

POLICIES

Issued: August 10, 2017

Responsible Official: Vice President for Student Affairs

Responsible Office: Office of Student Affairs

Policy Statement

It is the policy of Austin Peay State University to exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the general well-being of society. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. As members of the academic community, students should be encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Minimal standards of academic freedom of students outlined below are essential to any community of scholars.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the Rights and Freedoms of students enrolled at the University.

Procedures

Preamble

- A. Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the larger community. Students should exercise their freedom with responsibility.
- B. The responsibility to secure and to respect general conditions conducive to the freedom to learn is shared by all members of the academic community. APSU has developed policies and procedures which provide and safeguard this freedom. The purpose of this statement is to enumerate the essential provisions for students' freedom to learn.

Freedom of Access to Higher Education

- A. The admissions policies of APSU are a matter of institutional choice, provided that the University makes clear the

characteristics and expectations of students which it considers relevant to success in the University's program.

- B. Under no circumstances should a student be barred from admission on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs and activities sponsored by APSU. Thus, within the limits of its facilities, the University will be open to all students who are qualified according to its admissions standards. The facilities and services of the University will be open to all of its enrolled students.

In the Classroom or on Campus

- A. The student has the right to engage in free discussion, inquiry, and expression in the classroom as it is related to the content of the course.
- B. Student performance should be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards.
1. Protection of Freedom of Expression
 - a. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.
 - b. Although all students are free to state their own views about and contest views expressed on campus, and to state their own views about and contest speakers who are invited to express their views on the institution's campus, they may not substantially obstruct or otherwise substantially interfere with the freedom of others to express views they reject or even loathe.
 2. Protection Against Improper Academic Evaluation
 - a. Students should have protection through orderly procedures against prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation.
 - b. At the same time, they are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled.
 3. Protection Against Improper Disclosure
 - a. Certain information about students is protected from public disclosure by Federal and state laws.

Protection against improper disclosure is a serious professional obligation. Judgments of ability and character may be provided under appropriate circumstances. (Adapted from AAUP Statement of Rights and Freedoms of Students.)

Revision Dates

APSU Policy 3:001 – Rev.: August 10, 2017

APSU Policy 3:001 – Issued: March 25, 2017

Subject Areas:

Academic	Finance	General	Human Resources	Information Technology	Student Affairs
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Approved

President: signature on file