

BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD POLICY

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I TITLE OF POLICY

Academic Freedom and Responsibility

II OBJECTIVE OF REGULATION

To provide academic freedom guidelines for faculty and staff

III AUTHORITY

Board of Trustees Bylaws

IV STATEMENT OF POLICY

Academic Freedom is essential to the search for truth and to the free exercise of the right of expression by all members of the academic community. The College will encourage a free exchange of ideas and opinions representing a broad spectrum of positions and points of view.

The responsibility of having Academic Freedom is to insure that the rights and beliefs of others are not infringed upon.

For all members of the academic community, Academic Freedom provides:

1. The right to determine the content and methodology of instruction consistent with the catalog course description and the course syllabus.
2. The right to discuss subject matter as they see fit.

3. The right to discuss controversial issues relating to their discipline, with an obligation to remember that they have an unusual influence on the opinions and values of the students.
4. The right to retain all rights as citizens to free speech and publication. Such rights are not, as such, subject to institutional censorship or discipline.
5. Freedom in research and publication where these activities do not interfere with the performance of academic duties.

In accepting the right of Academic Freedom, all members of the academic community accept these corollary responsibilities:

1. To present material with clarity, fairness and accuracy.
2. To avoid introducing controversial issues where they are not relevant to instruction.
3. To handle controversial issues with respect for the expression of differing points of view.
4. To strive to distinguish among fact, philosophies, theories, and opinions.
5. To avoid presenting personal philosophy as fact.
6. To impart clearly to all that viewpoints expressed in an academic setting do not represent the official position of the college.

For the students, Academic Freedom provides:

1. The right to freedom of inquiry and expression.
2. The right to be judged on the basis of performance in assigned tasks, not on the basis of personal viewpoint.

Academic Freedom requires that the student accept the responsibility:

1. To seek to distinguish between opinion and fact.
2. To show respect for the right of others to free expression and inquiry.

V RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

President

Approved: Board of Trustees 5/18/70
Revised: 1/10/02