

Policy 317: ACADEMIC FREEDOM [DRAFT 9/26/24]

Section: 300
Section Title: Academic Affairs
Policy Number: 317
Policy Name: Academic Freedom
Approval Authority: Board of Trustees
Responsible Executive: Provost/Vice President for Teaching, Learning & Growth
Responsible Unit: Office of the Provost
Date Adopted: July 7, 1976
Date Last Revised: June 7, 1995

Policy Statement

Ramapo College will promote a campus environment where Faculty have the right to open and free expression in accordance with standards dictated by law and other policies of the State of New Jersey and the College, and with the responsibility to have an academic foundation for their speech and to work toward providing the best possible education for our students. Academic freedom, distinct from Freedom of Speech, is essential to the free exchange of ideas in pursuit of truth and knowledge. Faculty, within their contractual responsibilities, are entitled to prerogative in teaching, scholarly/creative production, and its dissemination.

As such, pursuant to NJ Administrative Code 9A, Academic Freedom provides the following three criteria:

1. Freedom in research and publication where these activities do not interfere with adequate performance of academic duties;
2. Freedom in the classroom to discuss controversial issues pertinent to the discipline; and
3. Retention of all rights as a citizen to free speech and publication. Such rights are not, as such, subject to institutional censorship or discipline.

The aforementioned expression must be in accordance with Code 9A, Article V on Academic Freedom in the AFT Memorandum of Agreement, and the New Jersey State Policy Prohibiting Discrimination in the Workplace.

Reason for Policy

Sets forth policy regarding the ability of faculty to teach and engage in scholarship, research, and creative activities without regard to inhibitive interference.

To Whom Does the Policy Apply

Full- and part-time faculty, adjuncts, and professional staff who teach (in their capacity as instructors).

Supplemental Resources

- AFT Memorandum of Agreement (hyperlink pending from the State)
- [NJ Administrative Code: Title 9A](#)
- [Policy 216: New Jersey State Policy Prohibiting Discrimination in the Workplace](#)

Contacts

Provost/Vice President for Teaching, Learning and Growth

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