



## Pima County Community College District Board Policy

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| <i>Board Policy Title:</i>               | <b>Academic Freedom</b> |
| <i>Board Policy Number:</i>              | BP 3.02                 |
| <i>Adoption Date:</i>                    | 6/9/21                  |
| <i>Schedule for Review &amp; Update:</i> | Every three years       |
| <i>Review Date(s):</i>                   | 9/6/24                  |
| <i>Revision Date(s):</i>                 |                         |
| <i>Sponsoring Unit/Department:</i>       | Office of the Provost   |
| <i>Legal Reference:</i>                  |                         |
| <i>Cross Reference:</i>                  |                         |

Pima Community College's Governing Board affirms that institutions of higher education exist to serve the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual faculty member or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth, knowledge, and the exposition of each. Academic freedom is essential to that service.

Academic freedom in all disciplines is foundational for the protection of the rights of students and faculty. For the purposes of this Board Policy, the term "faculty" as used in this policy shall be understood to include any employee of the College whenever they are acting in a sanctioned role of educating students of the College. Academic freedom is fundamental to the advancement of truth and carries with it the following rights and responsibilities:

1. Faculty are entitled to freedom when preparing and presenting their respective subjects in all College learning environments. They should endeavor to present their subject matter in a balanced, comprehensive and inclusive manner, free from personal bias. Limitations of academic freedom because of learning objectives or other aims of the institution should be stated in writing.

2. The free pursuit of learning by students should be encouraged by all those who teach at the College. Faculty are obligated to adhere to their proper role as intellectual guides. Every reasonable effort will be made to foster sincere academic inquiry and exploration of diverse viewpoints. The evaluation of students' work must reflect the objective merit of their scholarship.
3. All Faculty are private citizens, members of a learned profession, and representatives of an educational institution. When they speak or write as private citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline. However, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their communications. When speaking, writing, or acting as private citizens, individuals should make all reasonable efforts to avoid creating the impression that they are speaking for the College.
4. Faculty are entitled to full academic freedom in any research, presentation, or publication of results in accordance with applicable College policies.