RE 07  Academic Freedom Rights and Responsibilities

Classification: Research
Responsible Authority: Director, Applied Research and Innovation
Executive Sponsor: Vice President, Academic
Approval Authority: President’s Council
Date of Original Policy: 2013.07.05
Date Last Reviewed: 2014.06.09
Mandatory Review Date: 2019.06.09

PURPOSE
To define academic freedom in scholarly activities, and the associated rights and responsibilities.

SCOPE
This policy applies to Algonquin College faculty, staff and students who are authorized in writing by the College to engage in scholarly activities.

DEFINITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word/Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<td>Academic Freedom</td>
<td>Faculty, staff and students have the right to enquire about and investigate without restriction, scholarly activities, some of which could be perceived as controversial, without fear of impairment to position or other reprisal.</td>
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<td>Scholarly Activities</td>
<td>Research endeavours in the pursuit, creation and dissemination of knowledge, applied and otherwise.</td>
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POLICY

1. Algonquin College is committed within its means, to provide the opportunities, infrastructure, facilities and academic freedom necessary to support a high level of scholarly activities.

2. All scholarly activities must be conducted ethically and in ways that fully respect human rights as defined in law. Faculty, staff and students are expected to use their right of academic freedom responsibly, with respect for the rights of others and in a manner that is appropriate to, and consistent with, their College appointment or role, and in adherence with College policies.

3. College faculty, staff and students are members of an educational institution whose special position in the community imposes unique obligations, and as such, as a group must be cognizant of their position as institutional representatives. Hence, faculty, staff and students shall be accurate; shall exercise appropriate respect for the opinions of others; and shall clearly indicate whether they are
presenting personal rather than institutional views, as the former opinions clearly fall outside the purview of rights associated with academic freedom.

4. Academic freedom does not confer legal immunity from either criminal prosecution or from a civil action, whether from a claim in damages by a third party or seeking of indemnification and recovery by the College, nor does it prevent peer review as conducted or approved by the College or by other academic, research or professional bodies in the field, whether within or outside the College.

5. All faculty, staff and students who are authorized in writing by the College for purposes of engaging in scholarly activities as governed by this policy are individually accountable to comply with this policy. Breaches of College policies, including the Academic Freedom Policy, may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

**RELATED POLICIES**

AA 34 Copyright  
AD 02 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy  
HR 12 Conflict of Interest  
HR 22 Harassment and Discrimination  
RE 01 Research Administration  
RE 02 Integrity in Research and Scholarly Activities  
RE 03 Research Involving Human Subjects  
RE 04 Use of Animals in Research, Teaching and Other Activities  
RE 05 Intellectual Property  
RE 06 Use of Biohazardous and Radioactive Materials in Research and Education  
SA 07 Student Conduct

**RELATED MATERIALS**


Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act  