



Title:	Academic Freedom Policy
Effective Date:	08/01/2020
Last Revision Date:	N/A
Office:	Academic Affairs

Academic Freedom Policy

Purpose

Northshore Technical Community College is committed to the principle of academic freedom and follows the LCTCS policy 1.038 Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities of Academic Staff. This principle acknowledges the right of a faculty member to those ideals. The principle also includes the right of a member of the faculty to exercise in speaking, writing and action outside the College the ordinary rights of the American citizen, but it does not decrease the responsibility and accountability the member of the instructional staff bears to the College, the state and the nation.

Scope

It is a basic principle that every member of the faculty, regardless of rank, shall be held responsible for competent and effective performance of his/her duties. The concept of academic freedom should be accompanied by an equally demanding concept of responsibility. College faculty are citizens, members of a learned profession and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As persons of learning and educational officers, they should remember that the public might judge the profession and the institution by their words and actions.

Membership in the academic community imposes on students, faculty members, and administrators an obligation to respect the dignity of others, to acknowledge their right to express differing opinions, and to foster and defend intellectual honesty, in instruction and counseling, and expression on and off campus. In addition, faculty are responsible for but not limited to policies and procedures defined in board policy, administrative regulations, and employment contract. Students are entitled to an atmosphere conducive to learning and to even-handed treatment in all aspects of the faculty-student relationship. Faculty are expected to support and fulfill the College Mission.

Definitions

Academic Freedom: Academic freedom is essential for the maintenance of excellence in education, and moreover, exists so that society may have benefits of objective and independent criticism, and honest answers to scientific, social, and artistic questions that might otherwise be withheld for fear of offending any influential social group or transient social attitude. Accordingly, there shall be no adverse



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consequences to employment status (hiring, promotion, and retention) as a result of expressions protected by academic freedom.

Review Process:

X	Reviewing Entity	Review Date	Effective Date
X	Chancellor	06/30/2020	08/01/2020
X	College Leadership Committee	06/30/2020	08/01/2020
X	Academic Affairs Committee	06/30/2020	08/01/2020

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