

Southwestern Oregon Community College**BP: 4031****ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

The purpose of this statement is to promote public understanding and support of academic freedom and agreement upon procedures to ensure them in colleges and universities. Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual teacher or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition.

Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to both teaching and research. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student in freedom in learning. It carries with it duties correlative with rights.

Academic Freedom

1. Instructors 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 research for pecuniary returns should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.
2. Instructors are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matters, which have no relation to their subject.
3. College instructors are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers 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 attempt to 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 an institutional spokesperson.

END OF POLICY**Legal Reference(s):**

See Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR's)

See Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS)

United States Constitution, Amendment I Oregon

Constitution, Article 1

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, Eligibility Requirement 16