

West Virginia Northern Community College

**NC-3000 Academic Freedom**

Rule Number: NC-3000

Effective Date: March 3, 2021

Date Approved by WVNCC Board of Governors: February 25, 2021

Date Approved by the WVCCTC: March 2, 2021

Authority Reference: AAUP Statement and WVCCTC Title 135 Series 9, Section 2

Replaces previous policy dated: ~~March 25, 2004~~

**Rule:** The College shall develop and maintain procedures that protect the Academic Freedom of faculty and staff. According to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Academic freedom is the indispensable requisite for unfettered teaching and research in institutions of higher education (<https://www.aaup.org/our-work/protecting-academic-freedom>). The term “faculty member” refers to both teaching faculty and professional staff of the College.

Further, each faculty member is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing the subject taught. In addition, when faculty members speak or write as citizens outside the institution, they shall be free from institutional censorship or discipline. When they speak or act as private persons, they avoid creating the impression of speaking or acting for the College. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, faculty have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom and its concomitant responsibilities. Faculty protect students’ academic freedom as well as their own.