

GENERAL INSTITUTION

BP 3430 PROHIBITION OF HARASSMENT

References:

Education Code Sections 212.5, 44100, 66252, and 66281.5;
Government Code Section 12950.1;
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 2000e

All forms of harassment are contrary to basic standards of conduct between individuals and are prohibited by state and federal law, as well as this policy, and will not be tolerated. The District is committed to providing an academic and work environment that respects the dignity of individuals and groups. The District shall be free of sexual harassment and all forms of sexual intimidation and exploitation including acts of sexual violence. It shall also be free of other unlawful harassment, including that which is based on any of the following statuses: race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, or sexual orientation of any person, or because he/she is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics.

The District seeks to foster an environment in which all employees and students feel free to report incidents of harassment without fear of retaliation or reprisal. Therefore, the District also strictly prohibits retaliation against any individual for filing a complaint of harassment or for participating in a harassment investigation. Such conduct is illegal and constitutes a violation of this policy. All allegations of retaliation will be swiftly and thoroughly investigated. If the District determines that retaliation has occurred, it will take all reasonable steps within its power to stop such conduct. Individuals who engage in retaliatory conduct are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination or expulsion.

Academic Freedom

This policy works with BP 4030 titled Academic Freedom and is not intended to inhibit or interfere with freedom of expression and freedom of inquiry within the framework of responsibility. It is understood that staff members exercising their rights under Academic Freedom will accept responsibility for both the substance and the manner of their messages.

Any student or employee who believes that he/she has been harassed or retaliated against in violation of this policy should immediately report such incidents by following the procedures described in AP 3435 titled Discrimination and Harassment Investigations and Training. Supervisors are mandated to report all incidents of harassment and retaliation that come to their attention.

Date Adopted: 6/11/2013

(Replaces former Palomar College Policy 102)

This policy applies to all aspects of the academic environment, including but not limited to classroom conditions, grades, academic standing, employment opportunities, scholarships, recommendations, disciplinary actions, and participation in any community college activity. In addition, this policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including but not limited to hiring, placement, promotion, disciplinary action, layoff, recall, transfer, leave of absence, training opportunities, and compensation.

To this end, the Superintendent/President shall ensure that the District undertakes education and training activities to counter discrimination and to prevent, minimize, and/or eliminate any hostile environment that impairs access to equal education opportunity or impacts the terms and conditions of employment.

The Superintendent/President shall establish procedures as defined by law that define harassment on campus. The Superintendent/President shall further establish procedures for employees, students, and other members of the campus community that provide for the investigation and resolution of complaints regarding harassment and discrimination and procedures for students to resolve complaints of harassment and discrimination. All participants are protected from retaliatory acts by the District, its employees, students, and agents. The Vice President, Human Resource Services is the responsible District officer charged with receiving complaints of harassment and coordinating the investigation.

This policy and related written procedures (including the procedure for making complaints) shall be widely published and publicized to administrators, faculty, staff, and students, particularly when they are new to the institution. They shall be available for students and employees in all administrative offices.

Employees who violate the policy and procedures may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. Students who violate this policy and related procedures may be subject to disciplinary measures up to and including expulsion.

Also see BP 3410 titled Nondiscrimination, BP/AP 3420 titled Equal Employment Opportunity, AP 3435 titled Discrimination and Harassment Investigations and Training, BP 4030 titled Academic Freedom, and appropriate provisions of applicable collective bargaining agreements/employee handbooks