

## 1.f Academic Freedom Policy of the Board of Directors

Responsible Office	President's Office		
Created	June 2023		
Revised			
Effective	June 2023		
Compliance	NWCCU 2020 Standards 2.B.1 and 2.B.2; NWCCU 2020 Eligibility Requirement 16		
Classification	<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Local unit(s):
Approving Body	<input type="checkbox"/> President's Cabinet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Unit VP

### Policy

Academic freedom is central to Heritage University's (HU) mission that "empowers a multi-cultural and inclusive student body to overcome the social, cultural, economic and geographic barriers that limit access to higher education. Rooted in the homeland of the Yakama Nation, we embrace transformational student-centered education that cultivates leadership and a commitment to the promotion of a more just society." <https://www.heritage.edu/about-heritage-university/our-mission/>

Academic freedom is a long-standing philosophical and legal principle in higher education, and it is essential to shared governance. Faculty members are protected in their freedom to teach and conduct and publish scholarly research, subject to the academic judgment of their peers.

"Academic freedom is the freedom of a teacher or researcher in higher education to investigate and discuss the issues in his or her academic field, and to teach or publish findings without interference from political figures, boards of trustees, donors, or other entities. Academic freedom also protects the right of a faculty member to speak freely when participating in institutional governance, as well as to speak freely as a citizen." ([www.aaup.org/programs/academic-freedom/faqs-academic-freedom](http://www.aaup.org/programs/academic-freedom/faqs-academic-freedom))

Within the context of its mission and values, HU promotes, supports, and sustains academic freedom. The exercise of academic freedom at HU will protect its constituencies from inappropriate internal and external influences, pressures, and harassment.

This policy serves to reinforce the HU Board of Directors' support for academic freedom as described herein and in the HU Faculty Handbook section 2.11.

### Sources

Heritage University's Mission Statement  
 AAUP What is Academic Freedom?  
 NWCCU 2020 Standards and Eligibility Requirements  
 Heritage University Faculty Handbook section 2.11