

CHAPTER 4: INSTRUCTION
BOARD POLICY NO.: 4030

BOARD POLICY
SISKIYOU JOINT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Subject: Academic Freedom

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Policy Reference: Title 5, Section 51023; Accreditation Standard II.A.7.

The Siskiyou Joint Community College District believes that academic freedom is fundamental and essential to the teaching profession and as such has adopted a policy which defines academic freedom and delineates the responsibilities associated with it.

I. Principles

- A. Academic freedom is essential in order to examine controversial issues objectively in the classroom, and to ensure access to information sources required for study of such issues.
- B. The intellectual search for and transmission of knowledge should go forward in an atmosphere free from fear of reprisal, while providing opportunities for critical thinking and understanding of conflicting points of view.
- C. To ensure the pursuit of truth, instructors and students must be free to investigate, to form conclusions, and to express judgments and opinions without impediment from special interest or conflicting public opinion groups.
- D. The right to criticize constructively college politics without fear of retribution is a necessary element of academic freedom.

II. Responsibilities

- A. Faculty have the responsibility for developing curriculum and selecting instructional materials, methods, and speakers to meet the goals of that curriculum.
- B. Faculty members must strive for factual accuracy and show restraint in dealing with topics outside their area of concentration.
- C. While showing respect for the opinions of others, faculty should, after impartial examination of the evidence, present the conclusions to which the evidence points, or note the inconsistencies in the data presented.
- D. Available data must be investigated comprehensively without selectively omitting pertinent information.
- E. Using the faculty's role as a platform to promote partisan points of view is not appropriate.

- F. All members of the college staff and the student body must feel free to speak and write publicly without institutional censorship, so long as they indicate they are not acting as institutional spokespersons.
- G. Faculty shall be employed, promoted, or retained without discrimination or harassment regarding their personal opinions as expressed in their scholarly, literary, or artistic endeavors.
- H. The College has a responsibility to society to defend and maintain academic freedom to ensure that educational goals can be achieved and that all fields of knowledge can be studied, discussed, advanced and interpreted in an objective and scholarly manner.

See Administrative Procedure 4030.