

What is *Academic Freedom*?

Academic Freedom is the ability for each of us to learn and teach freely, both inside and outside the classroom.

UNC-Chapel Hill has adopted and retained its Academic Freedom policy¹ based on **The Supreme Court** and **US Constitution**.² This offers immense benefit to our campus and North Carolina.

Career-ready STUDENTS

UNC-Chapel Hill is in the top 5 public universities and rated #3 value for money campus in the country.

Employers hire UNC graduates because they are skilled and critical thinkers. High-quality instruction retains the value of a UNC degree.

Sustained JOBS

UNC research sustains 14,000 jobs

Over 500 **UNC**-affiliated startups hire 12,000

Faculty who pursue federal and private funding offer low-cost expertise to the university

Faculty who self-fund their own labs also tend to employ the greatest number of students and research staff

Benefits of UNC *Academic Freedom*

UNC-Chapel Hill injects \$3 billion into the North Carolina economy through research - but the big payoff is in new ideas. Startups from UNC generate \$19 billion annually.

This economic impact depends on faculty who pursue the best research. New ideas require bold thinking. But this is silenced by censorship and cannot flourish with only for-profit models.

IDEAS & Innovation

IN RESEARCH

UNC system policy supports research without censorship. But UNC-CH has been reneging on this commitment.

- Find a network of trusted peers to detect a pattern of censorship (e.g. a foundation that is disfavored)
- Consider sending new submissions through a peer institution that is not actively censoring.

Threats to research freedom are vital to document. BCC your personal email examples of:

- OVCR limits to new proposals
- Request from school to omit disfavored terms or alter project scope
- Change to Biosketch or grant title

Practical Tips & Strategies

Strengthen your digital security as a form of academic self-defense:

facultyfirstresponders.com

If you've been targeted or doxxed:

aaup.org/dox-defense-resources

ONLINE

1 The US Constitution First Amendment gives scholars and students the right to express ideas, engage in open debate, and explore controversial topics without fear of censorship or retribution.

Supreme Court ruled in *Sweezy v. NH* (1957) that students and faculty "must remain free to inquire, to study and to evaluate, to gain new maturity and understanding; otherwise our civilization will stagnate and die." In *Keyishian v. Board of Regents* (1967), the Supreme Court reaffirmed academic freedom for students, who have the right to express their views, both in and out of the classroom, as long as it does not disrupt the educational environment.

2 "The University supports and encourages freedom of inquiry for faculty members and students... free from internal or external restraints that would unreasonably restrict their academic endeavors." - *UNC System Policy Manual (Chapter 6, Sections 600-602)*

"Academic freedom is the right of a faculty member to be responsibly engaged in efforts to discover, speak, and teach the truth. It is the policy of the University to maintain and encourage full freedom, within the law, of inquiry, discourse, teaching, research, and publication and to protect any member of the faculty against influences, from within or without the University, which would restrict the faculty member in the exercise of these freedoms in his or her area of scholarly interest." - *UNC-CH Trustee Policy (Section 1)*

In CLASS

You have a right to pursue your expertise.

UNC-CH policy and case law support teaching without political interference.

- **Add "no recordings" clause** to your syllabus
- **If you hold discussions:** Invite phones to be left in a basket at back of classroom
- **If you lecture:** Record each session and place on Canvas - this offers Intellectual Property protection if someone leaks the footage

Check out the Academic Freedom First Aid Kit <https://linktr.ee/theaaup>

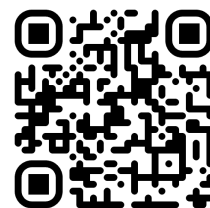
JOIN AAUP

Organize with other faculty at a time when universities are needed more than ever.

Joining AAUP (sliding scale annual fee) will:

- Build power across UNC-CH colleagues
- Bolster state-wide efforts across North Carolina's 14 AAUP chapters
- Sustain national efforts like advocacy, litigation, trainings,
- Secure access to union resources

Join
here



aaup
CHAPEL HILL