

This draft Bill of Rights was constructed based on feedback from College of San Mateo Students. It is currently a work in progress that will continue to be discussed at future Flex Day events.

Student Bill of Rights

1. Students should have access to a parking space for every day of the semester.
2. Students should have access to inexpensive textbooks and class resources.
3. Students should have access to relevant information about instructors (e.g., number of times they have taught the class, success rate of students in succeeding courses, ...).
4. Students have a right to expect instructors to reply to their emails promptly.
5. Students have a right to expect instructors to know their names.
6. Students have a right to instructors who emphasize formative assessment throughout the semester. In practice this means teachers should grade and return papers promptly with thoughtful comments to facilitate the learning and growth of the students.
7. Students should have access to instructors who maximize activities and assignments that promote learning and growth, and minimize those that do not.
8. Students should have regular access to their grades and feedback in the course throughout the semester.
9. Students should have the opportunity to try to solve problems that are challenging, beautiful or important.
10. Students should have the opportunity to learn in a challenging yet supportive environment in which they can feel a sense of control over their own education.
11. Students should have the opportunity to work collaboratively with other learners to grapple with the problems.
12. Students should believe that their work is considered fairly and honestly.
13. Students should have the opportunity to try, fail and receive feedback from expert learners in advance of and separate from any judgment of their efforts.
14. Students should have access to courses that transform the way in which they view the world.
15. Students should have access to instructors who are approachable, transparent and respectful with respect to their students and their learning process.
16. Students should have access to instructors who do not expect their students to work any harder than they themselves are willing to work.

(Items 9-13 are taken from "What the Best College Teachers Do" by Ken Bain, page 109, and describe the circumstances in which people tend to learn most effectively, that is, in ways that make a sustained, substantial and positive influence on the way they act, think or feel.