



Curriculum Handbook

Introduction: Mission Statements

Curriculum is at the heart of the mission of every college. At Napa Valley College, the faculty has the primary responsibility for developing and maintaining curriculum. The Napa Valley College Academic Senate has established the Curriculum Committee to approve programs and courses and develop processes for curriculum review. These processes should ensure that the college offers rigorous, high-quality curriculum that meets the needs of our students. The following mission statements shall inform the work of the Curriculum Committee and its curriculum approval processes.

California Community Colleges Mission Statement

California Education Code §66010.4(a)(1)-(4):

The California Community Colleges shall, as a primary mission, offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level for both younger and older students, including those persons returning to school. Public community colleges shall offer instruction through but not beyond the second year of college. These institutions may grant the associate in arts and the associate in science degree.

The community colleges' mission shall include all of the following:

1. The provision of instruction and additional learning supports to close learning gaps for those who need it, instruction in English as a second language, adult noncredit instruction, and support services that help students succeed at the postsecondary level.
2. The provision of adult noncredit education curricula in areas defined as being in the state's interest is an essential and important function of the community colleges.
3. The provision of community service courses and programs is an authorized function of the community colleges so long as their provision is compatible with an institution's ability to meet its obligations in its primary missions.
4. The provision of student support services to facilitate academic success and achievement.

A primary mission of the California Community Colleges is to advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous work force improvement.

The community colleges may conduct institutional research concerning student learning and retention, and community college programming to facilitate its educational missions.

[Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the California Community Colleges](#)

California Code of Regulations, title 5 §51201:

With the goal of ensuring the equal educational opportunity of all students, the California Community Colleges embrace diversity among students, faculty, staff, and communities we serve as an integral part of our history, a recognition of the complexity of our present state, and a call to action for a better future.

Embracing diversity means that we must intentionally practice acceptance, anti-racism, and respect towards one another and understand that racism, discrimination, and prejudices create and sustain privileges for some while creating and sustaining disadvantages for others.

In order to embrace diversity, we also acknowledge that institutional racism, discrimination, and biases exist and that our goal is to eradicate these from our system. Our commitment to diversity requires that we strive to eliminate those barriers to equity and that we act deliberately to create a safe, inclusive, and anti-racist environment where individual and group differences are valued and leveraged for our growth and understanding as an educational community.

To advance our goals of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice for the success of students and employees, we must honor that each individual is unique and that our individual differences contribute to the ability of the colleges to prepare students on their educational journeys. This requires that we develop and implement policies and procedures, encourage individual and systemic change, continually reflect on our efforts, and hold ourselves accountable for the results of our efforts in accomplishing our goals. In service of these goals, the California Community Colleges are committed to fostering an anti-racist environment that offers equal opportunity for all.

As a collective community of individual colleges, we are invested in cultivating and maintaining a climate where equity, anti-racism, and mutual respect are both intrinsic and explicit by valuing individuals and groups from all backgrounds, demographics, and experiences. Individual and group differences can include, but are not limited to the following dimensions: race, ethnicity, national origin or ancestry, citizenship, immigration status, sex, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, registered domestic partner status, age, political beliefs, religion, creed, military or veteran status, socioeconomic status, and any other basis protected by federal, state or local law or ordinance or regulation.

Napa Valley College Mission Statement and Values

Mission

Napa Valley College transforms lives. Whether your goal is to transfer, to pursue a career, or to explore your interests, Napa Valley College provides excellent educational and professional opportunities that are student-centered, equity-focused, and community-oriented.

Vision

Napa Valley College cultivates a learning environment grounded in equity, inclusion, and empowerment.

Values

Napa Valley College is a community of learners that strive to grow, teach, model, and emulate the following values in ourselves and in our students.

Integrity: We treat each other ethically and foster an environment of trust.

Accountability: We commit to ensuring that our actions align with our words and recognize the importance of clear expectations and follow-through that is timely and clearly communicated.

Respect: We recognize each other's humanity, demonstrate consideration for others, and connect through active listening and sharing perspectives to achieve common goals.

Inclusion: We embrace the power of diverse peoples, perspectives, and experiences. We commit to creating a flexible and responsive environment where everyone can thrive and learn.

Equity-Mindedness: We commit to being evidence-based, race-conscious, institutionally focused, systemically aware, and equity advancing.

Social Justice: We commit to being anti-racist and dismantling systemic injustices to ensure access to resources and opportunities necessary for success.

Sustainability: We pledge to center sustainability by recognizing the interconnectedness of a healthy ecological environment, upholding universal human rights, and equitable stewardship of economic resources, all of which are necessary to the wellbeing of current and future generations.

Institutional Learning Outcomes

Students who receive a degree from Napa Valley College will demonstrate the following:

1. Communication and Critical Thinking
2. Scientific and Quantitative Inquiry
3. Global and Civic Awareness
4. Intercultural Literacy and Creativity

5. Personal, Academic, and Career Development

(Edited May 24, 2025, Pending Approval by Curriculum Committee and Academic Senate).