

Policy on Academic Freedom

Policy Title: Academic Freedom

Policy Type: Administrative

Policy Number: ADM Policy #03-10-18

Responsible Office: Office of Academic Affairs

Applies to: Campus Community

Approving Authority: Cabinet (2022)

Date of Previous Revision:

PURPOSE

Wiley College publishes and implements appropriate policies and procedures for preserving and protecting academic freedom. Academic freedom is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the faculty members in teaching and for the students to pursue freedom in learning. Wiley College embraces the tradition of academic freedom for all faculty members. Academic freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth, including the freedom to conduct academic research, to publish research results, and to participate in the public discussion of research results subject to the adequate performance of assigned academic duties. The College strongly encourages research and service, the essential components of good teaching/learning.

Academic freedom does not permit unlimited choice as to the content of a course, and a faculty member is expected to teach the subject material as approved and as indicated in the course description. A significant departure from the prescribed course content constitutes teaching a new course and requires prior approval following the standard procedures for initiating a new course.

The need to teach certain courses utilizing a common syllabus or common topics will not infringe upon the individual faculty member's freedom to teach the content related to such common topics (e.g., mathematics, English) in an individual or unique way. (Faculty Handbook, Section 5.1: Academic Freedom and Corollary Obligations).

DEFINITIONS

Word/Term:

Academic Freedom - Wiley College defines Academic freedom as the principle of freedom of expression for scholars engaged in discipline-related teaching, learning, research, publication and service.

POLICY STATEMENT

Specific applications of academic freedom for faculty include the following:

1. Faculty are free to conduct research and publish on any subject in any manner they see fit, subject to the performance of their other academic duties. Research for monetary return must be based, however, on an understanding with the administration of the College. Informational copies of pre-publication materials are submitted to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Copies become part of the producer's portfolio. Any publication specifically designed to represent the College or a unit of the College, (e.g., recruitment brochures, web pages) must be (subject to) reviewed and approved by the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs prior to publication. All grant and scholarship applications must be reviewed and approved by the President, Chief Financial Officer, Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Office of Sponsored Programs.

2. Faculty are free to teach their classes in concert with the College's respect for them as academicians. While faculty at the department (discipline) level are the primary judges of the appropriateness of course content and teaching methods, courses generally are part of an established program of studies, a liberal arts orientation and a major disciplinary concentration, and should be, therefore, complementary to the programmatic objectives of the department and the mission of the College. Faculty should take a balanced approach in controversial subjects that bear no relationship to the subject of the course.

3. Faculty members are free to express themselves as citizens on any subject without restraint, retaliation, or an incivility from the College. As professionals, faculty should maintain a high standard of public discourse in both their use of evidence and their respect for the opinion of others. When they speak or write as citizens, rather than as representatives of the College, they should make every effort to convey that fact by stating the comments and thoughts shared do not in any form represent Wiley College or any of its stakeholders. Expressions and opinion share belong to the person rendering such offerings.

4. Faculty members should grant students the freedom to explore subjects and to arrive at conclusions freely, subject to the following:

- (1) faculty member's extensive knowledge of the discipline;
- (2) rules of evidence in the discipline; and
- (3) constraints of the appropriateness of course content and course objectives.
- (4) Faculty should encourage students to be independent thinkers.

5. Faculty should refrain from speaking negative connotation about the college in public discourse.

CONTACT(S)

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs officially interprets this policy. The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs is responsible for obtaining approval for any revisions as required by the Executive Cabinet for ADM Policy #03-10-18 (2022). Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Strategic Retention.