

CORE COMMITMENTS

Norco College is dedicated to following a set of enduring Core Commitments that guide it through changing times and give rise to our Vision, Mission, and Strategic Goals.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Belief in the personal dignity and full potential of every individual and in fostering positive human values in the classroom and in all interactions.

COLLEGIALITY

Being a supportive community that is distinctive in its civility, where the views of each individual are respected, humor and enjoyment of work are encouraged, and success is celebrated.

INCLUSIVENESS

Embracing diversity in all its forms — global as well as local — and creating a supportive climate that encourages a variety of perspectives and opinions.

INTEGRITY

Maintaining an open, honest, and ethical environment.

INNOVATION

Valuing creative solutions and continuing to seek inventive ways to improve instruction and service to students and to the community.

QUALITY

Achieving excellence in the broad range of academic programs and services provided to students and to the community, fostering an environment of inquiry, learning and culture, and providing professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.

ACCESS

Providing open admissions and comprehensive educational opportunities for all students.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Being an institution that places high value on the academic and personal success of students in and outside of the classroom and where meeting student needs drives all decisions regarding educational programs and services.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Being fully engaged with the local community by listening to needs; establishing programs and partnerships to meet regional needs; forming alliances with other educational institutions to create a continuum of educational opportunities; and communicating information about Norco programs and services to the external community.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Being mindful of the impact we have on the environment, as individuals and as a community, and fostering environmental responsibility among students.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The faculty, administration, and Board of Trustees subscribe to the American Association of University Professors' 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure:

"Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual teacher or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free expression."

"Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applied to both teaching and research. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning. It carries with it duties correlative with rights."

"The teacher is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of his/her other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution."

"The teacher is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing his/her subject, but he/she should be careful not to introduce into his/her teaching controversial matters which have no relation to his/her subject."

"Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of the appointment."

"The college or university teacher is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an officer of an educational institution. When he/she speaks or writes as a citizen, he/she should be free from institutional censorship and discipline, but his/her special position in the community imposes special obligations. As a person of learning and an educational officer, he/she should remember that the public judges his/her profession and his/her institution by his/her utterances. Hence he/she should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that he/she is not an institutional spokesman."

This aligns with Title 5 section 51023 and with the standards set forth by the College's accrediting body; the alignment is evidenced by the adoption of Board Policy 4030.

ACADEMIC YEAR

The academic year consists of fall and spring semesters, which extend from August to June, plus summer and winter sessions that begin in June and January, respectively. The calendar for the 2018-2019 academic year appears in the front of the catalog. Courses offered during the various terms are similar in scope and maintain equivalent standards.

ACCREDITATION

Norco College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (10 Commercial Boulevard, Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949, (415) 506-0234), an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. Accreditation reports are available in the Norco College Library as well as on the Norco College website at www.norcocollege.edu.