

6.4**The institution publishes and implements appropriate policies and procedures for preserving and protecting academic freedom.**

(Academic freedom)

Rationale and Notes

The essential role of institutions of higher education is the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge. Academic freedom respects the dignity and rights of others while fostering intellectual freedom of faculty to teach, research, and publish. Responsible academic freedom enriches the contributions of higher education to society.

NOTE

If the institution has had no academic freedom grievances or publicized cases regarding academic freedom, and, therefore, has not applied its policies, it should indicate that examples of implementation are unavailable because no such cases have arisen.

Questions to Consider

- How does the institution define academic freedom?
- What are the institutional policies and procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom of faculty?
- How are these policies approved or modified?
- How does the institution publicize its policies on academic freedom for faculty?
- If there have been any instances in which issues involving academic freedom have emerged, how have these issues been resolved?

Sample Documentation

- Publications that include the institution's academic freedom policies.
- Details and evidence associated with approval or modification of policies.
- Evidence regarding the handling of institutional academic freedom issues, if available.

Reference to SACSCOC Documents, If Applicable

This standard requires a policy or procedure; see Appendix A of this document for implications. See also:

SACSCOC good practices: [Developing Policy and Procedures Documents](#)

Cross-References to Other Related Standards/Requirements, If Applicable

None noted.