

Statement on Academic Freedom

Policy Type: Academic

Policy Owner: Vice President, Academic

Approval Date: March 25, 2026

Replaces: Version 2024

Initial Year of Issue: 2013

Purpose

To define the rights and obligations related to academic freedom.

Scope

Every full-time, partial-load, part-time, and/or sessional faculty member is able to exercise academic freedom in the performance of their duties. All members of the College community shall support and protect the fundamental principle of academic freedom.

Definitions

Academic freedom: includes the right to enquire about, investigate, pursue, teach, and speak freely about academic issues without fear of impairment to position or other reprisal.

Policy Statements

1. Every faculty member is able to exercise academic freedom in the performance of their duties. Academic freedom at the College includes the right to enquire about, investigate, pursue, teach, and speak freely about academic issues without fear of impairment to position or other reprisal.
2. In exercising academic freedom, employees shall be responsible for adhering to legal parameters (such as, but not limited to, the Human Rights Code, Criminal Code of

Canada, civil liability, collective agreement obligations), institutional regulations, Ministry directives, requirements of accrediting bodies, and program and curriculum requirements.

3. Academic freedom carries with it the duty to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligations to base research and teaching on an honest search for knowledge. In exercising such freedom, faculty have a responsibility to respect the academic freedom and rights of other members of the college community.
4. The College affirms that faculty shall be free to act and speak in their capacity as public citizens, provided they indicate they are speaking as individuals and not acting as representatives of the College.

Responsibilities and Accountability

Vice President, Academic is responsible for:

- Ensuring the compliance and implementation of this policy statement.
- Ensuring the development, review, and availability of this policy.

College Community has the responsibility for:

- Supporting and protecting the fundamental principle of academic freedom.

Procedures/Forms

- None

Related Policies

- [Free Speech Policy \(Freedom of Expression\)](#)
- [Responsible Conduct of Research Policy](#)
- [Intellectual Property Policy](#)
- [Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans Policy](#)
- [Institutional Neutrality Policy](#)

References

- [Applicable collective agreements](#)