fair, objective, and prompt evaluation of student performance;
- foster a climate of scholarly rigor and intellectual liberty by protecting both the free expression of diverse points of view and the highest standards of critical inquiry and analysis.

To contribute to academic freedom, all students shall:

- affirm that a syllabus based on the Course Outline of Record constitutes an understanding between student and instructor and that fair, objective grading must be based solely on student performance;
- encourage the free, responsible expression of all points of view, recognizing that an unpopular idea is not necessarily a bad idea and respecting the rights of all in the academic conversation to be heard and to hear diverse opinions;
- study with diligence, seeking truth with an open mind and supporting a classroom atmosphere that is conducive to the free exchange of ideas, the pursuit of change, and the enjoyment of the freedoms of our society.

To contribute to academic freedom, all administrators shall:

- promote an educational environment of openness and respect for the pursuit of knowledge and truth, supporting academic freedom as an integral component of student success;
- implement rules, law, policies, statutes, and guidelines consistently, fairly, and equally for all persons;
- foster an atmosphere of mutual respect for diverse angles of vision, acting if necessary so that all in the academic conversation may hear and be heard clearly.

To contribute to academic freedom, all staff shall:

- disseminate information and process requests in a responsive and timely manner;
- set the tone of open and respectful communication on campus, with the community, and with other institutions, realizing that frequently staff are the first official contacts others have with the college;
- perform their duties, as varied as they are, keeping in mind the mission and the common purpose of the institution.

Adopted 3/9/65

Revised 7/8/71

Revised 7/25/96 (through mutual agreement)

Revised XX/XX/XX (by the Board of Trustees following a recommendation from the Mutual Agreement Committee)