



## POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Name	<b>Academic Freedom</b>		
Policy #	<b>102</b>	Category	<b>Academic</b>
Policy Sponsor	<b>Associate Vice-President, Learning and Teaching</b>	Previous Revision Date	<b>May 6, 2013</b>
Policy Approved by	<b>President and CEO</b>	Issue or Revision Date	<b>September 7, 2023</b>
Procedures Approved by	<b>Provost and Vice-President, Academic</b>	Review Date	<b>September 2028</b>

### PURPOSE

Saskatchewan Polytechnic recognizes that to meet its mission and support its values, the principles associated with academic freedom are to be acknowledged as an essential part of the institution. The purpose of this policy is to protect originality of scholarly investigation, acknowledge responsibility for academic rigor and uphold the responsible sharing of ideas in teaching, learning and research by fostering independent thinking and expression. The advancement of our communities depends on the freedom to ask questions in search of knowledge.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

#### 1. Research, Creative Works, and Scholarly Activity

When engaged in research, scholarly activities or creative works, faculty members at Saskatchewan Polytechnic have important freedoms and privileges. These freedoms include:

- freedom of inquiry
- the right to publish and disseminate the results of research and scholarly activities
- freedom to challenge conventional thought
- freedom from institutional censorship

All faculty members engaged in research, creative works or scholarly activities will accept responsibility to meet professional and ethical standards and comply with policies.

#### 2. Teaching, Learning and Discussion

Saskatchewan Polytechnic supports the rights and privilege of individuals to communicate acquired knowledge in instruction.

In all teaching and learning environments used by Saskatchewan Polytechnic, faculty members may present and discuss relevant matters related to the achievement of learning outcomes in the courses being taught.

Faculty members have the discretion to develop courses and assessments and select materials, media and learning technology where, when, and how they deem appropriate within program and institutional guidelines and policies, and within the limits of available resources. A legal accrediting body who governs

the right to practice has the right to specify requirements related to content and teaching methods essential to gaining or maintaining accreditation or licensure.

Faculty and staff may speak or write, engage in open dialogue, express opinion, pursue truth and/or advance knowledge without fear of reprisal.

Faculty and staff are responsible for honesty and accuracy in discussion and activities showing respect for the opinion of others.

All members of the Saskatchewan Polytechnic community will support and protect the fundamental principle of academic freedom and will work together to provide an environment of tolerance and mutual respect using respectful communication that values both dignity of others and difference of opinion.

## **POLICY**

Saskatchewan Polytechnic will promote and cultivate a culture of academic freedom. Saskatchewan Polytechnic supports academic freedom as an essential part of teaching, learning, discussion, scholarly activities, creative works, and research. Saskatchewan Polytechnic acknowledges the right and privilege of faculty and staff to use freedom of inquiry, discussion and expression in teaching, creative works, scholarly activities, and research without fear of reprisal. Saskatchewan Polytechnic expects its community to exercise academic freedom dutifully. With freedom comes responsibility. Academic freedom does not relieve anyone from obligations related to their fundamental role in teaching, learning, research, and scholarship, and within an environment of tolerance and mutual respect. This policy is applied in conjunction with policy 703 *Code of Conduct* which recognizes and supports academic freedom

This policy is bound by applicable laws and institutional policies reflecting those laws.

## **RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS**

1101 - Applied Research Integrity

1102 - Ethics of Research Involving Human Participants

601 - Harassment and Discrimination

703 - Code of Conduct