

VICTOR VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
BOARD POLICIES

Instruction

Chapter 4

**Academic Freedom**

**4030**

Victor Valley College believes academic freedom in relation to teaching duties is fundamental and essential to the teaching profession:

1. Teachers must be free to teach and students free to learn. Both must have access to and be free to explore and discuss issues and divergent points of view. Both must be free to form, hold, and express judgments and opinions, responsibly identifying them as such. The profession must defend itself and its members from any abridgment of academic freedom.
2. Teachers must have the responsibility for developing curriculum and selecting instructional materials and methods to meet the goals of that curriculum. Teachers and governing boards must develop procedures to be followed when there are criticisms/objections to methods or materials. The content of instruction must be judged and controlled by skilled professionals without undue interference by any individual or group. Individuals or groups, which seek to inhibit academic freedom, must not have influence over the hiring, firing, promotion or due process rights of teachers.
3. The same policies and protections applied to full-time teachers apply also to part-time and temporary teachers.
4. Teachers must be free to evaluate, criticize, and/or advocate personal points of view concerning educational matters in the classroom. Teachers must not be restricted when assisting their colleagues in the event their academic and/or professional freedoms are violated.
5. Teachers must be employed, promoted, or retained in relation to their teaching abilities and performance without discrimination or harassment regarding their personal opinions or their scholarly, literary, or artistic endeavors. The presence during class of any individual or organization whose intent is to decide or determine what is accurate or inaccurate inhibits academic freedom.

Reference: Title 5 Section 51023; Accreditation Standard II.A.7