

Procedure: 5.1.1p

Academic Freedom

Revised: July 15, 2015

Last Reviewed: July 02, 2026

Adopted: September 1, 1988



I. PURPOSE:

The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) supports the concept of academic freedom. In developing knowledge, research endeavors, and creative activities, faculty and students must be free to cultivate a spirit of inquiry and scholarly criticism. Faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom to discuss their subjects. Although caution must be used not to introduce teaching matters that have no relation to the instructional field, faculty and students must be able to examine ideas in an atmosphere of freedom and confidence, and they should feel free to participate as responsible citizens in community affairs. TCSG and its institutions safeguard and protect these rights of academic freedom by providing faculty and students the right to initiate grievance procedures should they have complaints dealing with the infringement of or personal penalization as the result of the exercise of this freedom.

Faculty members must fulfill their responsibilities to society and their profession by manifesting competence, professional discretion, and good citizenship. They will be free from institutional censorship or discipline when they speak or write as citizens. As professional educators, faculty members must be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for the opinions of others, and make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

The principles of academic freedom shall not prevent the institution from making reasonable efforts to ensure the best possible instruction for all students in accordance with the objectives of the institution.

II. RELATED AUTHORITY:

O.C.G.A. § 20-4-11 – Powers of Board
O.C.G.A. § 20-4-14 – TCSG Established; Powers and Duties

III. APPLICABILITY:

All work units and Technical Colleges associated with the Technical College System of Georgia.

IV. DEFINITIONS: N/A

V. ATTACHMENTS: N/A

VI. PROCEDURE: N/A

VII. RECORD RETENTION: N/A