



Academic Freedom (I.A.)

Volume I: Academic and Research Affairs

Chapter A: Education and Research

Responsible Executive: President

Responsible Office: Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

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CONTACTS

Subject	Contact	Telephone	Email/Web Address
Policy Clarification	Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs	765-494-5425	www.purdue.edu/provost/about/facultyAffairs.html
Calumet and North Central Campus Questions	Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs	219-989-2446 or 219-785-5243	vcaa@purduecal.edu
Fort Wayne Campus Questions	Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management	260-481-6116	www.ipfw.edu/offices/oa/contact/
West Lafayette Campus Questions	Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs	765-494-5425	www.purdue.edu/provost/about/facultyAffairs.html

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Purdue University is committed to fostering a community where scholarship, research and creative expression thrive. Academic freedom is fundamental to the pursuit of knowledge in that it encourages open discourse, inquiry and debate among faculty and students.

Faculty, lecturers, instructors, researchers and students have full freedom as researchers, scholars and artists, and are assured freedom to communicate their work, to advocate solutions to human problems and to criticize existing institutions. This freedom is subject only to adequate performance of their academic duties and to obligations they may have voluntarily assumed in accepting support for their scholarly work or research. It should be recognized that research activities are also subject to University policies on patents, copyrights and inventions set forth in the policy on Intellectual Property (I.A.1), as updated from time to time, where applicable, and to duly established regulations designed to protect the rights and welfare of human subjects.

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Faculty, lecturers and instructors, have freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject matter. They also have the responsibility to avoid infringing upon the students' right to learn by introducing irrelevant subject matter.

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Faculty members are members of society; when they speak or write in that capacity, freedom from University discipline prevails. The special position in the community enjoyed by a faculty member, however, imposes special obligations. As a scholar and a member of the University faculty, the public may judge one's profession and the University by public utterances. A faculty member is expected to make every effort to indicate that he/she is not a spokesperson for the University when speaking or acting as a private person. A faculty member who assumes a governmental or political position or responsibility with the full consent and knowledge of the University is protected in his or her tenure rights in the event of controversy arising from the performance of such governmental or political duties.

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REASON FOR THIS POLICY

The University reaffirms its commitment to academic freedom, which is essential to its educational mission and critical to diversity and intellectual life.

INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY

Faculty, lecturers, instructors, researchers and students of Purdue University.

EXCLUSIONS

There are no exclusions to this policy.

RESPONSIBILITIES

President, Vice Presidents, Chancellors, Vice Chancellors, Vice Provosts, Deans, Directors and Department Heads/Chairs

- Recognize the academic freedom afforded to faculty members and students.

Faculty, Lecturers, Instructors and Researchers

- Recognize the academic freedom afforded to colleagues and students.
- In exercising one's own academic freedom, remain faithful to one's professional duties and obligations.

Students

- Recognize the academic freedom afforded to faculty, lecturers, instructors, researchers and fellow students.

DEFINITIONS

Defined terms are capitalized throughout the document and may be found in the central [Policy Glossary](#).

RELATED DOCUMENTS, FORMS AND TOOLS

[Intellectual Property \(I.A.1\)](http://www.purdue.edu/policies/academic-research-affairs/ia1.html): www.purdue.edu/policies/academic-research-affairs/ia1.html

WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR THIS POLICY

[University Policy Office will complete.]

HISTORY AND UPDATES

[Date TBD]: This policy supersedes language that pertains to academic freedom in the Principles and Policies for Academic Freedom, Responsibilities and Tenure, and Procedures for Termination of Faculty Appointments for Cause (Executive Memorandum No. B-48), dated July 1, 1977.

APPENDIX

There are no appendices to this policy.