

**BP 4030 ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

**References:**

Title 5 Section 51023;  
ACCJC Accreditation Eligibility Requirement 20 and ACCJC Accreditation  
Standard I.C.7 (formerly II.A.7)

Academic Freedom, in its teaching aspect, is fundamental for the protection of the right of the teacher in teaching and of the student's freedom in learning. Academic professionals need the freedom to explore ideas that may be strange or unpopular, endeavors proper to higher education; while also maintaining the responsibility of related subject matter to the classroom.

College and university teachers 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 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.

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Date Adopted: May 15, 2007

Revised: November 25, 2014 (references only)