

HORRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

# POLICY

Number: 8.1.9  
Title: Academic Freedom and Responsibility  
Authority: Title 59, Chapter 53, Sections 810-860 of the  
1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as Amended.  
Responsibility: Vice President for Academic Affairs

Original Approval Date: 09-09-1993  
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Chairperson

Horry-Georgetown Technical College holds to the premise that faculty and students have the right to pursue teaching and learning with full freedom of inquiry. Academic freedom and academic responsibility are inseparable. Academic freedom is the right of the faculty to interpret his or her findings and to communicate conclusions without being subjected to any interference, molestation, or penalization because these conclusions are at a variance with those of constituted authorities or organized groups outside the College.

Likewise, the academic freedom of the student is the freedom to express or defend views or beliefs and the freedom to question or differ without authoritative repression and without scholastic penalization by the faculty of the College.

Academic freedom carries with it corresponding responsibility. Academic responsibility emphasizes the obligation to study, to investigate, to present and interpret, and to discuss facts and ideas concerning people, society, and the physical and biological works in all fields of knowledge in a manner consistent with proper class decorum. Since human knowledge is limited and changeable, faculty will acknowledge the facts on which controversial views are passed and will show respect for opinions held by others. While striving to avoid bias, he or she will nevertheless present the conclusions to which he or she believes the evidence points.

Since Horry-Georgetown Technical College is dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge, planning and development of skills, competencies, and understandings and the nurture of those personal and intellectual habits and attitudes that are peculiar to responsible individuals in a free, open, democratic society, the College, therefore, shall guarantee and protect academic freedom. The College likewise, shall require the exercise of responsible judgment on the part of its personnel as they exercise academic freedom in accomplishing the objectives of the College.