

**TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE
STATEMENT OF POLICY**

POLICY NUMBER: 8-0-1010

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POLICY TITLE: Academic Freedom

**RELATED POLICIES
AND PROCEDURES:** 8-1-1010.1, Academic Freedom Procedure
3-1-100, Academic Freedom and Responsibility-Copyright

**ADMINISTRATIVE
RESPONSIBILITY:** Chief Academic Officer

June 21, 2010

August 5, 2024

August 2, 2021

**DATE APPROVED BY
AREA COMMISSION**

DATE LAST REVIEW

DATE LAST REVISION

DISCLAIMER

PURSUANT TO SECTION 41-1-110 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SC AS AMENDED, THE LANGUAGE USED IN THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT CREATE AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE EMPLOYEE AND THE COLLEGE.

Tri-County Technical College holds to the premise that faculty and students have the right to pursue teaching and learning with full freedom of inquiry. Academic freedom and academic responsibility are inseparable. Academic freedom is the right of the faculty member to interpret their findings, in the context of relevant, class-related discourse or discourse in an area of the faculty member's expertise, to communicate conclusions in the manner that they deem most appropriate without being subjected to any interference, molestation, or penalty because these conclusions are at variance with those of constituted authorities or organized groups inside or outside the College.

Likewise, the academic freedom of the student is the freedom to express or defend views or beliefs and the freedom to question or differ without authoritative repression and without scholastic penalty by the faculty or the College as long as the student is in conformity with the Student Code of Conduct. A student's views or beliefs do not negate

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the requirement to meet academic standards as defined by the academic program's outcomes and learning outcomes.

Academic freedom carries with it corresponding responsibility. Academic responsibility emphasizes the obligation to remain current in one's discipline; to present, discuss, and interpret facts and ideas relevant to the total body of knowledge and to be in conformity with applicable State and Federal law. Since human knowledge is limited and changeable, the faculty member will acknowledge the documentation on which controversial views are expressed and will show respect for opinions held by others. While striving to avoid bias, faculty members have the right to present the conclusions to which they believe the evidence points and to test and grade based on these points.

Tri-County Technical College recognizes that commitment to academic freedom carries with it responsibilities. Faculty members are expected to fulfill their responsibilities to society and to their profession by demonstrating competence, professional discretion, and good citizenship. When they speak or write as citizens, they are free from institutional censorship and discipline; however, their positions in the community carry special responsibilities. As professional educators, they must remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence, they should at all times be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for those with whom they might disagree, and make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

Since Tri-County Technical College is dedicated to the dissemination of education; to the planning and development of skills, competencies, and understandings; and to the nurture of those personal and intellectual habits and attitudes which are peculiar to responsible individuals in a free, open, democratic society, the College, therefore, shall guarantee and protect academic freedom. The College shall, likewise, require the exercise of responsible judgment on the part of its faculty members as they exercise academic freedom.