



# **BOARD POLICY**

## **4030**

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### **DESERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

## **ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

Academic freedom is the right of college faculty to interpret their fields and to communicate conclusions without being subject to interference or penalty because these conclusions may be at variance with those of constituted authorities, organized groups or individuals. The Board of Trustees of the Desert Community College District believes that academic freedom of the college faculty is indispensable to the success of the Desert Community College District in fulfilling its obligations to students and society.

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees of the Desert Community College District to recognize the importance of academic freedom in pursuit of academic excellence for the College, consistent with the following:

College faculty are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject. The faculty member has license to present whatever he or she may feel is appropriate and the faculty member's individual judgment and discretion shall be responsibly exercised.

College faculty are citizens as well as members of the learned professions. When they speak as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline. As persons of learning and members of the College faculty, they must remember that the public may judge their profession and the College by their statements. College faculty should, therefore, make every effort to indicate that when they are speaking or acting as private citizens, they are not speaking or acting for the College. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon academic freedom for its health and integrity, College faculty have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.

College faculty are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to adequate performance of their other academic duties.

College faculty will ensure the academic freedom of students: the freedom to express and to defend their views and the freedom to question and to differ with the College faculty or the College without penalty.

#### **References:**

**Title 5 Section 51023;**  
**ACCJC Accreditation Eligibility Requirements 13 and 20;**  
**ACCJC Accreditation Standard 4.1**

Administrator: VP Instruction

Approved: April 19, 2006

Board 5-Year Review: February 16, 2012

Executive Cabinet Review: October 29, 2024

College Planning Council/Information Item: November 8, 2024

Board of Trustees Review/Approval, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: December 20, 2024

Board of Trustees Review/Approval, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: January 17, 2025

Next Review: 2026-2027