

## MANUAL OF POLICY

<b>Title</b>	<b>Academic Freedom and Responsibility</b>	<b>3030</b>
<b>Legal Authority</b>	<b>Approval of the Board of Trustees</b>	<b>Page 1 of 2</b>
<b>Date Approved by Board</b>	<b>Board Minute Order dated November 9, 1995</b>	

South Texas College, as an institution of higher education, serves the common good which depends upon an uninhibited search for truth and its open expression. The points enumerated below constitute the College's position on academic freedom:

1. Faculty members are appointed to impart to their students and to their communities the truth as they see it in their respective disciplines. The teacher's right to teach preserves the student's right to learn.
2. The mastery of a subject makes a faculty member a qualified authority in that discipline and competent to choose how to present its information and conclusions to students. The following are among the freedoms and responsibilities which should reside primarily with the faculty: shared participation in planning and revising curricula, selecting supplemental readings, selecting classroom films and other teaching materials.
3. Faculty members are citizens and, therefore, possess the rights of citizens. These rights include, among others, the right as private citizens to speak freely outside the classroom on matters of public concern and to participate in lawful political activities.
4. Prior restraint or sanctions should not be imposed upon faculty members in the exercise of their rights as citizens or duties as teachers. Nor should faculty members fear reprisals for exercising their civic rights and academic freedom.
5. Faculty members have a right to expect the Board of Trustees and administrators to uphold vigorously the principles of academic freedom and to protect them from harassment, censorship, or interference from outside groups and individuals.
6. Academic freedom should not be used to infringe on student rights or abilities.
7. Individual faculty members will be responsible for choosing instructional methodologies, assigning grades, and maintaining classroom discipline.

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The academic freedom of faculty members is accompanied by equally compelling obligations and responsibilities to their profession, their students, their institutions, and their communities. Faculty members must defend the rights of academic freedom while accepting willingly the responsibilities enumerated below:

1. Faculty members should be judicious in the introduction of material in the classroom without forfeiting the instructional benefits of controversy.
2. Faculty members are entitled to all rights and privileges of academic freedom in the classroom while discussing the subjects they teach. No faculty member, however, should attempt to force on students a personal viewpoint that is intolerant of the rights of others to hold or express diverse opinions.
3. Faculty members recognize their responsibility to maintain competence in their disciplines through continued professional development and to demonstrate that competence through consistently adequate preparation and performance.
4. Faculty members recognize that the public will judge their institutions and their profession by their public conduct. Therefore, faculty members should always make clear that the views they express are their own and should avoid creating the impression that they speak or act on behalf of their employing institutions or of their profession.

It is the policy of South Texas College to (1) entitle each faculty member freedom in the classroom in discussing the subject which he or she teaches; (2) hold each faculty member responsible for judicious use of controversial material in the classroom and limit introduction of such material only as it has clear relationship to the approved curriculum and subject; (3) hold faculty responsible for maintenance of competencies, exercising professional integrity, being professional in conduct with students, and recognizing and exercising that the faculty member's right to freedom of expression must be balanced with the interest of the state as an employer, so as not to nullify constitutional protection.