

B. Academic Affairs Mission Statement

Excerpted from the Academic Affairs Area Plan

Mission

The mission of Academic Affairs is to deliver high quality instructional services to a diverse community of students pursuing academic, career, and personal enrichment goals.

Guiding Principles

1. Our programs offer students educational opportunities resulting in degrees, certificates, transfer, career pathways, and basic skills proficiency.
2. Our course offerings address the needs of the communities served by Rio Hondo College as a center for lifelong learning.
3. Our Academic Affairs team of dedicated faculty, staff, and administration work collaboratively to promote academic success for our students.

C. Academic Freedom

Extracted from Board Policy 4030

The philosophy at the heart of Rio Hondo's commitment to academic freedom is encapsulated in the following paragraph from Board Policy (BP) 4030, "Academic Freedom":

The maintenance of freedom of speech, publication, religion, and assembly (each of which is a component of intellectual freedom) is the breath of life in a democratic society. The need is greatest in fields of higher learning, where the use of reason and the cultivation of the highest forms of human expression are the basic methods. Society has come to rely upon colleges and universities as a principal means of acquiring new knowledge and new techniques, of conveying the fruits of past and present learning to the community, and of transmitting these results to generations to come. Without freedom to explore, to criticize existing institutions, to exchange ideas, and to advocate solutions to human problems, faculty members, staff and students cannot perform their work, cannot maintain their self-respect. Society suffers correspondingly. The liberty that is needed requires a freedom of thought and expression within colleges and universities, freedom to carry the results of honest inquiry to the outside, and a freedom to influence human affairs in the same manner as other informed persons do. Nor is the value of freedom lessened because error at times arises from its exercise. Learning, intellectual development, and social and scientific progress takes place on a trial-and-error basis, and even the unsound cause or hypothesis may call forth the truth that displaces it.

For specific guidelines on faculty rights and responsibilities regarding academic freedom at Rio Hondo College, see Board Policy 4030 in its entirety:

http://www.riohondo.edu/president/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2014/04/BP4030_AcademicFreedom.pdf