

# Academic and Intellectual Freedoms Policy

Policy #	AA-113	Revision #	02
Accessibility level	A	Effective date	20 Jan 2021

## 1. Purpose

This Policy highlights the rules and regulations governing students' academic and intellectual freedoms, the violations of, and the associated disciplinary actions.

## 2. Definitions

N.A.

## 3. Policy

### 3.1. Freedom in Classroom

- A) Students are responsible for learning the content of the courses in which they enroll though they should be free to take reasoned exemption to the data or views offered in any course of study and reserve judgment about matters of opinion.
- B) Students are responsible for complying with standards of academic performance required by each course in which they are enrolled. Such standards shall be communicated clearly in writing on or before the first meeting of each course. Students should have protection against prejudiced, arbitrary, and unfair academic evaluation.

### 3.2. Freedom of Inquiry and Expression

- A) Students and their official organizations are free to examine, discuss questions and issues of interest to them, and to express their opinions whether in public or private.
- B) Such freedom does not, however, permit student groups to disrupt the orderly processes of the educational environment, nor does it permit the expression of ideas in ways which violate civil or criminal laws, blatantly disregard the truth, threaten, demean, or libel others.
- C) In expressing their views, students and their official organizations should make clear that such views are not necessarily those of the University.

### 3.3. Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity and honesty are central components of a student's education. Ethical conduct maintained in an academic context will eventually be taken into student's professional career. Anything less than total commitment to honesty undermines the efforts of the entire academic community. Both students and faculty are responsible for ensuring the academic integrity of the University.

### 3.4. Cheating

Students who use non-permissible written, verbal, or oral assistance, including that obtained from another student during examinations, in course assignments, or on projects, are guilty of cheating. Cheating is essentially fraud. It deceives others and causes them to make an assessment based on the misinterpretation of a student's actual ability, or performance.

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Cheating is a violation of the University's academic regulations and is subject to disciplinary action.

### 3.5. Plagiarism

Students who fail to credit properly ideas or materials taken from others commit plagiarism. Putting his/her name on a piece of work-any part of which is not yours- constitutes plagiarism, unless that piece is clearly marked and the work from which he/she has borrowed is fully identified. Plagiarism is a violation of the university's academic regulations and is subject to disciplinary action.

### 3.6. Range of Disciplinary Actions

Abusing any of the intellectual freedoms will result in disciplinary actions that correspond to the type of abuse.

- A) **Warning:** This may be oral or written. It is a statement that the student has inadvertently violated a University regulation. The warning will be documented and recorded. Examples: attempt to cheat in an exam, littering, and smoking in prohibited areas.
- B) **Reprimand:** This will be in writing. It is a statement that the student has violated a university regulation. It is intended to communicate most strongly, both the disapproval and the reprimand of the university community. Examples: inadvertent plagiarism, failure to cite sources appropriately, and inappropriate conduct in examinations.
- C) **Dean's Warning:** This will be in writing. Only two Dean's warnings are allowed in a student's academic career at the University. It is recommended that any violation of the University regulations after the second Dean's warning results in consideration of suspension. Dean's warnings are normally accompanied by secondary disciplinary actions. Examples: plagiarism, academic dishonesty, in-class disruption, mental or physical harm, discrimination and harassment.
- D) **Suspension:** This will be in writing and will form part of the student's permanent record (it will appear on the student's transcript). A student may be suspended for a fixed period of time during which the student may not participate in any academic or other activities at the University. At the end of the suspension period, the student may be readmitted to the university, only upon the recommendation of the University Disciplinary Committee. Examples: cheating, theft, and vandalism.
- E) **Expulsion:** This will be in writing and will form part of the student's permanent record (it will appear on the student's transcript). Expulsion denies the student the right to participate in any academic or other activities at the University for an indefinite time. Only under the most unusual circumstances, and upon the recommendation of the University Disciplinary Committee, will an expelled student be readmitted to the University. On the other hand, cases whereby other committees, e.g., the student affairs committee recommend suspension or expulsion of a student, should be referred to the University Disciplinary Committee. Example cases include: academic dishonesty, possession of dangerous weapons or materials, and endangering public safety.

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3.7. Any person who maliciously lies to cover up an act sanctioned by the code of conduct will be considered an accessory after the fact and may be subject to disciplinary action.

#### 4. Related Documents

4.1. Student Academic Appeals and Grievance Procedure (AA-113-P1)