

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (“EEO”)

Sequoias Community College District (District) has adopted an Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEO Plan). This document is located on the District’s Human Resources website.

A. District Equal Employment Opportunity Plan:

The EEO Plan is a district-wide, written document that implements the District’s EEO program, including the definitions contained in Title 5 Section 53001 which addresses the following:

1. Submission of the EEO Plan and subsequent revisions to the state Chancellor’s Office for review and approval as required.
2. The designation of the Dean, Human Resources and the Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Operational Work Group as those who have been delegated responsibility and authority for implementing the EEO Plan and assuring compliance with the requirements of this Procedure;
3. The procedure for filing complaints and the person (Dean, Human Resources) with whom such complaints are to be filed;
4. A process for notifying all District employees of the provisions of the EEO Plan and the policy statement required;
5. A process for ensuring that District employees who are to participate on screening or selection committees shall receive, prior to their participation, training on the requirements of the applicable Title 5 regulations and of state and federal nondiscrimination laws, the educational benefits of workplace diversity, the elimination of bias in hiring decisions, and best practices in serving on a screening or selection committee.
6. A process for providing annual written notice to appropriate community-based and professional organizations concerning the District’s EEO Plan and the need for assistance from such organizations in identifying qualified applicants for openings within the District;
7. A process for gathering information and periodic, longitudinal analysis of the District’s employees and applicants, broken down by number of persons from “monitored groups”, as defined by Title 5 Section 53001(i), who are employed in the District’s work force and those who have applied for employment in each of the job categories listed below.
8. To the extent data regarding potential job applicants is provided by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, an analysis of the degree to which monitored groups are underrepresented in comparison to their representation in the field or job category in numbers of persons from such groups whom the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office determines to be available and qualified to perform the work required for each such job category and whether or not the underrepresentation is significant;
9. The steps the District will take to promote diversity in its work force; and,
10. Methods for addressing any discrimination that is detected in the District’s

hiring practices.

The District's EEO Plan is a public record.

The District shall make a continuous good faith effort to comply with the requirements of its EEO Plan, including the following Plan components:

B. Annual Evaluation:

1. The District shall annually collect the demographic data of its employees and applicants for employment in order to evaluate progress in implementing the EEO Plan and to provide data needed for required analyses.
2. An annual report to the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges of this demographic data. The report shall identify each employee as belonging to one of the following seven job categories:
 - a. Executive/administrative/managerial
 - b. Faculty and other instructional staff
 - c. Professional non-faculty
 - d. Secretarial/clerical
 - e. Technical and paraprofessional
 - f. Skilled crafts
 - g. Service and maintenance
3. The opportunity for each employee to identify his or her gender, ethnicity and, if applicable, disability. This opportunity must allow for a person to designate multiple ethnic groups with which he or she identifies. However, the person may only be counted in one group for reporting purposes.
4. Districts shall review the annually collected demographic data to determine if significant underrepresentation of a monitored group may be the result of non-job-related factors in the employment process. For the purposes of this subdivision, the phases of the employment process include but are not limited to recruitment, hiring, retention, and promotion. The information to be reviewed shall include, but need not be limited to:
 - a. longitudinal analysis of data regarding job applicants to identify whether over multiple job searches, a monitored group is disproportionately failing to move from the initial applicant pool, to the qualified applicant pool; and analysis of data regarding potential job applicants, to the extent provided by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, which may indicate significant underrepresentation of a monitored group.

C. EEO Advisory Operational Work Group:

1. The District has established an EEO Advisory Operational Work Group ("EEO Work Group").
2. This EEO Work Group shall include a diverse membership whenever possible.
3. The EEO Work Group shall receive training in all of the following: applicable Title 5 regulations and of state and federal nondiscrimination laws; the educational benefits of workforce diversity, the identification

and elimination of bias in hiring decisions; and the role of the work group in carrying out of the District's EEO Plan.

The responsibilities of the EEO Work Group shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. Review and advise on recruitment efforts; job announcements, interview protocols, retention efforts and other aspects of the hiring, retention, and promotion processes that impact the District's ability to attract and retain a diverse faculty and staff;
2. Advise on implementing the District's obligation to hire faculty and administrators with a demonstrated sensitivity to, and understanding of, the diverse academic, socioeconomic, cultural, disability and ethnic backgrounds of community college students;
3. Promote communication with community groups and organizations for people with disabilities;
4. Promote hiring of faculty who have, themselves, graduated from a community college;
5. Develop communications among departments to foster understandings of the EEO Plan;
6. Advise the Superintendent/President regarding special training or staff development needs;
7. Review the EEO Plan and monitor its progress;
8. Recommend changes needed in the EEO Plan; and
9. Review and approve the annual written report to the Superintendent/President, the Board of Trustees, and the Chancellor's Office for the California Community Colleges.

Employment Procedures

D. Job Analysis and Validation:

The Dean, Human Resources shall assure that a proper job analysis is performed for every job filled by the District to determine and validate the knowledge, skills, abilities and characteristics an employee must possess to perform the job satisfactorily.

A statement of bona fide essential functions and minimum qualifications shall be developed for all positions.

E. Job Description:

Every job description shall provide a general statement of job duties and responsibilities.

Job specifications shall include functions and tasks; knowledge; skills; ability; and job related personal characteristics, including but not limited to sensitivity to and understanding of the diverse academic, socioeconomic, cultural, linguistic, disability, and ethnic backgrounds of community college students.

F. Recruitment:

Recruitment must be conducted actively within and outside of the District work

force.

Open recruitment is mandated for all new full-time and part-time positions, except under limited circumstances involving interim hires.

Recruitment must utilize outreach strategies designed to ensure that all qualified individuals, from all monitored groups, are provided the opportunity to seek employment with the District.

Recruitment for administrative and faculty positions (full and part-time) may include advertisement in appropriate professional journals, job registries and newspapers of general circulation; distribution of job announcements to the EEO Registry, K-12 districts, two and four year colleges, and graduate schools where appropriate candidates might be enrolled; recruitment at conferences, fairs, and professional meetings; notices to institutions and professional organizations that primarily serve members of monitored groups that are underrepresented in the District.

Recruitment for classified positions shall include notice to all District personnel; and advertising in area newspapers of general circulation.

- G. Applicant Pools: The application for employment shall afford each applicant an opportunity to identify himself or herself voluntarily as to gender, ethnicity and, if applicable, his or her disability. This information shall be maintained in confidence and shall be used only for research, validation, monitoring, evaluation of the effectiveness of the EEO Plan, or as authorized by law.

All initial applications shall be screened to determine which candidates satisfy job specifications set forth in the job announcement. The group of candidates who meet the job specifications shall constitute the "qualified applicant pool."

Once the qualified pool is formed, the pool must again be analyzed. If the Dean of Human Resources or designee finds that the composition of the qualified applicant pool may have been influenced by factors which are not job related, the District may immediately, and before the selection process continues, consult with legal counsel to determine what, if any, corrective action is required by law.

H. Screening and Selection:

Screening, selecting and interviewing candidates for all positions shall include thorough and fair procedures that are sensitive to issues of diversity. Procedures to be used must address or include that:

1. Hiring procedures will be provided to the state Chancellor's Office on request.
2. All tests conform to generally applicable legal standards for uniformity.
3. A reasonable number of candidates are identified for interview.
4. Screening and selection committees are developed that are representative of the District community and campus; include administrators, faculty and classified staff; include a diverse membership when possible; do not include applicants or persons who have written

letters of recommendation.

5. Every screening and selection committee includes an individual trained to monitor conformance with EEO requirements. The EEO Officer assures that the screening and selection process conforms to accepted principles and practices, including preparation of job related questions in advance; maintains records of screening checklists and rating scales, which shall be signed and kept on file; maintains notes for all interviews and record relevant factual reasons stating why a candidate was not hired or was not invited to interview; and monitors the hiring process for adverse impact.
 6. Selection shall be based solely on the stated job criteria.
 7. For faculty and administrative positions, candidates shall be required to demonstrate sensitivity to diversity in ways relevant to the specific position.
- I. Underrepresentation of Monitored Groups:
If the District determines that a particular monitored group is significantly underrepresented with respect to one or more job categories, the District shall take the following additional steps:
1. Review its recruitment procedures;
 2. Consult with counsel to determine whether there are other, additional measures that may be undertaken that are required and/or permitted by law;
 3. Consider various other means of reducing the underrepresentation which do not involve taking monitored group status into account and implement any such techniques that are feasible;
 4. If significant underrepresentation persists:
 - a. review each locally-established job qualification to determine if it is job related and consistent with business necessity;
 - b. discontinue the use of any non-job related local qualification;
 - c. continue using job-related local qualifications only if no alternative standard is reasonably available; and
 - d. consider the implementation of additional measures designed to promote diversity.
- J. Delegation of Authority
1. The designation of a single person as the "EEO Officer" charged with overseeing the day-to-day implementation of the EEO Plan and programs.
 2. Processes and responsibilities when the EEO Officer is named in a complaint or implicated by the allegations in a complaint.
- K. Complaint Procedure
- Any person may file a complaint alleging the District violated this policy and procedures. An individual should file a written complaint with the Dean, Human Resources. The District shall immediately forward a copy of the complaint to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, which may require that the District provide a written investigative report within ninety (90) days. The District shall also process complaints that allege unlawful discrimination according to the procedures set forth in AP 3430 Prohibition of Harassment and AP 3435 Discrimination and Harassment Complaints and

Investigations.

L. Job Announcements

All job announcements shall contain a statement in substantially the following form: The District is an equal opportunity employer. The policy of the District is to encourage applications from persons who are economically disadvantaged and individuals belonging to significantly underrepresented groups within the District's workforce, including ethnic and racial minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. No person shall be denied employment because of ethnicity or race, religious creed, color, sex or gender, gender identify, gender expression, age, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, sexual orientation, national origin, medical conditions, genetic information, veteran or military status, ancestry, or political or organizational affiliation.

M. Dissemination and Revision of the EEO Plan

All managers and supervisors shall be given copies of the EEO Plan as revised from time to time and any guidelines for implementing the EEO Plan. Copies of the EEO Plan shall be provided to the Academic Senate and the exclusive representatives of any units of employees.

Statements of nondiscrimination shall be posted at locations where applications for employment are distributed.

Such EEO Plans shall be reviewed at least every three years and, if necessary, revised and submitted to the state Chancellor's Office within 90 days of the effective date of the revision or amendment(s). If the Chancellor determines that a district's policies are not in compliance with 59300 et al., the Chancellor may require the District to modify its policies.

N. Accountability and Corrective Action

The District shall certify annually to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges that they have timely:

1. Recorded, reviewed and reported the data required regarding qualified applicant pools;
2. Reviewed and updated, as needed, the Strategies Component of the district's EEO Plan; and
3. Investigated and appropriately responded to formal harassment or discrimination complaints filed pursuant to subchapter 5 (commencing with Section 59300) of chapter 10 of this division.

Reference: Educ. Code Sections 87100 et seq.; Title 5 Sections 53000 et seq. and Sections 59300 et seq.; ACCJC Accreditation Standard III.A.12; Government Code Sections 7400 et seq. and 12940 et seq.

Adopted: May 12, 2009

Revised: April 18, 2022