

# ABOUT GAVILAN COLLEGE

## Principles of Community

As members of the Gavilan College community, we value the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. We strive to maintain these ideals in an environment of inclusiveness and mutual respect.

The Principles of Community provide the foundation which creates this environment. The expectation is that we maintain the highest ethical standards in order to establish an atmosphere of civility, honesty, cooperation, professionalism and fairness.

Gavilan College aspires to be:

**Diverse** We embrace and celebrate diversity in all its forms (the heritage, achievements, uniqueness, and contributions of all our members) and seek to uphold an inclusive, open and enlightened community.

**Open** We believe free exchange of ideas requires mutual respect, trust and consideration for our differences.

**Purposeful** We are a community that maintains a shared commitment to service to society and advancement of knowledge through innovative teaching and learning.

**Just** We are committed to respect for individual dignity and equitable access to resources, recognition and security.

These Principles of Community, reflected in Board Policy 2715, guide the institution's actions. They provide guidelines to follow and are to be considered a living document. Adherence to the Principles of Community is the professional responsibility of all staff. Behavior that is in conflict with the principles will be subject to administrative review. Ultimately, Gavilan College is dedicated to fulfilling its mission with compassion, caring and understanding, while respecting all individuals.

## Mission

*Gavilan College cultivates learning and personal growth in students of all backgrounds and abilities through innovative practices in both traditional and emerging learning environments; transfer pathways, career and technical education, developmental education, and support services prepare students for success in a dynamic and multicultural world.*

## Visionary Educational Values and Goals

### Values

- ▶ An imaginative and nurturing community of learners, fostered through rigorous scholarship, creativity, and personal and professional development.
- ▶ A college environment and social climate characterized by inclusiveness and mutual respect for all of our students, staff and community.
- ▶ Excellence in and promotion of comprehensive programs, services and activities.
- ▶ Partnerships that support the educational, economic and social development of the college and the communities we serve.

### Goals

- ▶ To be known for educational excellence.
- ▶ To increase accessibility.
- ▶ To lead in the application of appropriate educational technology.
- ▶ To demonstrate involved and responsive community leadership.
- ▶ To encourage innovative instruction.
- ▶ To promote a harmonious learning and working environment.

## Philosophy

Gavilan College is committed to educational excellence. The college aspires to be an exemplary, student-centered community college through leadership, planning, and a commitment to ongoing improvement. Its services and programs are designed to instill the values of critical thinking, life-long learning, cultural understanding, and community service. Gavilan's quality of service to students is closely bound to the quality of the college staff.

Gavilan College strives to accomplish its mission with creativity and innovation and with a proactive, accessible and sensitive presence in the diverse communities it serves. The college is dedicated to fulfill its mission with compassion, caring and understanding and holds, in high regard, the respect and worth of all individuals.

## Purpose

Gavilan College offers a wide range of services, including programs of community education, study in the liberal arts and sciences, and study in the pre-professional, business, vocational, and technical fields. To support student success, we offer services that strengthen and augment the learning environment. Courses and programs of study are offered days, evenings, weekends, and online. All offerings are designed to assist students in meeting their educational and life goals.

Currently, more than 11,000 day, evening and online students are enrolled at Gavilan College, and approximately 1,000 degrees and certificates are awarded annually. The communities served by Gavilan College have experienced rapid growth in recent years, which has brought both economic and structural change to the region. The district is divided into distinct sub-regions. The northern region (South San Jose and Morgan Hill) is more technical and industrial, and demographically higher income. The southern part of the district, in San Benito County, is largely agricultural. The center of the district, Gilroy, has seen rapid growth in residential construction and a booming retail economy providing large numbers of service jobs. The high price of real estate in the Silicon Valley is also having an impact on the district. As families have looked southward for affordable housing while remaining employed in Santa Clara County, large numbers of district residents commute long distances for work.

## Background

A seven-member Board of Trustees governs the Gavilan Joint Community College District. Voters within the district elect each trustee for a four-year term. Board meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. The administrative structure of the college operates under the direction and oversight of the college president, who oversees vice presidents that carry responsibility for administrative, instructional and student services. Deans and directors provide direct oversight for the tasks related to college operations.

Every aspect of the 150-acre Gavilan College main campus in Gilroy has been planned to emphasize the student-centered philosophy adopted by the Board of Trustees and the college staff. The main campus is located south of Gilroy against the hills that form the western boundary of the Santa Clara Valley. Buildings have been designed to complement the natural environment, and constructed to serve the needs and interests of college students and are equipped with the most recently developed aids to enhance teaching and learning.

Many live oaks native to the area have been preserved, and a series of ponds and waterfalls has been developed to emphasize a pleasant, tranquil setting. An arboretum includes placards identifying many of the tree species on campus.

## Off-Campus Sites

Gavilan College has off-campus satellite instructional sites at the Briggs building in Hollister and at the Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center. The Aviation Maintenance Technology program also has a dedicated site at the San Martin Airport. In 2017 the college opened the Coyote Valley Center. In addition selected credit classes are offered at local high schools, and noncredit classes are offered at community locations.

## Accreditation

Gavilan College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), which is listed by the United States Commissioner of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency. The college program is approved for veterans' training. Students who attend Gavilan College can receive full credit in major colleges and universities throughout the United States for appropriate courses completed with a grade of "C" or better.

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