

COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

FREE SPEECH
Policy 13-15
Page 1 of 3

Effective November 17, 2022

(A) PURPOSE

The College recognizes the constitutional right to free speech and the protections of campus free speech as set forth in the Ohio Revised Code. In furtherance of these recognitions, the College affirms the following principles:

1. Students have a fundamental constitutional right to free speech;
2. The College is committed to giving students broad latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, learn and discuss any issue;
3. The College is committed to maintaining a campus as a marketplace of ideas for students and faculty in which the free exchange of ideas is not suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or most members of the College community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, indecent, disagreeable, conservative, liberal, traditional, radical or wrong-headed;
4. It is for individual students and faculty to make judgements about ideas for themselves, and to act on those judgements by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas they oppose and not by seeking to suppress free speech;
5. It is not the proper role of the College to attempt to shield individuals from free speech, including ideas and opinions they find offensive, unwise, immoral, indecent, disagreeable, conservative, liberal, traditional, radical or wrong-headed;
6. Although the College greatly values civility and mutual respect, concerns about civility and respect must not be used by the College as a justification for closing off the discussion of ideas, however offensive, unwise, immoral, indecent, disagreeable, conservative, liberal, traditional, radical or wrong-headed those ideas may be to some students or faculty;
7. Although students and faculty are free to state their views about and contest the views expressed on campus, and to state their views about and contest speakers who are invited to express their views on campus, they may not substantially obstruct or otherwise substantially interfere with the freedom of others to express views they reject or even loathe. To that end, the College has a responsibility to promote lively and fearless freedom of debate and deliberation and protect that freedom.
8. The College is committed to providing an atmosphere that is most conducive to speculation, experimentation, and creation by students and faculty, who must

COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

FREE SPEECH
Policy 13-15
Page 2 of 3

Effective November 17, 2022

remain free to inquire, study, evaluate and gain new understanding; and

9. The primary responsibility of faculty is to engage an honest, courageous and persistent effort to search out and communicate the truth that lies in areas of their competence.

(B) EXCEPTIONS

Nothing in this policy prohibits the College from imposing measures that do not violate federal or state protections, including:

1. Constitutional time, place and manner restrictions;
2. Reasonable viewpoint-neutral restrictions in nonpublic forums;
3. Restrictions on the use of the College's property to protect the free speech rights of students and employees and preserve the use of property for the advancement of the College's mission;
4. Prohibitions or limitations on speech, expression or assemblies that are not protected under the U.S. or Ohio constitutions;
5. Content restrictions on speech that are reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical purpose, such as classroom rules enacted by faculty.

(C) COMPLAINT PROCESS

A student, student group or employee may submit a complaint against a College employee for an alleged violation of this policy.

(D) RETALIATION

Retaliation in any form against an individual who brings forth a good faith allegation of a violation of the College's Free Speech policy, participates in an investigation of an allegation of the College's Free Speech policy or supports someone involved in an allegation of the College's Free Speech policy is strictly prohibited by the College. Examples of retaliation include, but are not limited to, intimidation; threats or actual violence against the person, their family or property; adverse educational or employment consequences; ridicule; bullying; and ostracism or attempting any such actions. Retaliation also includes encouraging someone else to take such actions against an individual for reporting, participating or supporting someone involved in an allegation of a violation of the College's Free Speech policy.

COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

FREE SPEECH
Policy 13-15
Page 3 of 3

Effective November 17, 2022

Retaliation is a serious violation that can subject the offender to sanctions, and allegations of retaliation should be promptly reported to the Hearing Officer.

- (E) The President may establish procedures to administer this policy.

*New Policy
Approved by the Board of Trustees November 17, 2022*