

**WALLA WALLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC FREEDOM  
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 6240**

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**I. POLICY BACKGROUND/PURPOSE**

As an institution of higher education, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC) commits itself to academic freedom for faculty and students. This policy intends to protect the faculty's and students' right to academic freedom.

**II. AUTHORITY**

Board Policy 1370; [Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities](#) (NWCCU); [American Association of University Professors](#) (AAUP); Collective Bargaining Agreement Article 9.2.

**III. SCOPE OF POLICY**

This policy applies to all WWCC faculty and students.

**IV. POLICY**

A. Academic Freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for protecting the rights of the faculty member in teaching. This liberty carries with it, duties correlative with the faculty member's rights; in discussing the subject in the classroom, in research, and publication, as a citizen, as a member of the institution, and as a member of the local community. Faculty specific rights:

1. A faculty member is entitled to freedom in the classroom to discuss any subjects that fit within the course/division/college outcomes.
2. A faculty member is entitled to full freedom in research and the publication of the results within the existing college policies concerning printing and publication.
3. A faculty member is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline.
4. As a member of their institution, the faculty member seeks above all to be an effective teacher. Although they observe the stated regulations of the institution, they maintain their rights to question policies/decisions of the college and seek revision.
5. The district policy on academic freedom shall not infringe upon the specified rights herein as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement Article 9.2.
6. No college employee or student shall interfere with the open and free expression of ideas in the classroom.
7. Each employee is entitled to freedom in the classroom in the discussion and presentation of the subject they teach.

B. WWCC also acknowledges student's right to academic freedom to learn. Students' diverse perspectives are valuable in the learning process. Academic freedom protects students who disagree with the instructor or students in the context of class discussions and assignments. Student specific rights:

1. Students' diverse perspectives are valued and add to the learning environment.
2. A student is entitled to confidentiality about their expressed diverse views and beliefs.

3. A student is entitled to freedom of expression in the classroom and in course assignments.
4. A student has protection from unfair evaluation of class assignments because of their expressed views and beliefs.
5. A student's diverse perspectives are not necessarily a representation of the WWCC mission and values.

<p><b>Policy Contact:</b> <u>Vice President, Instruction</u></p> <p><b>Approved by (Department/Body):</b> <u>Dr. Chad Hickox, President</u></p> <p><b>Date Originally Approved:</b> <u>May 23, 2022</u></p> <p><b>Last Reviewed/Revised on:</b> _____</p>
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