



## 1.1 Academic Freedom Policy

Category: Board of Trustees

Name of Responsible Office: Academic and Student Affairs

Title of Responsible Executive: Provost and Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs

Date Established: August 14, 2017

Date Last Approved: April 27, 2021

### Summary

Monroe Community College defines academic freedom as an individual's right to engage in intellectual debate, research, speech, and in writing, on and off campus, without fear of censorship, retaliation, or sanction. Academic freedom encompasses both the individual's and institution's responsibility to maintain academic standards and to encourage intellectual integrity. Academic freedom preserves the right of individuals to disagree with college policies or procedures or to challenge the views of another individual. Embracing both rights and responsibilities, academic freedom aids the college community in its pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning. This document describes MCC's Academic Freedom policy.

### Policy

#### *Background*

Monroe Community College fosters an environment of excellence in teaching, learning, and inquiry by sustaining freedom of expression, scholarly pursuit of knowledge, spirited and open debate, and intellectual exchange, in a culture of mutual respect. Academic freedom is vital to the college community's shared goal of the pursuit of knowledge, is fundamental to the exploration of new ideas, and is essential as we learn from each other.

As such, academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to all disciplines; it is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the college community and carries with it attendant responsibilities.

#### *Policy Statement*

- Monroe Community College adheres to the 1967 Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students, the 1940 AAUP Statement on Principles of Academic Freedom, and subsequently approved Interpretive Comments (1970). MCC hereby adopts the AAUP 1940 Statement on Academic Freedom and Tenure and subsequently approved Interpretive Comments (1970), as a fundamental guide for deliberations and actions pertaining to academic freedom and tenure at this College.
- Monroe Community College affirms the academic freedom policy of the State University of New York as embodied in Article XI, Title I of the Policies of the Board, section 335.27 of Title 8 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York.

It is the policy of the university to maintain and encourage full freedom, within the law, of inquiry, teaching and research. In the exercise of this freedom faculty members may, without limitation, discuss their own subject in the classroom; they may not, however, claim as their right the privilege of discussing in their classroom controversial matter which has no relation to their subject. The principle of academic freedom shall be accompanied by a corresponding principle of responsibility. In their role as citizens, employees have the same freedoms as other citizens. However, in their extramural utterances employees have an obligation to indicate that they are not institutional spokespersons.

- This policy acknowledges the rights of due process and representation of employees covered by the College collective bargaining agreements.

### ***Responsibility***

Provost and Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs

Vice President, Economic Development, Workforce and Career Technical Education

### **Contact Information**

Office of the Provost and Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs

### **Related Information**

#### ***Other Related Documents***

[AAUP 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure](#)

[SUNY Policies of the Board of Trustees, Article XI, Title I. Academic Freedom](#)

[Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York, Title 8, Chapter 5, Subchapter B, Part 335.27, title I, Academic Freedom](#)

[Joint Statement on Rights and Freedom of Students](#)