

Pennsylvania College of Technology

Policy Statement

Title: Academic Fairness

Number: P4.23

Approved by:
Presidential action

Approved Date: 12/2010
Implementation Date: 12/2010
Last Review Date: 06/2022
Last Revision Date: 07/2017

Persons/Departments Affected:
Students, faculty, academic deans, administration

Responsible Department:
Academic Affairs

Definitions:

Student: any person who is taking or auditing classes (including non-credit) at the College or is enrolled in any College program, including students enrolled in distance learning majors.

Policy:

- I. A student in the classroom is to be evaluated solely on his/her academic performance, not on the basis of his/her opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards.
 - a. Academic performance is to be evaluated in accordance with the grading standards and rubrics identified in the course syllabus.
 - b. Evaluation of individual papers, exams, quizzes, and laboratory/clinical skills is to be based on specific, pre-established standards.
 - c. Evaluations of academic performance are not to be negatively or positively influenced by a perceived agreement/disagreement of opinion, or by biases relating to politics, personal interests, religion, or any other characteristic prohibited by nondiscrimination laws.

- II. The instructor, in the classroom and in individual conference, is to encourage free discussion, inquiry, and expression.
 - a. Students are free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about debatable issues; however, students are responsible for understanding the content of any course in which they are enrolled.
 - b. The protection does not extend to any form of verbal abuse, harassment, or threats, which are prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct, [PR 4.43](#).

- III. The instructor, in the classroom and in individual conference, is to practice consistent and fair treatment of all students, without bias or favoritism.

- IV. Students who feel they have been subject to improper/unfair academic evaluation or treatment may file a complaint as outlined in the Academic Fairness Complaint Procedure, [PR 4.23](#).

Revision History:

- Date: 07/2017 Added definition of students, to include distance learning students.
Date: 03/2016 Minor editorial change in manner of reference to associated complaint procedure; updated formatting.
Date: 12/2010 New policy

Cross References:

- Academic Fairness Complaint Procedure, [PR 4.23](#)
Code of Conduct Policy and Procedure [P 4.43](#) and [PR 4.43](#)
Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Harassment, [P7.30](#) and [PR7.30](#)