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**Kern Community College District  
Board Policy  
Chapter 4 – Academic Affairs**

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**BP 4030 Academic Freedom**

**Rely Primarily Upon the Advice and Judgement**

**Reference:**

Title 5 Sections 51023:

ACCJC Accreditation Eligibility Requirement 20 and ACCJC Accreditation Standard I.C.7 Agreement Between the Kern Community College District and the Kern Community College District Community College Association. California Teachers Association and the National Education Association. Article Four. A

**Note: This policy is legally required.**

Academic freedom enables both students and faculty the right to express their views in speech, writing, and through electronic communication without fear of sanction. The District recognizes the right of a faculty member to be free from censorship or restraint which interferes with the faculty member's commitment to pursue truth and maintain intellectual integrity.

The inherent dignity of all persons requires that we conduct ourselves with civility in all circumstances of our professional lives. Kern CCD does not participate in, or accept, condone, or tolerate physical or verbal forms of aggression, threat, harassment, ridicule, or intimidation. The colleges of the District are institutions of higher education that values a spirit of free inquiry and free speech. While the District encourages the expression of various points of view, all expressions of content to be conducted in a manner respectful of all persons. The District nurtures an atmosphere of mutual respect by treating everyone with dignity, even in the midst of differing values, beliefs, or behaviors of persons or people groups. The District recognizes mutual respect as the basis of civil discourse in an academic environment. Upholding the value of diversity creates a learning and working atmosphere in which persons can thrive and realize their potential.

Also see BP/AP 3900 Speech: Time, Place, and Manner