

Academic Freedom, Honesty, and Integrity

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Responsible Executive:	President
Approval Authority:	Senior Leadership Team
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Category:	Administration

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to affirm Coquitlam College's (the College) commitment to the principles of academic freedom, honesty, and integrity as fundamental to higher education.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all faculty and students engaged in post-secondary programs. It establishes the full scope of responsibilities, rights, and procedures related to academic freedom, honesty, and integrity at the College. The College's public *Statement on Academic Freedom* provides an accessible summary of these principles.

POLICY STATEMENTS

1. The College recognizes academic freedom as a foundation of teaching and learning. Academic Freedom includes:
 - **Freedom of Inquiry**
Faculty and students may pursue scholarly or creative activities and share results without censorship or undue interference, subject to ethical and legal standards.
 - **Freedom of Teaching**
Faculty have the autonomy to design and deliver courses, select instructional materials, and present diverse perspectives, provided these align with approved course curricula and learning outcomes.
 - **Freedom of Expression**
Faculty and students may express ideas, opinions, and beliefs freely, inside and outside the classroom, without fear of retaliation or censorship.
2. Academic freedom comes with the following obligations:
 - Faculty and students must maintain scholarly accuracy, rigor, and ethical standards.
 - All members of the College community are expected to engage respectfully with diverse perspectives and to foster constructive dialogue.
 - Academic freedom must be exercised responsibly, consistent with the rights, safety, and well-being of others and the mission and values of the College.
3. The College upholds academic honesty and integrity as essential to learning and scholarship:
 - Students must complete academic work truthfully and responsibly, acknowledging sources and avoiding plagiarism, cheating, or misrepresentation.

- Faculty must assess student work fairly and uphold integrity in teaching and professional practice.
 - Breaches of academic integrity are addressed under the Student Academic Responsibility Policy 2.2.1 or the Employee Professional Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy 3.1.2.
4. The College affirms that it will:
- Protect and uphold the academic freedom of faculty and students.
 - Refrain from penalizing anyone who exercises academic freedom in good faith within this policy and the law.
 - Provide education and resources to support understanding of academic freedom, honesty, and integrity.
 - Promote a campus culture that values open inquiry, respectful dialogue, and scholarly integrity.
5. Academic Freedom is not absolute. It may be reasonably limited to ensure compliance with applicable laws, protection of safety and well-being, and alignment with the College's mission and approved academic programs.

PROCEDURES

6. Faculty or students who believe their academic freedom has been compromised may submit a written concern to the Chief Academic Officer (CAO). The CAO will review the concern, consult with relevant parties, and provide a written response, normally within thirty (30) days of receipt.
7. If unresolved, the matter may be referred to the President for review and decision.
8. Appeals may be pursued through the Student Complaints and Dispute Resolution Policy 1.4.2 or the Employee Professional Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy 3.1.2, as appropriate.

DEFINITIONS

Academic Freedom: The right of faculty and students to pursue inquiry, teaching, learning, and expression without undue interference, censorship, or retaliation, within the framework of professional and institutional standards.

Academic Honesty / Integrity: Conducting all academic work truthfully, responsibly, and in accordance with recognized standards of scholarship and ethics, without plagiarism, cheating, or misrepresentation.

RELATED RESOURCES

- [Coquitlam College Statement on Academic Freedom](#)
- [Employee Professional Standards and Conflict of Interest Policy 3.1.2](#)
- [Student Academic Responsibility Policy 2.2.1](#)
- [Student Complaints and Dispute Resolution Policy 1.4.2](#)
- [Canadian Chart of Rights and Freedoms](#), [The Constitution Act, 1982](#), Schedule B to the Canada Act 1982 (UK), 1982, c 11
- [Copyright Act](#), RSC 1985, c C-42
- [Criminal Code](#), RSC 1985, c C-46BC
- [Human Rights Code](#), RSBC 1996, c 210
- [Personal Information Protection Act](#), SBC 2003, c 63