

Dominican University College

Freedom of Expression Policy

January 1, 2019

1. Purpose of this Policy

Faithful to its tradition, the essential purpose of Dominican University College is the pursuit of truth, the advancement of learning, and the publication of knowledge. In order to achieve these purposes all members of the university community, including visitors and guests, have freedom of expression.

2. The Commitment of the University to the Principles of Freedom of Expression

At all times the University will strive to promote free inquiry and reasoned debate.

Free inquiry and reasoned debate include an unrestricted right to examine, investigate, comment, criticize, speculate, and publish without deference or reference to prescribed doctrine.

The University recognizes that the dialogical exercise of free expression also includes the right to criticize the university in a non-violent and lawful way on any subject.

The University will strive to promote mutual respect, human dignity, and reciprocal tolerance in any form of expression.

The University in its administrative practices will further policies of minimal interference with the freedom of others to express their ideas and views based on sound argument and evidence.

The University will not permit freedom of expression that violates the law, such as hate speech, threatening violence, harassment, discrimination, unjustified invasion of privacy or confidentiality interests, defamation, or expression that is otherwise incompatible with the purpose and functioning of the University.

In its policies and administrative practices the University will strive to balance the expression of ideas and arguments by individuals and groups while equally providing for the opportunity of others to communicate competing ideas and arguments.

3. Implementation of this Policy

The pursuit of the overarching purpose of Dominican University College depends upon an expansive environment of tolerance and mutual respect. Every member of the University community should be able to learn, teach, and work free from discrimination and harassment.

In order to secure an environment of mutually respectful freedom of expression, the University reserves the right to regulate the time, place, and manner of expression, which includes the reasonable use of facilities to ensure that any expression does not disrupt the operations of the University.

Organizers of events on campus are responsible for ensuring that their invited speakers and participants are in compliance with the University's expectations, policies, and the law.

The University reserves the right to intervene when expression by any member of the University community violates the law, interferes inordinately with University operations, denigrates others on any of the prohibited grounds of discrimination, constitutes harassment, or is defamatory.

The University endeavors to implement its freedom of expression ideals while ensuring the safety of the members of its community and the compliance of the University with its legal obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, the *Freedom of Information and Privacy Act*, the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, and any similar or successor legislation.

The University encourages its student organizations and any other groups to adopt policies that promote and respect freedom of expression.

Scope

This policy applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, visitors, and guests.

Complaints

Any member of the University community may complain to the Office of the Vice-President, Academic Affairs and Registrar of any decisions or actions which are contrary to this Policy. Disciplinary action by the Vice-President, Academic Affairs and Registrar may be appealed to the President of the University within thirty (30) days of the decision to take disciplinary action.

Title: Freedom of Expression Policy

Responsible Office: Vice-President, Academic Affairs and Registrar

Dated Adopted: November 30, 2018
Academic Council

Effective Date: January 1, 2019