

Classroom Issues

Academic Freedom

The **Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure** from the American Association of College Professors provides a nationally recognized definition of academic freedom, its protections and its responsibilities:

Academic Freedom

(a) Academic employees are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be conscientious regarding teaching subject matter which has no relation to their subject.

(b) Academic employees are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties, but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.

(c) Academic employees are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and institution by their utterances. Hence, they should at all times be accurate, should show respect for the opinions of others, and indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

It is the policy of VCCCD that all academic employees, regardless of their employment status, should enjoy the privileges and exercise the responsibilities inherent in academic freedom as defined by the AAUP statement. For additional information, see Board Policy 4030 and the *College Catalog*, Appendix IV.

Auditing Procedure

Auditing enables a student to attend a class without being officially enrolled, receiving a grade, taking an exam, or earning unit credit. Students enrolled in ten or more semester units may, with your consent, be allowed to audit a class without a fee. Students not enrolled in ten semester credit units may, with your consent, audit a class with a fee for auditing of \$15.00 per unit per semester. **Petition to Audit a Course** forms, which require your signature, may be downloaded online at www.venturacollege.edu/forms.

Priority in class enrollment shall be given to students desiring to take the course for credit towards a certificate or degree. Therefore, students wishing to audit may register for classes only in the last two days of the add/drop period. Normally laboratory classes are not available for audit.

Students auditing a course are not allowed to later change their enrollment status to receive unit credit for the course. Students auditing a course are also not permitted to take exams in the class, nor are they permitted to challenge the course at a later date. You are under no obligation to grade assignments of students auditing a course. Attendance requirements for students auditing courses are the same as for all other students, as stated in the *College Catalog*.