

Spokane Falls Community College



SFCC MISSION STATEMENT

Spokane Falls Community College provides high-quality learning opportunities that are affordable and accessible. We accomplish our mission in various ways:

- offering comprehensive academic transfer, professional-technical, developmental, basic skills and continuing education programs;
- providing comprehensive student support services;
- serving diverse communities;
- increasing flexible and innovative educational opportunities;
- fostering respect for knowledge and actively contributing to scholarship;
- preparing students to live responsibly in an increasingly global civilization;
- being an active partner in promoting community services of an educational, cultural, and recreational nature; and
- contributing to the economic well-being of the communities we serve.

CORE VALUES

All activities, decisions and actions related to student services and instruction are driven by seven core values at SFCC. They are:

1. **Academic Excellence:** Both the student and teacher are responsible for learning that reflects intellectual vitality, curiosity, creativity and rigor.
2. **Academic Freedom:** We recognize freedom of speech, expression and ideas as well as the rights of students, faculty and staff to pursue intellectual inquiry in the development of knowledge.
3. **Collaboration:** Both in governance and in working collegially in partnerships, we believe synergy results from broad participation and valuing all voices.
4. **Diversity:** We believe diversity among our students, faculty, staff and community enriches our learning and growth.
5. **Personal Excellence:** We believe integrity and caring must reflect in the entire work of the college.
6. **Respect:** We recognize diverse life experiences and the promotion of collegiality based on the belief in human rights and the dignity of each individual.
7. **Student Success:** Our comprehensive support services are designed to help students succeed.

OUR MISSION – IN ACTION

When SFCC opened in the fall of 1967, its mission was to offer liberal arts/college transfer programs to our community. Since that time, we've added professional-technical, international, interdisciplinary, distance learning, service learning, continuing education and developmental programs to our college curriculum.

Today, thanks to these visionary enhancements to our curriculum, SFCC's mission still is to be the primary provider of the comprehensive liberal arts/transfer degree for Community Colleges of Spokane, as well as offering unique, high-demand professional-technical learning opportunities.

STUDENT LEARNING

Faculty and staff at SFCC focus on student learning. Expected student learning outcomes are in place and are clearly defined throughout SFCC courses and programs. They are framed by four college-wide student abilities – analysis/problem-solving, communication, responsibility and worldviews. Ongoing assessment and quality program improvements are used to upgrade faculty teaching and student learning.

SFCC is large enough to offer students a wide variety of courses and programs. Besides liberal arts courses leading to a college transfer degree, our professional-technical programs include computer science and information technology, business computer applications, early childhood education, graphic design, interpreter training, physical therapy assistant, orthotics-prosthetics, library technician, computer networking, web page design, hearing instrument specialist, along with many others.

In 1998, SFCC added airway science/aviation to its professional-technical offerings. Students complete two years of course work and flying lessons through SFCC and then transfer to the University of North Dakota to complete their four-year degree. Upon graduation, these students are qualified to become commercial airline pilots.

Distance learning opportunities are available for students whose time is limited because of family or work commitments. You can take telecourses or online classes. SFCC also is part of Washington Online (WAOL), a collaborative effort among the state's community colleges to provide Internet-based courses for students.

Student activities are another measure of the college's commitment to a comprehensive learning environment.

OUR STUDENTS

Spokane Falls Community College enrolls approximately 6,000 students. The majority of these students is working toward an associate in arts (A.A.) degree and plan to transfer to a four-year college or university. While liberal arts is a strong focus at the college, numerous students also are enrolled in courses and programs leading toward attainment of a certificate or degree in a professional-technical program.

Both traditional and nontraditional students enroll at SFCC. The average age of a student at SFCC is 26 years. Fifty-seven percent of students are female. Fourteen percent are students of color, representing diverse groups of races and ethnicity. The college's small, but expanding international program attracts students from more than a dozen foreign countries.

Most SFCC students attend full time, but also work in some capacity outside of class.

Though technically a "commuter" school, SFCC is alive with activity. Our students participate in campus projects, student government, service learning and campus clubs.

DIVERSITY

SFCC attracts students and faculty from different ethnic backgrounds. Student clubs and activities, as well as our courses and programs, celebrate the many rich ethnic contributions made by people from our country's diverse culture.

For more than 20 years, the college has emphasized

international education, drawing students from other countries, while encouraging SFCC students to work and study abroad through one of the college's international programs. Faculty exchanges and a curriculum infused with international values and knowledge round out SFCC's efforts to help develop well-educated global citizens.

OUR CAMPUS

Built on a 113-acre site overlooking the Spokane River, SFCC honors its heritage as a Native American encampment and as an outpost for the U.S. Army dating back to the late 1800's. It also strives to provide the best for its students in terms of state-of-the-art educational facilities and equipment.

The Computing, Mathematics and Science Building features a 60-foot Foucault pendulum and a 200-station instructional computing center. SFCC's Technical Arts Building opened in 1995 and includes an up-to-date computerized competency-based learning laboratory, while the college's foreign language learning center, which opened in 1999, is the only one of its kind in the state community college system.

The college's 70,000-square-foot Student Union Building (SUB) houses numerous services including financial aid, counseling, multicultural student services, the cafeteria, bookstore, game room, bowling alley, testing and assessment, job placement and student government.

The campus also has its own theater, performing arts center, art gallery, wellness/fitness center (featuring a 3,500-square-foot addition completed in 2000) and gymnasium.

