

Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good. The common good depends upon a free search for truth and its free expression.

It is essential that faculty members be able to pursue scholarly inquiry without undue restriction, and to voice and publish their beliefs concerning the significance of evidence that they consider relevant. They must be free from the corrosive fear that others, inside or outside the College District community, may threaten their professional career or the material benefits accruing from it because of differing views.

Faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing the disciplines that they teach. Faculty members are also a citizen of their nation, state, and community, and when they speak or write as such, must be free from institutional censorship or discipline.

**Academic
Responsibilities**

The concept of academic freedom shall be accompanied by an equally demanding concept of responsibility, shared by governing boards, administrators, and faculty members.

The essential responsibilities of governing boards and administrators are set forth by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as updated and revised.

The fundamental responsibilities of faculty members include recognition that the public shall judge their profession and their institution by their statements. Therefore, they shall strive to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, to show respect for the opinion of others, and to avoid creating the impression that they speak or act for the College District when they speak or act as a private person.

Instructors shall be judicious in the use of controversial material in the classroom and shall introduce such material only as it has clear relationship to their subject field.