

2.1 Philosophy

Last Revised: January 2011

Policy Statement: N/A

Purpose/Definitions: Piedmont Community College belongs to the people it serves and to its supporters. The institution is responsive to the individual and collective needs of the community. The basic purpose of Piedmont Community College is to offer comprehensive programs that will help meet the educational and job training needs of the people by preparing them for job opportunities and for fuller participation and involvement in their society. Piedmont Community College will serve as a stimulus for raising the levels of aspiration and accomplishment of the people in the community. The institution is a source of services for the various activities and needs of the community and provides enrichment for the community by serving as a cultural center. As a cultural center, Piedmont Community College is dedicated to providing educational opportunities that will permit the youth and adults of the area to enrich their lives and advance their careers to the limit of their desires and capabilities.

The institution is concerned with the development of the individual for a useful and productive life. This concern implies a deep and abiding faith in the worth and dignity of the individual student--the most important component of the institution.

To implement this philosophy, Piedmont Community College operates with an open door policy. The College recognizes that all students who are willing to learn should be given that opportunity. A variety of programs are planned and implemented to meet the diverse needs of students. The College is responsible for providing appropriate and effective educational opportunities to help students determine realistic goals, discover their abilities and interests, and develop those abilities and interests to the fullest extent possible. To enhance student success, learner-centered instruction will be supplemented with a variety of student support services to enhance student success. These services include new methods of individualized instruction, collaborative learning, supplemental instruction, learning communities, computer assisted learning, distance learning, technology-enhanced instructional methods, credit by examination, work study programs, field work, cooperative education, developmental studies, and future improvements not yet envisioned.

Piedmont Community College believes that opportunities for higher education and skills development training should be available to persons throughout their lifetime. The College must provide opportunities for nontraditional students, including older learners, single parents, workers, and others. Furthermore, the College believes that work and study should be mixed throughout a lifetime; therefore, Piedmont Community College will develop curricula that combine both academic and on-the-job experience. Moreover, the College recognizes the need and accepts the responsibility for its commitment to the community. This orientation toward the community will be expressed by the College's development as an educational, job training, civic, and cultural center available to the entire community.

Piedmont Community College is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution: it provides positive, specific, observable, deliberate procedures intended to identify discriminatory practices, and it develops constructive policies to ensure equal opportunity to all employees and applicants for employment.

Approval Authority/Monitoring Authority: Piedmont Community College's Board of Trustees has approval authority for this policy. The President has monitoring authority for this policy.

Procedure: N/A

Legal Citation: N/A

History: Effective August 1972; revised August 1976, January 1988, October 2001, January 2011