



Freedom of Expression Policy	
Category: Administrative	Approval Date: December 9, 2019
Policy Owner: Office of the President	Effective Date: December 9, 2019
Policy Administrator: Chief of Staff and Board Liaison	Review Period: 5 Years
Recommended by: Service Council upon recommendation by Deans' Council	
Associated Documents N/A	

PURPOSE

To confirm Red Deer Polytechnic's commitment to protecting freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression, and the related freedoms of conscience, religion, association, and peaceful assembly, as enshrined in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* while upholding the College's values of exploration, inclusiveness, excellence, integrity, community and accountability.

The following policy includes material adapted from The Chicago Principles:

<https://provost.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/reports/FOECommitteeReport.pdf>

SCOPE

This policy applies to members of the Red Deer Polytechnic community including students, faculty and staff as well as volunteers and visitors.

POLICY

1. Red Deer Polytechnic encourages free and open inquiry in all matters.
2. Members of the Polytechnic community have the broadest latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn.
3. Debate is encouraged even if ideas are viewed as unwelcome, unpopular, imprudent, offensive, or disturbing.

4. It is not the Polytechnic's role to shield individuals from ideas. It is for individuals to inform themselves carefully of facts, judge for themselves the nature of ideas and opinions, and to act on those judgments by openly contesting the ideas that they oppose.
5. Members of the Polytechnic community have the right to criticize and question other views expressed on campus but must not obstruct or otherwise interfere with others' freedom of expression.
6. Mutual respect and civility are expected, but the lack of them, in and of itself, does not constitute sufficient justification to limit freedom of expression.
7. Freedom of expression may only be restricted in anticipation of foreseeable, material and imminent harm, or violations of the law.
8. The Polytechnic may reasonably regulate the time and manner of expression to ensure that the ordinary activities of the Polytechnic are not disrupted.
9. The Polytechnic shall apply this policy consistently and without discriminatory or preferential treatment toward any individual or group.
10. The fact that an individual or group is permitted or invited to carry on expressive activity on campus does not mean that the views of that individual or group are representative of the views of Red Deer Polytechnic or its leadership.

RELATED POLICIES

[Academic Freedom](#)

[Employee Code of Conduct](#)

Respectful Workplace and Learning Environment Policy [under development]

[Information Access and Privacy](#)

[Student Misconduct: Non-academic](#)

[Safe Disclosure \(Whistleblower\)](#)

[Student Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct](#)

[Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)