

Chapter: Academic Affairs

Modification No. 001Subject: **Philosophy, Purposes, and Program Commitments**

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**I. Philosophy**

The vitality of American society and the advancement of its quality of life require the sustained development of the capacities and abilities of all persons in order that they may realize their individual goals and best contribute to the common welfare. Montgomery College was established and continues to be developed on the basis of this principle.

The College strives to offer an enriching and comprehensive personal learning experience to students, faculty, staff, and community. The national, international, and ethnic heritage of the community as reflected in the student body contributes to the learning experience, offering a unique opportunity for students to increase their interest in and appreciation of diverse cultures. Encouragement of such intercultural understanding enhances the ability to appreciate individual differences and to communicate ideas for solving local, national, and international problems.

The College, as an educational resource center, is committed to extend its services into the community and to lend assistance in the search for solutions to community problems. In providing these services, the College acknowledges its responsibility and desire to participate actively with public, private, civic, and governmental agencies.

**II. Purposes**

Montgomery College is a public, multicampus, comprehensive community College established and supported by Montgomery County and the State of Maryland for the primary purpose of providing appropriate and essential education and training beyond high school. The College's policies and purposes are intended to be consistent with its philosophy and with the relevant laws and regulations of the State of Maryland.

In keeping with its philosophy, Montgomery College has an obligation to:

- A. Maintain an excellent comprehensive educational program designed to meet the diverse and changing educational, social, economic, and cultural needs of the community.
- B. Maintain an open admissions policy which shall provide educational opportunities for all eligible citizens who desire to enroll, ranging from those with exceptional high school records to those who lack a high school diploma.
- C. Continue its commitment to an equal opportunity/affirmative action program. The College widely publicizes its programs and services and seeks out and encourages admittance of those whose background might otherwise have precluded development of a desire for self-improvement at the college level. The College assures equal opportunity to all in the admissions process, in student financial assistance, in other student services and procedures, and in employment, without regard to age, sex, race, color, handicap, religious belief, or national origin.

- D. Require and facilitate high quality academic performance and rigorous intellectual discipline.
- E. Provide student instructional and nonacademic services designed to assist students in their educational development, in their determination of realistic educational goals, and in their achievement of these goals.
- F. Provide a favorable learning climate to meet the needs of a diverse student body by maintaining a close student-teacher relationship, individualized instruction, and above all, a faculty and administration mutually committed to provide quality instruction and continued improvement in teaching methods.
- G. Build into the framework of College programs and curriculums: (1) A recognition that many problems and ideas are global in scope, and (2) an appreciation of the intercultural variances and richness within and beyond our own community.
- H. Provide for professional growth opportunities for the College's faculty, administrators, and staff.
- I. Continually review the College's programs and services in order to provide high quality education in the most effective and economical manner.

Through the implementation of these policies, Montgomery College endeavors to provide an educational environment for each student to:

- A. Accurately and open-mindedly appraise people, goals, abilities, achievements, values, and behavior and to make decisions and base his/her conduct on such appraisals.
- B. Expand knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the world.
- C. Develop the skills and basic intellectual qualities required for productive participation in further higher education experiences, continuing education, work with occupational proficiency, and to enjoy life as a mature person.
- D. Develop social responsibilities and leadership characteristics and to learn the economic, political, and social frameworks of our county, state and nation in order to establish a firm foundation for effective participation in a democratic society.

### III. Program Commitments

Consistent with its philosophy, policies, and purposes, Montgomery College offers a high quality educational program which includes:

- A. Curricula preparing students for transfer to upper-division degree studies at universities and other colleges.
- B. Technical and semiprofessional curricula for students wishing to prepare for immediate employment.
- C. A broad-based general educational curriculum upon which students with undecided objectives can build.

- D. Credit and noncredit courses which may be utilized for enhancing employment, reemployment, retraining, and exploring interests in various professional and semiprofessional fields.
- E. A community services program which extends the resources of the College into the community.
- F. Forums, lectures, short courses, concerts, dramatic productions, art exhibits, athletics, and other activities, the purpose of which is to add balance to the total instructional program of the College.
- G. Academically and also vocationally oriented counseling services.
- H. A program designed to identify and help remedy students' academic deficiencies.
- I. An early placement program for qualified high school seniors wishing to supplement their secondary school courses and/or accelerate their college studies.
- J. An honors program for students of outstanding ability.
- K. An extensive summer program for students enrolled at the College, for undergraduates from other institutions, and for high school graduates who wish to begin their college studies.

In all of the above programs and services, aimed at the development of the intellectual and cultural interests of its students, the College strives to be a vital multicampus, educational and cultural center of the community.

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Board Approval: June 26, 1978.