

**BOARD POLICY**  
**San Mateo County Community College District**

**Subject:** BP 6.01 Philosophy and Purpose  
**Revision Date:** 3/13; 10/13  
**Policy References:** Education Code Section 78100; Civil Code Section 1798.90; Accreditation Standard II.C

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1. The San Mateo County Community College District has established its educational philosophy on three fundamental premises: that a society requires intelligent support; that the individual has worth and dignity; and that a college has obligations to both society and the individual.
2. As a corollary to these premises, the Board and administration realize that the District's Colleges must remain sensitive to changes in the needs of the community and, within available resources, evolve their educational offerings in response to those needs.
3. In general, the purpose of each College within the District is to provide education beyond the high school level for residents of the District who can benefit from it. This education is designed to help students become aware of their potentialities, stimulate their cultural interests, and develop their career/technical abilities. It prepares students to assume the responsibilities of citizenship in our free society. It offers them the opportunity to assimilate an organized body of knowledge, to employ critical thinking, and to construct an informed frame of reference.
4. To achieve their purposes, the Colleges within the San Mateo County Community College District offer the following kinds of education:
  - a. General education
  - b. Lower-division college education
  - c. Career/technical education
  - d. Developmental education
  - e. Special educational programs and services for the community
5. The Board shall develop and periodically review a "Core Values and Principles" statement that will help shape the educational mission of the District by determining program priorities within available resources.
6. The Colleges will help students discover their aptitudes, choose their life work, and plan an educational program which will prepare them for that work. The Colleges offer this assistance through a formal program of advising and counseling, and through informal student-teacher relationships, which are distinct and valuable services. The Colleges recognize the educational value of organized student activities and encourage student and faculty participation in these activities.