

Trinity College Acting Dean of the Faculty

Statement on Inclusive Learning | Academic Rights and Responsibilities

A college is an academic community that exists so learning can be advanced in society. Academic learning takes place through teaching and research; and in a college setting, both faculty and students have academic rights and responsibilities.

Whether academic learning takes place in person or digitally, in or out of the classroom, the [academic freedom](#) of both faculty *and* [students](#) must be protected. Each of these rights can never justify compromising the other. Both the freedom to teach and the freedom to learn, moreover, entail certain responsibilities. These rights and responsibilities, which are outlined below, are widely recognized in professional ethical standards and they are affirmed in college policies.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF INCLUSIVE LEARNING

Learning environments should be inclusive spaces where certain basic principles are upheld:

- All members take responsibility for creating a classroom environment and climate in which everyone is free to learn;
- Faculty encourage free discussion, inquiry, and expression, without censorship or silencing;
- Students work to learn the course content and complete the course assignments, following the academic standards and expectations set for each course;
- [Faculty are free to teach](#) what and how they deem appropriate based on professional standards and judgment; they can introduce controversial or unpopular topics, challenge students' ideas, and correct student errors;
- Students are evaluated on the basis of fulfilling academic standards and criteria, set by the professor and provided to students in writing and in advance, not applied arbitrarily;
- [No person discriminates against](#); harasses; belittles, shames or ridicules, intimidates, physically or mentally; or exploits any other person on the basis of their identity or ideas;
- The learning environment is accessible, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Students abide by the highest standards of intellectual honesty in all academic exercises.

REPORTING CONCERNS

Students with related concerns should contact the Office of the Dean of the Faculty (Sylvia.DeMore@trincoll.edu). Concerns about the academic freedom of faculty members are handled through the Academic Freedom Committee. All incidents of intolerance and bias should also be reported to the Campus Climate Incident Response Team (campus.climate@trincoll.edu). To make an anonymous report to the CCIRT, please use the form on the website.

Related Statements of Commitment at Trinity

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty assumes that students do their own work and that they credit properly those upon whose work and thought they draw. It is the responsibility of each student to make sure that he or she is fully aware of what constitutes intellectually honest work in every examination, quiz, paper, laboratory report, homework assignment, or other academic exercise submitted for evaluation in a course ([Trinity College Student Integrity Contract](#)).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND HARASSMENT

Trinity College is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students that is free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Please be aware all Trinity faculty members are “responsible employees,” which means that if you tell them about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, they are obligated to share that information with the Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to someone with a different level of confidentiality, please utilize the on and off-campus resources listed in [Your Rights, Your Options](#). If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone and the College will provide assistance.

ACCESSIBLE LEARNING

Trinity College is committed to creating an inclusive and accessible learning environment consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Like many things, the need for disability accommodations and the process for arranging them may be altered by the COVID-19 changes we are experiencing and the safety protocols currently in place. Students with disabilities who may need some accommodation in order to fully participate in a class are urged to contact the [Student Accessibility Resource Center](#), as soon as possible, to explore what arrangements need to be made to ensure access.

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