

# **Arkansas Baptist College Content Governance and Academic Expression Policy**

## **1. Purpose**

This policy establishes guidelines for the review, regulation, and dissemination of academic, instructional, and institutional content at Arkansas Baptist College. It aims to:

- Uphold the College's Christian mission and Baptist heritage
  - Protect academic freedom and intellectual inquiry
  - Ensure content aligns with ethical, legal, and educational standards
  - Provide clear procedures for addressing concerns about content
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## **2. Guiding Principles**

### **2.1 Academic Freedom**

Arkansas Baptist College affirms that faculty and students have the right to:

- Explore diverse perspectives
- Engage in critical inquiry
- Discuss controversial or sensitive topics relevant to coursework

Academic freedom is exercised within the framework of respectful discourse and institutional values.

### **2.2 Institutional Values**

As a faith-based institution, the College expects all content to reflect:

- Respect for Christian principles
  - Human dignity and inclusion
  - Moral and ethical responsibility
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## **3. Scope of Policy**

This policy applies to:

- Course materials and syllabi
- Lectures, presentations, and classroom discussions
- Library collections and academic resources

- Student publications and campus media
  - Guest speakers and public events hosted by the College
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#### **4. Content Standards**

Content may be subject to review if it includes:

##### **4.1 Prohibited Content**

- Material that promotes violence, hatred, or discrimination
- Obscene or unlawful content as defined by federal or state law
- Harassment or targeted attacks against individuals or groups

##### **4.2 Restricted Content (Contextual Use Allowed)**

The following may be permitted for academic purposes when clearly justified:

- Explicit or sensitive material in literature, history, or health sciences
- Discussions of controversial social, political, or theological issues
- Critiques of religious or institutional doctrines

Such content must:

- Be pedagogically relevant
  - Include appropriate context and guidance
  - Be presented in a respectful and scholarly manner
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#### **5. Review and Oversight**

##### **5.1 Faculty Responsibility**

Faculty members are responsible for:

- Selecting course materials aligned with academic objectives
- Providing content warnings when appropriate
- Ensuring balanced and respectful presentation

##### **5.2 Content Review Committee**

The College shall maintain a **Content Review Committee (CRC)** composed of:

- Faculty representatives
- Academic administrators
- A student affairs representative

The CRC will:

- Review complaints regarding content
  - Evaluate materials against this policy
  - Recommend actions when necessary
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## **6. Complaint and Resolution Process**

### **6.1 Filing a Complaint**

Students, faculty, or staff may submit a formal complaint if they believe content violates this policy.

### **6.2 Review Procedure**

- Initial review by department chair
- Escalation to CRC if unresolved
- Final determination issued within a reasonable timeframe

### **6.3 Possible Outcomes**

- No action (content deemed appropriate)
  - Recommendation for modification or contextualization
  - Removal of content in extreme cases
  - Mediation between involved parties
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## **7. Protection Against Censorship Abuse**

To prevent misuse of this policy:

- Content will not be restricted solely due to disagreement with viewpoints
- Academic inquiry will not be suppressed without clear justification
- Decisions must be transparent and documented

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## **8. Student Expression**

Students retain the right to:

- Express opinions in coursework and campus forums
- Publish ideas in student media

However, student expression must comply with:

- College conduct standards
  - Laws governing speech and safety
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## **9. External Speakers and Events**

Guest speakers and hosted events must:

- Align broadly with the College's mission
  - Be reviewed if presenting high-risk or controversial topics
  - Include disclaimers when views do not reflect the institution
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## **10. Compliance with Law**

This policy adheres to:

- U.S. constitutional principles
  - Applicable federal and Arkansas state laws
  - Accreditation standards for higher education institutions
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## **11. Policy Review**

This policy shall be reviewed every **three years** or as needed to ensure relevance and effectiveness.

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## **12. Effective Date**

This policy becomes effective upon approval by the College administration.