

ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY

This document is the parent policy for any College or Divisional procedures. Questions regarding this policy are to be directed to the identified Policy Administrator.

Functional Category:	Academic
Approval Date:	January 24, 2013
Effective Date:	March 1, 2013
Policy Owner:	Vice President, Teaching and Learning
Policy Administrator:	Senior Manager, Academic Research and Development

Objective:

Academic freedom is essential to critical thought and open discussion. As such it is an important precept of NorQuest College (College). The College, in serving our community in our role as a comprehensive community college, recognizes that fostering independent thinking and expression is vital for all faculty, staff and students.

Authority to establish this policy is derived from the [NorQuest College Board of Governor's Policy No. 5](#), which delegates authority to the President and CEO to establish policies and procedures for the College's management and operation.

Policy:

College faculty, staff and students have all the rights to academic freedom. Academic freedom does not imply rights greater than those granted by the laws of Canada to all Canadian residents. In external communications about College business faculty and staff is required to adhere to the established College Communications Policy and Procedure.

No freedom is absolute, and no right is unlimited, therefore those who claim the right to academic freedom also accept the responsibility of being open-minded, respectful and honest.

Faculty, staff and students will not be subjected to institutional censorship or discipline in relation to academic thought and discussion.

Faculty and staff members are "free" to:

- teach and discuss in class any aspect of a topic that is pertinent to the understanding of the subject matter in the course which they are teaching,
- carry on research and publish the results subject to normal academic standards, and subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties, and
- act and speak in their capacity as a citizen.

Students are "free" to:

- courteously raise for discussion in a class any aspect of a topic which they feel is pertinent to the understanding of the subject matter being addressed in that class, and
- assemble on campus for the purpose of civil discussion of any topic or issue.

Definitions:

Academic Freedom: is the freedom to teach and conduct research in an academic environment. Academic freedom means that College faculty, staff and students are able to express their ideas without the influence of religious, political or institutional proscription.

Related Information:

- [Applied Research and the Promotion of Innovation Policy](#)
- [Code of Conduct Policy](#)
- [Code of Student Conduct: Academic Integrity and Non-Academic Misconduct Procedure](#)
- [College Communications Policy](#)
- [Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Human Participants Policy](#)
- [External College Communications Procedure](#)
- [Integrity in Research and Scholarship Policy](#)
- [Student Judicial Affairs Policy](#)

Related Procedures:

N/A

Next Review Date:

December 2015

Revision History:

January 2013: New
August 2013: update for document links and branding
December 2013: update for links
November 2014: update for change in policy administrator