

# Pennsylvania College of Technology

## Policy Statement

**Title:** Academic Fairness

**Number:** P 4.23

**Approved by:**  
Presidential Action

**Approved Date:** 12/2010  
**Implementation Date:** 12/2010  
**Last Review Date:** 02/2026  
**Last Revision Date:** 02/2026

**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 their academic performance, not on the basis of their 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 Standards, [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: 02/2026 Revised to include gender neutral language.

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](#)

Student Code of Conduct Standards Policy and Procedure [P 4.43](#) and [PR 4.43](#)

Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedure, [P 7.30](#) and [PR 7.30](#)