



Education | Healthcare | Public Services

Syllabus Statement on Academic Freedom

This academic freedom statement is intended to reflect general principles supporting the freedom to teach and learn in higher education. Faculty and higher education staff should consult their collective bargaining agreements, relevant state laws, institutional policies, and governing board regulations to ensure alignment with applicable guidelines. This statement does not supersede official policies or legal requirements.

Academic freedom is a principle that supports a welcoming academic environment where open inquiry, critical analysis and intellectual growth are possible, and respectful debate is valued. By ensuring the right to express thoughts, challenge assumptions and pursue knowledge freely, academic freedom not only enriches individual growth but also upholds the integrity of higher education as a site of innovation and discovery. In this course, it is mutually agreed (by both instructor and student) that we support these principles of academic freedom.

Resources for Members

[AAUP Academic Freedom Syllabus](#)

[Sample Academic Freedom Syllabus Statement, Boston University](#)

[Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, Academic Freedom Resource Guide](#)

[American Council on Education and PEN America, Academic Freedom Resource Guide](#)

The AFT is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

Randi Weingarten
PRESIDENT

Fedrick C. Ingram
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Evelyn DeJesus
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

AFT, AFL-CIO • 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W. • Washington, DC 20001 • 202-879-4400 • www.aft.org

