

Philosophies

Statement of Academic Freedom

The college and the district recognize the instructor's right to academic freedom in discussing subject in the classroom, and in research and publishing the results thereof. The district's Policy on Academic Freedom (Section C. 12, District Policy manual) is as follows:

1. The teacher is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.
2. The teacher is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing his or her subject, but should be careful not to introduce into the teaching controversial matter which has no relation to the subject.
3. The college or university teacher is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an officer of an education institution. When a teacher speaks or writes as a citizen, he or she should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but this special position in the community imposes special obligations.

As a person of learning and an educational officer, a teacher should remember that the public may judge the teaching profession and the institution by his or her utterances. Hence a teacher should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should respect others' opinions, and should make every effort to indicate that he or she is not an institutional spokesman.

NOTE: The board approves the preceding statements on academic freedom as a basic policy expression. However, it wishes further emphasize the responsibility of the teacher to present, to the best of his/her ability, the pros and cons of such controversial ideas as he/she may discuss under this policy, and to use language which is in keeping with accepted contemporary standards in high education

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Right of Advocacy and Free Expression

The college(s) of the District is/are non-public forums, except for those areas, that are generally available for use by students or the community, which are limited public forums. The Chancellor shall enact such administrative procedures as are necessary to reasonably regulate the time, place and manner of the exercise of free expression in the limited public forums.

The administrative procedures promulgated by the Chancellor shall not prohibit the right of students or members of the public to exercise free expression, including but not limited to the use of bulletin boards designated for such use, the distribution of printed materials or petitions in those parts of the college designated as areas generally available to students and the community, and the wearing of buttons, badges, or other insignia.

Students and members of the public shall be free to exercise their rights of free expression, subject to the requirements of this policy. Speech shall be prohibited that is defamatory, obscene according to current legal standards, or which so incites others as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on district property or the violation of district policies or procedures, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the District. Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the regulation of hate violence, so long as the regulation conforms to the requirements of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and of Section 2 of Article 1 of the California Constitution. Students may be disciplined for harassment, threats, intimidation, or hate violence unless such speech is constitutionally protected.

(See Board of Trustees Policy Manual, Chapter 5:

http://www.vccd.edu/assets/pdf/board_of_trustees/policies_chapter5.pdf)

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Statement of Professional Ethics

The Moorpark College faculty recognize our special responsibilities toward our profession, our students, our colleagues, and our community. We agree to abide by the following ethical guidelines.

1. The 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.

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.

3. As colleagues, we base our interaction with one another on the same standards as those we adhere to with students. We respect and defend the free inquiry of our associates, even when it leads to findings and conclusions that differ from our own. We acknowledge the academic work of others and strive to be objective in our professional judgment of colleagues. We respect and encourage our colleagues, and maintain the confidentiality of the collegial relationship.

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.

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, faculty have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.

Revised by Academic Senate February 19, 2013

This Statement of Professional Ethics was developed and approved by the Moorpark College Academic Senate. It is provided for you as the standard of conduct expected from faculty at Moorpark College