



## 9.1 **ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

Chaffey College's central function—teaching, learning, research, and scholarship—depends upon an atmosphere in which freedom of inquiry, thought, expression, publication, and peaceable assembly are given the fullest protection. Expression of the widest range of viewpoints should be encouraged, free from institutional orthodoxy and from internal or external coercion.

In furtherance of this general principle, freedom of the faculty to develop curriculum and determine methods of classroom instruction and student evaluation shall include the following:

- Development of curriculum, including academic programs, courses, course descriptions, course outlines, course goals, objectives, and standards in accordance with college procedures that have been mutually agreed upon by the Governing Board and the Academic Senate and in conformity with state requirements and existing articulation agreements with other institutions of higher learning.
- Development of course instructional content consistent with faculty-generated course outlines approved by the Curriculum Committee.
- Freedom to participate effectively in governance and interdisciplinary academic matters.
- Freedom of the faculty to foster critical thinking and to support the expression of alternative points of view, including expressing themselves candidly when writing articles and/or books, developing media, writing music, creating art, and/or conducting research.
- Freedom of the faculty to demonstrate and foster critical thinking and to encourage opportunities for different sides of issues to be shared and debated, not only among students within the classroom, but also among their colleagues.

Academic freedom focuses on the obligation to ask difficult and meaningful questions and to pursue the truth of those inquiries wherever the pursuit of truth leads. It is a freedom based on one's academic preparation, research, and continued education. It is the freedom to challenge ideas, pose questions, support problem-solving within the classroom, and encourage students to freely ask questions, suggest possible solutions, and either accept or reject ideas. These rights also come with responsibilities such as continued learning, studying, research, and personal development within one's subject area.

Colleges are established by society to perpetuate democratic values; therefore, faculty and students must be able to examine ideas in an atmosphere of freedom and confidence and to participate as responsible citizens in a community.