

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Academic Freedom

NOTE:

Must; Shall; Will:

Should:

May or Could; Can:

Clarification of Terms

These words or phrases indicate actions or activities that are *essential* or *mandatory*.

This word implies that it is highly desirable to perform certain actions or activities, but not essential or mandatory.

These words imply freedom or liberty to follow an alternative to the action or activity being presented in a document.

The common good of our society relies on the honest search for knowledge and the freedom to express one's opinion. It is for these reasons that academic freedom is essential at Columbia College.

Academic freedom includes the right, regardless of prescribed doctrine, to carry out scholarly activities and research. It includes: the freedom to disseminate and publish research supported documents, the freedom to produce and present creative works, freedom from institutional censorship, and freedom to facilitate learning discussions which help others and serve the community.

Columbia's faculty, staff, and students enjoy freedom of thought, expression and, therefore, academic freedom. They have the right to contribute to social and organizational change through freely expressing their opinion about the College and its administration, policies, and practices. Therefore, they will not suffer penalties for exercising such rights.

However, academic freedom carries with it the responsibility to use that freedom in a manner that is consistent with scholarly obligation, which is to base research and facilitation on an honest search for accurate knowledge. This includes recognizing and allowing the same equal rights of other faculty members, staff, and students to express their opinions while being tolerant of different points of view.