

CANADORE COLLEGE
OPERATIONAL POLICY MANUAL

TITLE: **Academic Freedom**

EFFECTIVE DATE: **November 1, 2013**

1. SCOPE

1.1. Authority

This policy is issued under the authority of the President.

1.2. Application

This policy applies to:

- a. All employees and students of the College involved in scholarship and research;
- b. All employees that have been contracted to deliver the College curriculum through a partner institution; and
- c. All researchers conducting research for, or under the auspices of the College.

2. DEFINITION

2.1. Academic Freedom

The right to enquire about, investigate without restriction, pursue controversial issues and speak freely about scholarship issues without fear of discipline or other reprisal. It includes the right to question and challenge traditional norms, and the freedom to define research questions, to pursue answers to those questions by way of unrestricted but proper investigative techniques, and to disseminate the knowledge gained to students, academic colleagues and society as a whole.

2.2. Scholarship

The pursuit, creation and dissemination of knowledge, research and other scholarly initiatives undertaken with integrity.

2.3. Researchers

All employees, students and any other individuals (collectively, "researchers") who are engaged in any research activities conducted on College premises, using College facilities or equipment, or otherwise under the direction, control or auspices of the College.

3. PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

3.1. Purpose

This policy defines the rights, obligations and limitations related to academic freedom when applied to research and scholarly activity conducted by the College employees, students and researchers.

3.2. Principles

3.2.1. Within its means, the College seeks to provide the opportunities, infrastructure, facilities and academic freedom necessary to support and maintain a high level of scholarship.

3.2.2. The College supports *education* and not *indoctrination*. It must be made clear that acceptance of the position argued for by a professor is not related to the evaluation of the student's performance in the class.

3.2.3. Academic freedom does not provide legal immunity from either criminal prosecution or from a civil action.

3.2.4. Individual academic freedom does not give permission to vary from College approved curriculum.

4. POLICY

- 4.1. Scholarship is an integral element and essential function at the College. Individuals engaged in research authorized by the College are encouraged to engage in scholarship in order to generate new knowledge, to evaluate, apply and extend knowledge and to express new ideas.
- 4.2. The expectation for academic freedom is to make intellectual scholarship, discourse and critique possible without reprisal or repression by the institution, the government or any other person or entity. Academic freedom does not require neutrality on the part of the individual.
- 4.3. Individual members of institutions are limited by the degree of autonomy available to the institution and are subject to legal parameters, professional requirements and peer review. The autonomy of an Ontario college is limited by statute, the college charter, policies established by the Government of Ontario, ethical review boards and oversight committees.
- 4.4. Academic freedom, as appropriate to an individual's College appointment and in alignment with the College Conflict of Interest policy, provides protection of the individual from College pressure intended to censure or restrict such individual from pursuing scholarly and research interests and communicating the results thereof to students, academic colleagues and the community at large. In this context, individuals are entitled to freedom in research and inquiry and in the publication or dissemination of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties.
- 4.5. Academic freedom has obligations which include: a high degree of respect for evidence; integrity in research in accordance with the conventions of the discipline; impartial reasoning; and honesty in reporting both the underlying assumptions and the results of the inquiry.

- 4.6. Research and scholarship are to be conducted ethically and in ways that fully respect human rights as defined by law. Individuals are expected to use their right for academic freedom responsibly, with respect for the rights of others and in a manner that is appropriate to and consistent with the individual's College appointment.
- 4.7. Employees, students and researchers may choose or be called upon to speak publicly in an area of expertise. In these cases, it is appropriate for them to identify themselves from the College, but they should not present their views as the official position of the College.
- 4.8. When exercising academic freedom, individuals shall be accurate, shall exercise appropriate respect for the opinions of others, and shall clearly indicate whether they are presenting personal rather than institutional views, as the former opinions clearly fall outside the purview of rights associated with academic freedom.
- 4.9. Academic freedom does not prevent performance review or peer evaluation as conducted or approved by the College or by other academic, research or professional bodies in the researcher's field, whether within or outside the College.
- 4.10. The rights of employees, students and researchers to exercise their academic freedom do not vary according to the medium in which they are exercised.
- 4.11. The College will take appropriate action for breach of this policy.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. President

The President is responsible for the overall management and operation of the College. The President will ensure that the policy is implemented and that compliance is monitored.

5.2. Vice President Academic

The Vice President Academic is responsible for the effective implementation of this policy and is to resolve any disputes arising over policy interpretation.

6. EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed every three years.