
POLICY

Aurora College will ensure a teaching, learning, and research environment that supports academic freedom.

PRINCIPLES

1. Post-secondary educational institutions serve the common good of society through searching for, and disseminating, knowledge, truth, and understanding and through fostering independent thinking and expression in staff and students. These ends cannot be achieved without academic freedom.
2. The free and open pursuit of knowledge allows individuals to reach different conclusions and hold differing viewpoints.
3. The right to academic freedom carries with it the duty of academic responsibility.

SCOPE

In this policy, Academic Freedom and Academic Responsibility encompass the areas of teaching and learning, curriculum design and development, research and publication, and institutional, professional, and community activities. This policy applies to Aurora College staff and students.

DEFINITIONS

Academic Freedom includes freedom of inquiry, the right to disseminate the results of that inquiry, freedom to challenge conventional thought, freedom to express one's opinion about the institution, its administration, or the system in which one works, and freedom from institutional censorship.

Academic Responsibility includes the duty to respect the rights of others, to exercise academic freedom in a reasonable and responsible manner, and to respect the academic objectives of Aurora College, as outlined in Aurora College documents such as course and program outlines and the mission statement.

1.0 ACADEMIC FREEDOM

- 1.1 Aurora College staff have academic freedom to engage in activities without institutional censorship or reprisal. This includes but is not limited to:
 - 1.1.1 Teaching and discussing in their classes any aspect of a topic pertinent to the understanding of the subject matter of the course which they are teaching.
 - 1.1.2 Expressing their opinions on matters related to teaching and curricular responsibilities.
 - 1.1.3 Conducting research and disseminating the results subject to the adequate performance of their other duties.
 - 1.1.4 Participating in professional and representative bodies.
 - 1.1.5 Producing and performing creative works.
 - 1.1.6 Engaging in service to the College and community.
 - 1.1.7 Acting or speaking in their capacity as citizens.

- 1.2 Aurora College students have academic freedom to engage in activities without institutional censorship or reprisal. This includes but is not limited to:
- 1.2.1 Discussing in a class aspects of a topic pertinent to the subject matter of that class.
 - 1.2.2 Expressing their opinions about the institution and matters related to their course of study.
 - 1.2.3 Assembling on campus for the purpose of discussion of topics or issues.
 - 1.2.4 Carrying out research under the guidance of a staff member and disseminating the results.
 - 1.2.5 Producing and performing creative works.
 - 1.2.6 Engaging in service to the College and the community.
 - 1.2.7 Acting or speaking in their capacity as citizens.

2.0 ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 In the exercising of academic freedom, Aurora College staff and students will:
- 2.1.1 Respect the academic freedom of others.
 - 2.1.2 Maintain accuracy, integrity, and academic honesty.
 - 2.1.3 Respect their obligations to the College.
 - 2.1.4 Adhere to federal and territorial legislation (e.g. *Criminal Code* [Canada] and *Human Rights Act* [NWT]).
 - 2.1.5 Adhere to Aurora College bylaws and policies and Government of the Northwest Territories policies (e.g. *Code of Conduct Respecting Conflict of Interest and Oath of Office and Secrecy for the Employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories*).
 - 2.1.6 Ensure that they do not present their personal views or actions as the official position of Aurora College.

SUPPORTING PROCEDURES, FORMS, AND RULES

There are no supporting procedures, forms, or rules.

RELATED POLICIES

- G.10 *Release of Information*
- I.03 *Integrity in Research and Scholarship*
- I.06 *Intellectual Property*

RELATED AURORA COLLEGE BYLAWS

- Bylaw #1 *Student Conduct*
- Bylaw #2 *Academic and Performance Standards*
- Bylaw #3 *Student Loss of Privileges, Penalties, Sanctions, and Appeals*



FACT SHEET

DATES:

2014-03-05

New policy issued.

Policy and Program Committee Motion #PP06-2014.

Board of Governors Motion #BG12-2014.

Implemented April 1, 2014.

2016-02-17

Policy revised.

Policy and Program Committee Motion #PC04-2016

Board of Governors Motion #BG05-2016

Implemented March 1, 2016