

The Valley College of Osteopathic Medicine

Statement on Academic Freedom

Policy Number: COM-COCA 12.8

Effective Date: April 4, 2024

Revisions and Dates:

Responsible Party: Dean

Approved by: Board of Trustees

Policy & Procedure Statement

The Valley College of Osteopathic Medicine is committed to the pursuit of truth and to its transmission. The integrity of this institution as an institution of higher learning requires proper autonomy and freedom. This freedom is the freedom to examine data, to question assumptions, to be guided by evidence, to be a learner, and to be a scholar.

Faculty: Academic freedom implies that any faculty member whose teaching is questioned should be subject to the judgment of one's peers only in accordance with the accepted rules of academic due process. It also implies the active, defined, and recognized role of the faculty in those policy-making decisions which affect the educational program.

The obligation of the faculty is to distinguish in their teaching between personal and partisan opinion and convictions grounded in sources and methods appropriate to their respective disciplines. The faculty member should, to the best of their ability, present materials in a manner that respects the cultures and sensitivities of the students.

Faculty are entitled to full freedom in scholarly activity and in research, including publication of research results. The faculty represent the institution and any statements made in that role should reflect the principles and policies promoted by the College. The College will not impose any limitation on faculty members' exposition of their subjects within or outside the College. 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, retaliation or discipline.

Students: As members and citizens of an academic community, students have academic rights that are extensions of, and complementary to, those academic freedoms accorded faculty. Principally, the student has the freedom to learn. In an academic institution, freedom to express one's opinions and positions should be recognized within the realm of

professionalism as described in The Valley College of Osteopathic Medicine Catalog. Differences of opinion should be approached with temperance and tolerance.

The COM has a strong commitment to academic freedom, intellectual freedom, freedom of expression, and respect for intellectual property rights and to protect these freedoms and rights for all faculty, staff, and students.

This statement will appear on the COM Website and be published in both the COM Catalog and the Faculty Handbook.