

**TITLE:**                    **ACADEMIC FREEDOM**  
(Relates to EL-2: Treatment of Staff)  
(Relates to EL-7: Treatment of Students)  
(Relates to EL-8: Curriculum and Instruction)

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 18, 1987

**REVISED DATE:** April 7, 2003

**PURPOSE:**

The existence of academic freedom creates and maintains protected arenas for critical thought and open discussion vital to the social health of the nation. Accordingly, Red Deer College recognizes the need to ensure that its students and faculty are guaranteed this right to academic freedom.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

Red Deer College students and faculty have all the rights to academic freedom as specified in the following guidelines.

**Guidelines:**

1. Academic freedom does not imply rights greater than those granted by the laws of Canada to all Canadian residents.
2. As no freedom is absolute and no right is unlimited, those who claim the right to academic freedom also accept the concomitant responsibilities of being open-minded, respectful, and honest.
3. "Freedom" implies that students and instructors will not be subjected to institutional censorship or discipline.
4. Members of the academic staff are "free":
  - to teach and discuss in their classes any aspect of a topic pertinent to the understanding of the subject matter of the course which they are teaching.
  - to carry on research and publish the results subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties.
  - to act or speak in their capacity as a citizen.

5. Students are "free":

- to raise for discussion in a class any aspect of a topic which they feel is pertinent to the understanding of the subject matter being addressed in that class.
- to assemble on campus for the purpose of discussion of any topic or issue.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** Vice President Education

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Dean of Student Services  
**Consultation for Review:** Faculty, students, FARDC (as per Letter of Understanding in Collective Agreement)

**Policy Review Date:** April 2006  
**Associated Standard Practice:** [Publicity and Media Relations](#)  
Student Rights and Responsibilities (under review)