

Board of Trustees

3335-5-01 Academic freedom and responsibility.

- (A)** The Ohio state university endorses full academic freedom as essential to attain the goal of the free search for truth and its free exposition. Academic freedom and academic responsibility are twin guardians of the integrity of institutions of higher learning. This integrity is essential to the preservation of a free society and explains the willingness of society historically to accept the concept of academic freedom and, in addition, to protect it through the institution of academic tenure.
- (B)** The principal elements of academic freedom include the freedom of faculty to:
1. Teach, conduct research, and publish research findings;
 2. Discuss in classrooms, in their own manner, any material that is relevant to the subject matter as defined in the course syllabus;
 3. Exercise their constitutional rights as citizens without institutional censorship or discipline;
 4. Seek changes in academic and institutional policies through lawful and peaceful means.
- (C)** Academic freedom carries with it correlative academic responsibilities. The principal elements include the responsibility of faculty to:
1. Meet their defined teaching, research, and service obligations;
 2. Pursue excellence, intellectual honesty, and objectivity in teaching, in conducting research, and in publishing research findings;
 3. Encourage students and colleagues to engage in free discussion and inquiry;
 4. Evaluate student and colleague performance on a scholarly basis;
 5. Refrain from persistently introducing matters that have no bearing on the subject matter of the course;
 6. Work with appropriate individuals and bodies to provide optimal conditions conducive to the attainment of the free search for truth and its free exposition;
 7. Differentiate carefully between official activities as faculty and personal activities as citizens, and to act accordingly.

(Board approval dates: 9/14/1965, 5/2/1975, 3/1/1985, 6/7/2013)

