

Dickinson College Statement on Freedom of Expression

Policy/Procedure

Dickinson seeks to cultivate inquiry into human experience and the natural world. This goal requires a commitment to open expression and critical thought. Therefore, while affirming its institutional rights and privileges as a private institution, Dickinson is committed to advancing the interests of its campus community members relative to academic freedom, freedom of speech and expression, and the right to peaceably assemble.

We strive to provide learning opportunities that foster intellectual openness, social awareness, and civic engagement. A Dickinson education takes place in a diverse, inclusive residential community with a global network. Disagreement and debate are natural characteristics of such an environment. Participation does not mean always agreeing or avoiding ideas that challenge our sensibilities. Learning to navigate such challenges is an essential dimension of a Dickinson education. We must acknowledge the many ways in which members of our community express their perspectives and be open to learning from each other.

We expect Dickinsonians to make their own judgments and apply them responsibly. This entails a willingness to contest ideas that one opposes rather than seek to suppress their expression. By accepting membership in our community, faculty, staff, and students also accept a role in creating an intellectual and social environment characterized by understanding, accountability, and respect.

Dickinson is committed to the physical safety and emotional well-being of its members. The College will challenge behavior that constitutes a genuine threat or harassment; compromises the safety, privacy, or confidentiality of community members; or violates the law. Attending to these concerns protects our mission and satisfies legal mandates that protect us all.

Related Information

History/Revision Information

Responsible Division/Office: Office of General Counsel

Effective Date: June 22, 2020

Last Amended Date:

Next Review Date: June 22, 2021