

**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENT**

Policy Title: Independent Teaching, **Independent** Scholarly/Creative Work, **and Academic Freedom**

APS Number: 1043

APS Functional Area: **ACADEMIC/RESEARCH**

Brief Description: This policy defines independent teaching and **independent** scholarly/creative work **relative to academic freedom.**

Effective: January 1, 2026 (Pending)

Approved by: President Todd Saliman

Responsible University Officer: Vice President for Academic Affairs

Responsible Office: Office of Academic Affairs

Policy Contact: Office of Academic Affairs

Supersedes: Independent Teaching and Scholarly/Creative Work, July 1, 2020

Last Reviewed/Updated: January 1, 2026 (Pending)

Applies to: All campuses

Reason for Policy: Defines independent teaching and **independent** scholarly/creative work, referenced in [Article 5.B.2\(B\)](#) of Regent Law.

I. INTRODUCTION

As stated in [Article 5.B.2\(B\)](#) of the Laws of the Regents, all university employees whose duties include independent teaching and/or **independent** scholarly/creative work are afforded the right of academic freedom relative to these duties. This administrative policy statement defines independent teaching and **independent** scholarly/creative work, thereby providing clarification on who has the right of academic freedom.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

Independent teaching and **independent** scholarly/creative work are defined as activities that are primarily conducted free of direct oversight by another individual.

- A. Course coordinators/directors and curriculum committees are not considered to be providing direct oversight of teaching.
- B. Scholarly/creative work, including collaborative work, qualifies as independent provided the individual is directly responsible for managing their own activity or assigned work.

III. RELATED POLICIES

- [Article 5, Part B – Academic Freedom](#)
- [Regent Policy 5.B – Academic Freedom](#)

IV. **HISTORY**

- Adopted: December 5, 2019; became effective July 1, 2020, with the rollout of the new regent article and policy 5 regarding faculty.
- Revised: January 1, 2026 (Pending).
- Last Reviewed: January 1, 2026 (Pending).

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