

**Cochise College
Administrative Policy**

**Category: Instruction
Policy Number: 3001
Title: Academic Freedom**

Cochise College believes that in a free society, faculty and students have the right to pursue teaching and learning with full freedom of inquiry. In order to assure that this viewpoint is understood by all, the Board has adopted the following policy:

Academic freedom is the right of instructors to interpret their findings and communicate these conclusions in the pursuit of truth free from any interference, molestation, or fear of penalty because the conclusions may disagree with those of individuals, constituted authorities, or organized groups outside the College. However, in exercising this right, instructors must not confuse liberty with license. The Board recognizes that a body of laws, a legislative system, and judicial review provide criteria and methods for differentiating license from freedom, and that no individual or groups of individuals should be permitted to use means other than due process of law to force their tastes, morality, or beliefs upon even the smallest minority.

Academic freedom carries with it a corresponding responsibility that emphasizes the obligation to study, to investigate, to present and interpret and to discuss facts and ideas concerning man, society, and the physical and biological world in all branches and fields of knowledge. Since human knowledge is limited and changeable, instructors will acknowledge respect for opinions held by others. While striving to avoid bias, they will nevertheless present conclusions to which they believe the evidence points.

Likewise, the academic freedom of students is the freedom to express and to defend their views and beliefs, and the freedom to differ without authoritative repression and without scholastic penalty by the faculty or by the College.

Furthermore, it is recognized that the College instructor is a member of a learned profession and an officer of an educational institution. The instructor's position in the community, therefore, imposes special obligations, since the public may judge the profession and the institution by what the instructor may say or write as a citizen. With regard to the general purposes of the courses offered in the College, all staff members of the College shall be guided by the recommendations of the Senate and the policies approved by the Governing Board.