

Academic Freedom

Academic freedom protects teaching and learning by encouraging the free flow of ideas.

Academic Freedom exists to promote freedom to:

- Inquire
- Teach and express ideas or facts without constraint
- Engage in intellectual debate
- Develop, nurture, and exchange ideas and opinions
- Encourage creativity in academic endeavors

Academic Freedom ensures freedom from:

- Imposition of political, religious, or philosophical beliefs of others
- Reprisal
- Censorship

Academic Freedom carries the responsibilities implicit in all freedoms: truth, honesty, integrity, and respect.

The complete scope of Academic Freedom rights for faculty is set forth in Article 23 of the CLPCCD-CLPFA collective bargaining agreement and the “Academic Freedom Statement” Appendix to the CBA. CLPCCD Board Policy 4030, “Academic Freedom,” further details the District’s commitment to Academic Freedom.

Las Positas College General Education

General education is a significant part of the program of studies in American colleges and universities. The term general education refers to a program of studies intended to broaden students’ minds and enrich their personal, social, and cultural understanding through exposure to a breadth of academic disciplines. Students develop skills and aptitudes that prepare them to contribute to and participate in society and the democratic process.

General Education Philosophy

A philosophy of general education addresses both a present reality and a future hope. The reality encompasses the practical elements a well-educated student should grasp early in education. The future hope will serve as a foundation to achieve insights into ethical problems and engage in lifelong learning, the hallmarks of educational excellence.

General Education:

- Provides skills and proficiencies needed to succeed in an academic environment as well as in our continually changing world.
- Exposes students to core knowledge, concepts, and methodologies of the Arts, Humanities, and the Natural and Social Sciences.
- Develops students’ appreciation for the cultures and history of the United States and prepares them to participate in our democracy.
- Familiarizes students with a diversity of viewpoints by exposing them to the history and cultures of other countries.

- Advances students’ critical thinking skills, enabling them to access, examine, and assess issues and information.
- Hones students’ reading, speaking, and writing skills, enabling them to communicate clearly, effectively, and creatively.
- Promotes the development of students’ quantitative competencies, to strengthen analytical thinking, and gain the ability to evaluate and access informational technology.
- Increases students’ understanding of the physical and biological sciences, the scientific method, and the reliability and limitations of scientific knowledge.
- Deepens students’ awareness of wellness and teaches the methods for and importance of maintaining physical and mental health.
- Encourages students to cultivate new interests and develop their abilities to search for answers, recognizing that an educated person understands how much more there is to learn.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) are the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that students are expected to achieve or derive subsequent to a learning experience. SLOs encompass students’ ability to synthesize discrete skills using higher level thinking processes in order to apply what they have learned. SLOs are assessed at the course level, the program level, and the institutional level in regular cycles to encourage collegial dialogue about student learning and student success. SLOs for each course can be found in the course syllabus. SLOs for each degree and certificate can be found in the college catalog. There are five broad institutional level SLOs.

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLO) represent the major areas of knowledge that students will gain when completing the general education sequence of courses (often as part of a degree). When our students have completed the general education sequence, they will be proficient in:

- **Communication:** Read Critically, Write Effectively, Communicate Orally, Communicate Visually and Symbolically
- **Critical Thinking:** Recognize and Define, Gather and Evaluate Information, Reason, Solve Problems, Make Decisions
- **Creativity and Aesthetics:** Develop Ideas, Identify Values, Understand Artistic Expression, Interpret Influences, and Identify Contributions
- **Respect and Responsibility:** Respond Appropriately, Ethics, Conflict Resolution, Self-Advocacy, Community Involvement, Impact of Human Activity, Intercultural Values
- **Technology:** Evaluate Technology, Use Technology, Ethical and Safe Practices, Apply to Problems

Institutional Accreditation

Las Positas College is a public, two-year community college accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (10 Commercial Boulevard, Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949, (415)506-0234), an institutional accrediting body recognized by the