# 000.300 FREEDOM OF INQUIRY AND EXPRESSION POLICY

The college is committed to the principles of free inquiry and expression. Members of the college community have the right to hold, vigorously defend, and express their ideas and opinions, and to flourish or wither according to their merits. Respect for this right requires that members of the college community tolerate expression of views that they find objectionable. Nevertheless, whatever the legal boundaries of free speech, the members of an educational community should voluntarily adopt standards of civility and good taste that reflect mutual respect, understanding, and sensitivity among its diverse racial, ethnic and cultural groups. In particular, employees of the college represent the college and have a special role and position of authority. All members of the college community are to be treated with respect with sensitivity to the impact of words and opinions.

Supersedes 2.P.07

Adopted by the board of trustees: 4/11/01

Last reviewed: 10/1/19

Policy contact: Human Resources

Related policies and procedures

 000.190 [Expressive Activities Policy](https://www.wvc.edu/humanresources/policies-procedures/000-general/000.190-expressive-activities-policy.html)

 000.200 [Political Activities Policy](https://www.wvc.edu/humanresources/policies-procedures/000-general/000.200-political-activities.html)

 000.210 [Religious Activities Policy](https://www.wvc.edu/humanresources/policies-procedures/000-general/000.210-religious-activities.html)

 000.330 [Nondiscrimination & Harassment Policy](https://www.wvc.edu/humanresources/policies-procedures/000-general/000.330-nondiscrimination-and-harassment.html)

 1400.100 [Student Rights & Freedoms Procedure](https://www.wvc.edu/humanresources/policies-procedures/400-student-services/1400.100-student-rights-freedoms.html)