

Policy Title	Academic Freedom Policy
Policy Holder	Vice President Academic
Policy Approver(s)	Senior Team
Related Policies	
Related Procedures	
Appendices	
Storage Location	Website - https://www.confederationcollege.ca/policies-and-procedures
Effective Date	2023Nov16
Next Review Date	2028Nov16

Purpose

The goals of this policy are to:

- protect the rights of individuals in their pursuit of knowledge without fear of reprisals by the college or by third parties;
- protect the rights of individuals to communicate acquired knowledge and the results of research freely;
- promote and protect creativity;
- protect the reputation of Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology.

Scope

The Academic Freedom Policy pertains to all members of Confederation’s academic community, including administration, faculty, staff, and students.

Definitions

Academic Freedom	The freedom to teach and conduct research in an academic environment. Academic freedom includes the right to freely communicate knowledge and the results of research and scholarship without fear of impairment to position or other reprisal.
Scholarship	The pursuit, creation, and dissemination of knowledge through integrity in research and other scholarly initiatives

Governing Laws and Regulations

Minister’s Binding Policy Directive: Framework for Programs of Instruction
 Ontario Qualifications Framework

Policy Statements

As an institution dedicated to learning, teaching, and service, Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology is committed to the principle of free expression and exploration of ideas in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance. Like other freedoms, academic freedom requires both the assumption of risk and responsibility. Confederation recognizes that the free play of ideas is necessary for the discovery and the dissemination of knowledge. However, just as the freedom to act carries with it the responsibility for those actions, the freedom to express ideas carries with it an attendant responsibility and accountability.

Confederation College functions within an academic community that aspires to the goal of mutual respect, and to providing an environment that is free of discrimination and harassment. Academic freedom does not relieve any member of the academic community from his/her obligations or duties inherent in the roles associated with the teaching and learning process, program learning outcomes, and all applicable legislation. Confederation requires that its members exercise academic freedom responsibly.

Confederation recognizes the rights and privileges of faculty, staff, students, and invited guests to undertake scholarly research, engage in legitimate classroom discussion, perform teaching and learning activities, explore and produce creative work, engage in community service, and hold academic discussion, within the parameters established by the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Act (2002), Confederation policies and procedures, ethical guidelines, and all applicable legislation. Confederation advocates for diversity of opinions in our learning environments.

Non-Compliance

It is the joint responsibility of the Registrar and Dean to ensure that the guidelines contained in this policy are followed and adhered to in order to effectively and efficiently support student focused learning objectives. Lack of compliance will result in delays in academic operations and student success.

Revision History

Version	Change	Author	Date of Change
	New format	Richard Gemmill	2023-04-20