

## **Academic Freedom and Responsibility**

The College considers academic freedom essential to the purpose of, and its application to, teaching and other College-related activities. The College considers responsibility as a companion to the rights and privileges of academic freedom throughout the educational process.

### **Faculty Academic Freedom and Responsibility**

1. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but paid research should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.
2. Faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject. They should present scholarship fairly, accurately, and objectively. Faculty should acknowledge the source of copyrighted intellectual property and identify personal views, beliefs, and opinions as such.
3. College faculty are members of a learned profession, and responsible members of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence, they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

### **Community Academic Freedom and Responsibility**

The College strives to sustain an environment that allows for and protects the greatest possible freedom of expression, encourages openness and discourse, and supports rigorous inquiry. Throughout the educational process, members of the college community, which include faculty, staff, students, and guests, are encouraged to participate in spirited and open debate as well as intellectual exchange. In the course of inquiry, individual members of our college community may express viewpoints that other individuals may find disagreeable, unwelcome, or objectionable.

Violation of college regulations or policies, and breach of any federal, state, or local criminal law either on campus or at any college-sponsored activity, including but not limited to: verbal harassment of/or threats directed toward any member of the college community; breach of the privacy of other individuals; breach of peace on college property or at any college-sponsored function in a manner that disturbs the instructional program, are examples of individual conduct violations that are not protected under this policy.

All individual members of the college community bear the responsibility to distinguish those behaviors that may violate the college's student Code of Conduct, Board Policy, Employee Handbook or the respective collective bargaining agreement of a represented employee, state and federal laws from those of academic freedom.

All members of the college community have the right to due process. College employees should use the procedures outlined in the Employee Handbook, or their respective collective bargaining agreements within the employee group for which they may be covered. Students should refer to the Student Handbook. Guests of the college should contact the Vice President of Instruction and Student Services with questions, concerns, or information regarding due process.

The support of academic freedom is not intended to supersede performance issues, college policies or procedures, collective bargaining agreements, complaint procedures, or municipal, state, or federal laws.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 341.290\(2\)](#)

[ORS 336.477](#)

[OAR 589-008-0100\(1\)\(f\)](#)

U.S. CONST. amend. I; U.S. CONST. amend. XIV.

OR. CONST., art. I, § 8.