

# Community Colleges: Board Member Orientation

**AGB**  
Certificate  
of Completion

Complete this online self-paced program as an introductory or refresher course about higher education governance for community colleges, essential board responsibilities, fiduciary duties, and boardroom culture. Board Member Orientation is included with AGB membership. A digital certificate and badge are conveyed upon course completion.

## Program Overview: Introduction and Structure

### MODULE 1

#### Governance in Higher Education— Community Colleges

##### Lesson 1: Elements of Effective Governing Boards

- » The Principles of Trusteeship
- » Characteristics of High-Performing Boards
- » Responsibilities and Expectations

##### Lesson 2: Governance in Higher Education

- » Differences between Corporate and Higher Education Boards
- » Scope of Community College Boards
- » Governance of Community Colleges
- » Strategic Issues for Community Colleges
- » Top Strategic Themes

##### Lesson 3: The Role of Governance and Management

- » Effective Enterprise Leadership
- » Who Decides What?

##### Lesson 4: Shared Governance

- » What is Shared Governance?
- » Best Practices for Making Shared Governance Work
- » Suggested Practices for Three-Way Information Sharing to Facilitate Shared Governance

### MODULE 2

#### Fiduciary Duties of Governing Board Members—Community Colleges

##### Lesson 1: What is a Fiduciary?

- » Trustees are Fiduciaries
- » What Are Fiduciary Duties?
- » Overview of Care, Loyalty, and Obedience

Board member orientation courses are included with AGB membership.  
Contact [concierge@AGB.org](mailto:concierge@AGB.org) with questions.

[AGB.org/Orientation](https://www.agb.org/Orientation)

Email [concierge@AGB.org](mailto:concierge@AGB.org) or call 202-296-8400 with questions.

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## Program Overview

### MODULE 3

#### Responsibilities of Governing Boards—Community Colleges

##### Lesson 1: Understand and Support the Mission

- » The Importance of the Mission Statement

##### Lesson 2: The Chief Executive

- » The Board-President Partnership
- » How Boards Help or Hinder the President
- » Assessment and Compensation

##### Lesson 3: Strategic Planning

- » Overview of Basic Roles and Responsibilities
- » The Role of Boards in Strategic Planning
- » The Board's Role in Framing Strategic Issues

##### Lesson 4: Fiscal Integrity

- » Board Responsibility and Legal Compliance
- » Ensuring Fiscal Integrity
- » The Higher Education Business Model
- » The Board's Advocacy Role
- » The Board's Role in Fundraising

##### Lesson 5: Academic Oversight and Education Quality

- » Overview
- » Governing Board Responsibilities
- » Ensuring Academic Oversight and Educational Quality

### MODULE 4

#### Board Dynamics—Community Colleges

##### Lesson 1: Autonomy and Academic Freedom

- » History of Academic Freedom
- » The Dartmouth Decision
- » Institutional Autonomy
- » The Impact of the Dartmouth Decision
- » Academic Freedom

##### Lesson 2: Engaging with Constituents

- » Internal Constituents
- » External Constituents

##### Lesson 3: Board Policies and Operations

- » Bylaws
- » Policies
- » Board Leadership

##### Lesson 4: Board Culture

- » Commitment Statement
- » Unhealthy Boards
- » Healthy, Effective Boards

##### Lesson 5: Open Meetings and Open Records

- » Sunshine Laws of Public Institutions
- » Public Institution Considerations
- » Strategies for Effective Board Meeting Interaction in an Open Meeting Environment

Understand the issues confronting your organization, prepare yourself for effective performance, and fulfill your board and leadership responsibilities. Join the hundreds of trustees from community colleges who have enhanced their leadership impact with AGB educational programs.

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