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## Rule Summary

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The rule for academic freedom, ethics, and responsibility at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) applies equally to current faculty members and future appointees. This procedure seeks to provide useful statements concerning academic freedom and responsibility of faculty.

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## Procedures and Responsibilities

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### 1. ACADEMIC FREEDOM

- 1.1 Institutions of higher education serve the common good, which is based on an open search for truth and free expression. Therefore, a faculty member must be free to pursue scholarly inquiry without undue restriction and to state and publish materials pertinent to the significance of evidence deemed relevant.
- 1.2 Each faculty member has the right to full freedom in the classroom (face-to-face or online) to discuss the subject that he or she teaches without restrictions that violate the First Amendment. A faculty member shall be cautious of introducing controversial subjects that are irrelevant to the subject matter.
- 1.3 Every faculty member possesses the right to participate in political activities provided such activities do not interfere with the discharge of the duties and responsibilities that the employee has to the institution and A&M System.
- 1.4 Faculty members have the right to exercise constitutional rights as citizens without institutional censorship or discipline. Faculty shall understand that the public may judge their profession and institution by their statements. Faculty must strive for accuracy, appropriate restraint, and respect for others' opinions; and make clear that they are not speaking for the institution.

### 2. ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY OF FACULTY MEMBERS

- 2.1 Faculty members assume ethical obligations and responsibilities to students, fellow faculty members, the institution, the profession, and society at large. Those responsibilities require the faculty to address the following:
  - 2.1.1 Meet assigned teaching, research, and service obligations;

- 2.1.2 Teach the subject matter in a professional manner and strive to foster scholarly values in students and encourage them to engage in open discussion and inquiry; and
  - 2.1.3 Maintain respect for the student and the student's role as a learner, evaluate students fairly on their academic performance, and be available at responsible intervals to consult with students.
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## **Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements**

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[System Policy 12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure](#)

[System Policy 12.07, Fixed Term Academic Professional Track Faculty](#)

[University Rule 12.03.99.H1, Faculty Academic Workload and Reporting Requirements](#)

Prior to August 2020, this Rule was published as University Procedure 12.01.99.H1.01, *Academic Freedom and Responsibility*.

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## **Contact Office**

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Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
903.223.3004