

**Title: Academic Freedom**

- Initial Action:** September 23, 2019
  - Board Resolution:** 19-057
  - Last Revised**
    - **Policy:** New
    - **Procedure:** New
  - Last Reviewed:**
  - Effective:** October 28, 2019
  - Next Review:** September 2022
  - Responsibility:** President's office
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**POLICY:**

Cecil College respects and encourages academic freedom as an essential component of scholarship. This Policy allows freedom of inquiry and research that contributes to enhancing the integrity of scholarship.

**PROCEDURE:**

Faculty are free to present information and ideas related to their course content, and College students should expect to test and explore their personal views, beliefs and philosophies in new contexts during the educational process. Faculty are, however, expected to present as many sides of a potentially controversial issue as practical within their classroom teaching, assigned readings or instructional materials. Faculty are also expected to teach consistent with the College's academic standards and curricula. Academic freedom does not protect poor performance, professional ignorance, or the introduction of superfluous material.

To support an educational environment that encourages academic freedom, this policy incorporates the professional standard of academic freedom as defined by the 1940 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom published by the American Association of University Professors and the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

Faculty are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of results, subject to the satisfactory performance of their other academic duties; but research for financial return should be based on an understanding with the authorities and policies of Cecil College. This Policy does not permit faculty to harass others or engage in other conduct prohibited by law and/or College policy. All persons have the right to be free from ridicule, harassment, or threats.

College faculty are citizens, members of a learned profession, and representatives of an educational institution. When faculty communicate as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline; but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educators, faculty should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Faculty, therefore, 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, when appropriate, such as when speaking in a forum outside of the College Community.