

3.7.4 The institution ensures adequate procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom. **(Academic freedom)**

Compliance Status: Compliance

The College of Coastal Georgia, as an institution of the USG, is committed to academic freedom. The College's policy on academic freedom is referred in Section 3, Article I, "Academic Freedom," of the *2010-2011 College of Coastal Georgia Full-Time & Part-Time Faculty Handbooks* and formally stated in [Article VI, Section B.1](#) of the *College of Coastal Georgia Statutes*.

The College explicitly endorses and follows the definition of academic freedom and professional ethics as published by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) in its "[1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 Interpretive Comments](#)," as modified in 1989 and 1990. Legal rights under the First Amendment also protect academic freedom.

The AAUP statement and the College's academic freedom policy staunchly defend "the free search for truth and its free expression" as "fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the rights of the student to freedom in learning." Both statements also make clear that faculty have duties and responsibilities associated with academic freedom, especially the obligations to "be accurate... exercise appropriate restraint... show respect for the opinions of others" and "make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution."

To safeguard and protect academic freedom, the College has procedures in place that provide faculty with a means of redressing grievances related to academic freedom. As stated in the [Bylaws of the Faculty Senate](#), the Faculty Appeals Committee "shall be accessible to all members of the faculty as a formal avenue of appeal for the redress of grievances," including "Complaints alleging abridgment of academic freedom."

Support Documentation

2010-2011 College of Coastal Georgia [*Full-Time*](#) and [*Part-Time*](#) Faculty Handbook

[College of Coastal Georgia Statutes, Article VI, Section B.1](#)

[AAUP 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 Interpretive Comments](#)

[College of Coastal Georgia Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article VI, Section 2](#)