

The MiraCosta College Community College District recognizes the free pursuit of knowledge and the free exchange of ideas as core tenets of academic freedom.

As a fundamental concept, academic freedom ensures institutions of higher education function for the common good and are constructed on a foundation of genuine trust. It represents an understanding of mutual respect in valuing how faculty and students engage

In the classroom context, both virtual and in person, faculty are expected to present data and information fairly and objectively, to ensure students have access to varying points of view, and to acknowledge and defend the free inquiry of students in the exchange of criticism and ideas. Academic freedom gives students the right to express and to defend their views, to question, and to differ with the views of their instructors or the district without penalty. Academic freedom gives faculty the right to distinguish between personal conviction and professionally accepted views in a discipline and to interpret their fields and communicate conclusions without interference or penalty.

Outside of the classroom setting, faculty have the right to research, present, and publish without interference or sanction, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties. Research for financial gain shall be based upon an understanding with the MiraCosta Community College District as outlined in Board Policy/Administrative Procedure 3715: Intellectual Property. When faculty speak or write as citizens, authorities of their discipline, and community representatives of MiraCosta College, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but this freedom carries with it a responsibility to at all times be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for the opinions of others, and make every effort to indicate they are not speaking on behalf of the institution.