



## College Policy

Revised:  
Last Revision/Review:  
Approved: April 26, 2013  
Executive Responsibility: Executive Team

**POLICY GROUP: NC600 – Human Resources**

**POLICY TITLE: Academic Freedom**

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### **A. Background and Definitions**

Niagara College functions within an academic community that aspires to the goal of mutual respect, and to providing an environment that is free of discrimination and harassment.

### **C. Policy Statements**

1. Niagara College recognizes the rights and privileges of faculty, staff and students to undertake research, to perform teaching and learning activities, to explore and produce creative work, to engage in community services, and to hold academic discussion, within the parameters established by the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Act (2002), Niagara College policies and procedures, ethical guidelines, and all applicable legislation.
2. To this end, Niagara College affirms the rights of faculty and staff to discuss aspects of topics pertinent to the achievement of the learning outcomes of the course being taught as documented in the course outline, which will include diverse opinions in order to gain a well-rounded understanding of an issue, and taking place within Niagara College's academic community. Niagara College affirms the rights of faculty to research, enquire about, investigate without restriction, pursue controversial issues and speak freely about scholarly issues without fear of impairment to position or other reprisal.
3. Niagara College further affirms that faculty and staff are free to act and speak in their capacity as public citizens, provided they indicate they are speaking as individuals and not acting as representatives of Niagara College. As professionals and representatives of their discipline or field of study, faculty and staff have a responsibility to be honest, accurate and respectful in their statements and activities. The freedom to express ideas carries with it, an attendant responsibility and accountability.

