

Academic Freedom Policy

The Board of Trustees of the College recognizes the professional expertise and experience of employees in adopting instructional strategies that support learning consistent with the curriculum standards of the North Carolina Community College system. The Trustees authorize the President to develop and maintain procedures to safeguard and protect academic freedom.

Academic freedom is defined as an individual's right to engage in intellectual debate, research, speech, or written or electronic correspondence, without fear of censorship, retaliation, or sanction. Academic freedom encompasses both the individual's and college's right to maintain academic standards and gives faculty members substantial latitude in deciding how to teach the courses to which they are assigned; encourage intellectual integrity; sustain pedagogical approaches consistent with the discipline taught; and evaluate student work. Academic freedom includes the right for one individual to challenge the views of another individual.

Academic freedom does not involve expression that substantially impairs the rights of others or the imposition of political, religious, or philosophical beliefs on individuals of the college community. Academic Freedom does not provide protection of faculty who demonstrate professional ignorance, incompetence, or dishonesty with regard to their assigned discipline or fields of expertise, or who engage in arbitrary or capricious evaluation of students.

References

Legal References: *Enter legal references here*

SACSCOC References: CS 3.7.4

Cross References: [Academic Freedom Procedure](#), [Program Handbook Procedure](#), [Curriculum Revision Procedure](#)

History

Leadership Council Review/Approval Dates: 01/12/2018

Senior Staff Review/Approval Dates: 3/21/2016, 12/19/17

Board of Trustees Review/Approval Dates: 4/5/2016, 02/06/2018

Implementation Dates: 7/1/2016

