

ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY

The mission of an institution of higher education is to serve society by discovering, investigating, communicating, and preserving knowledge through the process of academic inquiry and educating students as well as society at large. This mission cannot be fulfilled without academic freedom.

Academic freedom encompasses the right to teach, learn, and discover knowledge inside the classroom and beyond, free from censorship or interference. Academic freedom:

- safeguards the right to teach and address material regardless of how controversial;
- ensures the right to conduct research, scholarship and creative activities, as well as the right to publish, perform, or otherwise disseminate results; and
- protects students and scholars against retribution for legally-protected statements made in public or private, regardless of medium.

Academic freedom also encompasses the right to question institutional policy or action – both in one’s role as part of an institutional body and or as an individual. Similarly, faculty shall be free to address broader societal issues, free from censorship, without fear of retribution from the institution.

Academic freedom fosters a climate conducive to responsible inquiry, learning, and discovery. The university works to maintain this climate, promote academic freedom, and protect it from internal or external threats.