

Academic freedom is the freedom to teach, both in and outside the classroom, to research and to publish the results of those investigations, and to address any matter of institutional policy or action whether or not as a member of an agency of institutional governance. Professors should also have the freedom to speak to any matter of social, political, economic, or other interest to the larger community, subject to the academic standard of conduct set forth in paragraph D below (see source).

The above statement is not to be interpreted as protective of an incompetent or negligent faculty member, nor does it prevent the University from evaluating the work of each faculty member according to the published criteria and guidelines of the University and college.

When the alleged discrimination/harassment takes place in an instructional setting and the accused believes the allegation of discrimination/harassment infringes upon academic freedom, the Title IX Coordinator; Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs and Human Resources will be consulted.

Source: <https://www.wku.edu/academicaffairs/documents/wku-faculty-handbook-25th-edition.pdf>

It is the position of The Office of Student Conduct that among the violations of misconduct considered to be of an especially serious nature are those that represent a threat to the safety and health of members of the University Community. These include but are not limited to, harassment, physical violence or threat of violence, non-consensual sexual contact, rape or any form of sexual violence.