

**Statements of Professional Ethics
Handouts AS meeting 11/20/12**

American Association of University Professors Statement on Professional Ethics originally adopted 1966, revised 1987 and 2009.	VCCCD Statement of Professional Ethics Revised for March 3, 2009 meeting	Suggested new MC statement
<p>Introduction</p> <p>From its inception, the American Association of University Professors has recognized that membership in the academic profession carries with it special responsibilities. The Association has consistently affirmed these responsibilities in major policy statements, providing guidance to professors in such matters as their utterances as citizens, the exercise of their responsibilities to students and colleagues, and their conduct when resigning from an institution or when undertaking sponsored research. The <i>Statement on Professional Ethics</i> that follows sets forth those general standards that serve as a reminder of the variety of responsibilities assumed by all members of the profession. In the enforcement of ethical standards, the academic profession differs from those of law and medicine, whose associations act to ensure the integrity of members engaged in private practice. In the academic profession the individual institution of higher learning provides this assurance and so should normally handle questions concerning propriety of conduct within its own framework by reference to a faculty group. The Association supports such local action and stands ready, through the general secretary and the Committee on Professional Ethics, to counsel with members of the academic community concerning questions of professional ethics and to inquire into complaints when local consideration is impossible or inappropriate. If the alleged offense is deemed sufficiently serious to raise the possibility of adverse action, the procedures should be in accordance with the 1940 <i>Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure</i>, the 1958 <i>Statement on Procedural Standards in Faculty Dismissal Proceedings</i>, or the applicable provisions of the Association's <i>Recommended Institutional Regulations on Academic Freedom and Tenure</i>.</p> <p>The Statement</p> <p>1. Professors, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognize the special responsibilities placed upon them. Their primary responsibility to their subject is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end professors devote their energies to developing and improving their scholarly competence. They accept the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. They practice intellectual honesty. Although professors may follow subsidiary interests, these interests must never seriously hamper or compromise their freedom of inquiry.</p>	<p>1. The Moorpark College faculty, guided by a belief in the value of knowledge, recognize our responsibility to maintain high levels of scholarly excellence in our areas of expertise. In communicating our knowledge to students, we accept an obligation to do so with self-discipline, good judgment and intellectual honesty.</p>	<p>1. The Moorpark College faculty, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognize our responsibility to maintain high levels of scholarly excellence in our areas of expertise. We accept the obligation to exercise self-discipline, good judgment, and intellectual honesty in communicating our knowledge to students.</p>

<p>2. As teachers, professors encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students. They hold before them the best scholarly and ethical standards of their discipline. Professors demonstrate respect for students as individuals and adhere to their proper roles as intellectual guides and counselors. Professors make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to ensure that their evaluations of students reflect each student's true merit. They respect the confidential nature of the relationship between professor and student. They avoid any exploitation, harassment, or discriminatory treatment of students. They acknowledge significant academic or scholarly assistance from them. They protect their academic freedom.</p> <p>3. As colleagues, professors have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. Professors do not discriminate against or harass colleagues. They respect and defend the free inquiry of associates, even when it leads to findings and conclusions that differ from their own. Professors acknowledge academic debt and strive to be objective in their professional judgment of colleagues. Professors accept their share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of their institution.</p> <p>4. As members of an academic institution, professors seek above all to be effective teachers and scholars. Although professors observe the stated regulations of the institution, provided the regulations do not contravene academic freedom, they maintain their right to criticize and seek revision. Professors give due regard to their paramount responsibilities within their institution in determining the amount and character of work done outside it. When considering the interruption or termination of their service, professors recognize the effect of their decision upon the program of the institution and give due notice of their intentions.</p>	<p>2. As members of the Faculty, we serve as mentors and encourage an unfettered pursuit of learning for our students. We respect their individuality, while acknowledging that differences exist in their abilities. We evaluate all students fairly and impartially.</p> <p>3. We recognize the importance of all relationships to the learning process. Therefore, we seek to encourage and inspire our students and our colleagues*. To protect the necessary trust, unless extraordinary circumstances dictate otherwise, we respect the confidential nature of these relationships.</p> <p>4. As professionals dedicated to the well being of students and colleagues, we refrain from any conduct that is exploitative, discriminatory, demeaning or disrespectful of them or their opinions.</p> <p>5. As colleagues, the nature of our interaction with one another is based on the same standards of behavior as those we adhere to with students.</p>	<p>2. As teachers, we seek to encourage and inspire our students. We uphold high academic and ethical standards and foster academic honesty. We respect students' individuality while acknowledging differences in their abilities. We evaluate students fairly and impartially. We avoid exploitation, harassment, or discriminatory treatment of students.</p> <p>3. As colleagues, we base our interaction with one another on the same standards as those we adhere to with students. We respect and encourage our colleagues and maintain the confidentiality of the collegial relationship.</p> <p>4. As members of the college community, we accept responsibility for shaping our professional lives and the life of our college by sharing in the governance of the institution.</p>
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<p>5. As members of their community, professors have the rights and obligations of other citizens. Professors measure the urgency of these obligations in the light of their responsibilities to their subject, to their students, to their profession, and to their institution. When they speak or act as private persons, they avoid creating the impression of speaking or acting for their college or university. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, professors have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.</p>	<p>6. As members of the college community, we accept responsibility for shaping our professional lives and the life of our college by sharing in the governance of the institution.</p> <p>7. We should be ever mindful that even though we are private citizens, we are also Moorpark College faculty and that when we speak about our college or colleagues in the classroom or in the community, we influence the opinions of others. Accordingly, we seek to foster fair impressions of our institution and its purposes.</p> <p>* The term “colleagues” here, means not only all persons employed by the Ventura County Community College District but also all persons within the venture of education.</p>	<p>5. As members of the wider community, we recognize that we are both private citizens and also Moorpark College faculty. When we speak about our college or colleagues, in the classroom or in the community, we influence the opinions of others. Accordingly, we seek to foster fair impressions of the College and its purposes. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its integrity, professors have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.</p>
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