

## **I. Academic Freedom**

### **A. Description:**

Rocky Vista University provides quality healthcare education while inspiring students to serve with compassion, integrity, and excellence, and the primary responsibility of the faculty is the education of the student. Essential elements in effective teaching are respect for academic freedom, expertise in content, accurate preparation, and effective delivery of educational material. Faculty and administration should foster the creation of an outstanding learning environment.

### **B. Academic Freedom**

The University respects the academic freedom of faculty members and has adopted principles consistent with those promoted by the American Association of University Professors:

1. Faculty are entitled to full freedom in scholarly activity and in research, including publication of research results, subject to the adequate performance of other academic duties. Faculty are entitled to freedom in the classroom in teaching and discussing course topics. Faculty must take care to not introduce into their teaching controversial matters that have no relation to the subject of a course. The University will not impose any limitation on faculty members' exposition of their subjects within or outside the University. Faculty are entitled to the rights and privileges granted to them by virtue of citizenship and by membership in an academic educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, though their special position in the community imposes specific obligations. As scholars and educators, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence, they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution. If members of the University faculty observe these obligations and offer their opinions as private citizens, the University cannot impose any restraint on freedom of speech.
2. Any disciplinary action related to academic freedom that is initiated against a faculty member, including censure, reprimand, suspension, dismissal, or other disciplinary action, will be managed in accordance with the University's grievance and appeal processes.