

## **Policy V.5003.A, Academic Freedom**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the San Jacinto College community regarding the rights and responsibilities that constitute academic freedom.

### **Policy**

San Jacinto College is committed to creating an inclusive, equitable, and accessible educational community founded on the free and open exchange of ideas. It is essential that faculty be free to pursue scholarly inquiry without undue restriction and to voice and publish individual conclusions concerning the significance of evidence that they consider relevant. Faculty must be free from the corrosive fear that others, inside or outside the College community, may threaten a faculty member's professional career or the material benefits accruing from it. Faculty are citizens of the community and when speaking, writing, or acting as such, must be free from institutional censorship or discipline, subject to academic responsibility as set out hereinafter and in any procedures for this policy, and when doing so, faculty are expected to make it clear that they are not speaking for the institution.

The concept of academic freedom for faculty must be accompanied by an equally demanding concept of academic responsibility of faculty. Faculty have a responsibility to the institution, their profession, their students, and society at large. The rights and privileges of faculty extended by society and protected by governing boards and administrators through written policies and procedures on academic freedom, and as further protected by the courts, require reciprocally the assumption of certain responsibilities by faculty.

The Authority, Applicability, Sanctions, Exclusions, and Interpretation do not differ from Policy II.2000.A, Policy and Procedures Development, Review, Revision, and Rescission.

### **Associated Procedures**

Procedure V.5003.A.a, Academic Freedom

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Date of Board Approval	November 1, 2021
Effective Date	November 2, 2021
Primary Owner	Deputy Chancellor & President
Secondary Owner	Provosts

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