

Bill of Rights

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Article I-Academic Access

Section I

- (a) All persons 18 years old or older are guaranteed admission to all nine district community colleges regardless of previous high school graduation status. Those under 16 may also attend in accordance to special admission regulations.
- b) Students have the right to obtain instruction without further compensation due to the professor [Chapter IX, Article VII of the LACCD Board Rules
- (c) Students have the right to access services that will aid in their education based on their eligibility for those services and to be informed of such services during the admissions process.
- (d) Students reserve the right to file a grievance with the college authorities should they not be made aware of the services available to the students at their local community college.
- (e) Disabled students have the right to accommodations to help them complete their educational goals [American with Disabilities Act of 1973, Section 504]

Article II-Freedom from Discrimination

Section I

- (a) Discrimination is defined as the treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favor of or against, a person or thing based on **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** group, class, or category to which that person or thing belongs rather than on individual merit
- (b) Students have the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, age, handicap and veteran status [Chapter IX, Article VIII of the LACCD Board Rules]

Section II-Political Affiliation

- (a) Political affiliation, according to this charter, will be classified as a non-discriminatory status. Harassment based on a student's political affiliation will not be tolerated inside the classroom, during college activities and/or events or in student governance.

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- (b) Political clubs have the right to organize on campus. Though no one can be turned away, anyone joining such a club solely to disrupt its meetings and/or harass its members will be brought up for disciplinary action by the college authorities.
- (c) Any student political organization which is affiliated with the official youth division of any political party that is the on the ballot of the State of California may hold meetings on a community college campus and may distribute bulletins and circulars concerning its meetings, provided there is no endorsement of such organization by the school authorities and no interference with regular educational program of the school. [Education Code 76067]

Article III-Classroom Policies

Section I

- (a) Students have the right to receive in writing from their professor a syllabus outlining their grading and attendance policy, withdrawal from class and other pertinent information during the first week of the new semester for each class.
- (b) Students have the right to make appointments with their professors if they are unable to see them during established business hours.
- (c) Students have the right to know their progress prior to the last day to drop a class.
- (d) Disabled students have the right to take a class as many times as needed to complete the course without requiring special permission from the college. [Title V., C.C.R., Section 55763 and 58161]
- (e) Professors are not allowed to prohibit viewing of grades when requested by the student.

Section II-Religious Freedom

- (a) Students have the right to discuss their faith in and outside the classroom without retaliation and/or discrimination from the professors, other students, college administration or other college personnel. [20 USC 4071-Denial of Equal Access Prohibited]
- (b) Impediment of the U.S. Constitution first amendment rights will not be condoned.
- (c) Pursuant to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of the United States Code, Title 42, Chapter 21 B, the college is prohibited from causing an undue burden on religious practices.

Section III-Free Speech

- (a) All speech that does not constitute the legal definition of slander and/or libel is constitutional under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and cannot be infringed upon.

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- (b) Controversial speech and/or unpopular views by students are protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Such speech that does not incite violence, does not use threats or intimidation tactics or otherwise produce real harm to the college community cannot be censored by professors or college administration.
- (c) Students have the right to hold protests on campus as long as they do not interfere or disturb classes taking place on the campus.

Article IV-College Facilities/Club Meetings

Section I

- (a) Students have the right to use college facilities to hold club meetings that have been chartered with the ASO without charge. [Education Code 76060]
- (b) Students have the right to organize clubs of their own choosing and interest without undue interference by the college administration, faculty and staff.
- (c) Students cannot be denied the right to charter a club on campus for arbitrary reasons. However students who have not followed the chartering guidelines set forth by the ASO and the college may be denied their application for the semester in which they originally applied.
- (d) Chartered clubs of the Associated Students Organization (ASO) or its equivalent on the community college campus have the right to access funds allotted to the ASO in accordance to the procedure set forth by the community college and the district.

Article V-Student Governance

Section I

- (a) Students have the right to participate in shared governance in the district and the community college through Associated Students Organization and the various committees that deal with the student population [Title V, 51023.7a]
- (b) Students have the right to be made aware of the process in participating in student governance and to receive an application for elected and/or appointed positions on the ASO Board or its equivalent.
- (c) Students cannot be denied entrance to committees that deal directly with student issues.
- (d) The following are the areas which students are allowed to serve on committees:
 - 1) Grading policies
 - 2) Codes of student conduct
 - 3) Academic disciplinary policies
 - 4) Curriculum development
 - 5) Courses or programs that should be initiated or discontinued
 - 6) Processes for institutional planning and budget development
 - 7) Standards and policies regarding student preparation and success
 - 8) Student services planning and development

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- 9) Student fees within the authority of the district to adopt; and
 - 10) Any other district or college policy, procedure or related issue that the district governing board determines will have a significant effect on students.
[Education Code, Title V, 51023.4.4b]
- (e) Students have the right to know 72 hours before when a regularly scheduled meeting will take place and it must be in areas on campus accessible to the student population.
[The Brown Act, Chapter IV, 54954.2]
 - (f) Students have the right to know 24 hours before when a special meeting will take place and it must be posted on campus accessible to the student population.
[The Brown Act, Chapter IV, 54956]
 - (g) Students have the right to know 1 hour before when an emergency meeting will take place. [The Brown Act, Chapter IV, 54956.5]
 - (h) Once an established student government has voted and passed any financial expenditures, the administration, including the student government advisor, must submit in writing within a 72 period any reason for denying the expenditure.

Article VI-Grievance Process

Section I-Grades

- (a) Students have the right to challenge their grade based on the following criteria: mistake, fraud, bad faith, and incompetence. Otherwise all grades are final. [California Education Code Section 76244 (a)]
- (b) Students have the right to be free from unfair or improper action by any member of the academic community. [California Education Code Section 76244 (a)]

Section II-General Procedures

- (a) Students have the right to file a grievance within 120 days of incident. Grievances may not be filed after that time.
- (b) Students have the right to a hearing regarding their grievance and to contact the college Ombudsman for assistance.
- (c) Students have the right to sit on the Grievance Committee and hear cases as part of the ASO or equivalent campus organization. Five (5) students from the ASO may be appointed.
- (d) Students reserve the right to file a complaint against LACC or LACCD, however all complaints that do not go through the official grievance process will be filed with the appropriate department.

Section III-Disciplinary Action

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Section I

- (a) Students have the right to be notified of any disciplinary action against them.
- (b) A student may be immediately suspended if their conduct threatens the lives, property or maintenance of order. [LACCD Board Rules, 91101.1(a)]
- (c) If the student is under 16, the parent or guardian has the right to be notified of any disciplinary actions taken against the minor and shall hold a conference as soon as possible with parent or legal guardian. [LACCD Board Rules, 91101.1, Section 5(c)]
- (d) Expulsions from class ten days or beyond require the professor to submit in writing to the Chancellor and for the student to be notified. A hearing will then take place.
- (e) If a student is suspended from class for the day of the incident and the next class meeting, the instructor shall send a written report of the action to his department/cluster chairperson, who shall forward it to the appropriate instructional administrator, the Chief Services Officer or designee [LACCD Board Rules, 91101.1, Section 5(b)]
- (f) Following the initial suspension period the student is allowed to return to class until due process and the disciplinary procedures are completed.
[LACCD Board Rules, 91101.1, Section 5(e)]

Article VII-Ratification

Section I

- (a) This Bill of Rights will go into effect upon ratification by the student government and the student body.
- (b) Repeal of the Bill of Rights requires two-thirds (2/3 vote by both the student government and the student voting electorate.)
- (c) College administration or any other governing body than the students themselves Cannot repeal the Bill of Rights once it has been ratified.