

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

Policy Category:	General
Policy Number:	1.10.2018.B
Policy Name:	Free Speech Policy
Responsible Department:	Office of the President
Original Approval Date:	December 2018
Approval Authority:	Board of Governors
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Next Review Date:	2025

According to the Nipissing University Act, *“The objects of the University are the pursuit of learning through scholarship, teaching and research within a spirit of free enquiry and expression.”*

Consequently, Nipissing University defines the articulation and discussion of ideas and opinions that are directed toward the achievement of these objects as freedom of speech. Students, faculty, administrators, staff and guests are encouraged to identify, challenge and criticize barriers or obstacles to these objects.

Relatedly, Nipissing University strives to create a teaching and research environment that is inclusive, diverse, welcoming and safe within this spirit of free enquiry and expression. While students and/or other individuals may encounter ideas or opinions that they disagree with or even find offensive at times, these ideas and opinions need still be offered to advance the objects of the institution.

There are limits to freedom of expression. Freedom of expression does not extend to expression that is prohibited by Canada’s criminal law or infringes on the rights of others.

This policy is not meant to contravene existing policies and agreements, including, without limitation, the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the Policy on Political Activities and Events, the Respectful Workplace & Learning Environments Policy, or relevant legislation such as the Ontario Human Rights Code.

For more information about our complaints process in relation to this policy, please contact Student Development and Services, the office of the relevant Dean and/or the Human Resources Office.

Approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors, on behalf of the Board of Governors, on December 17, 2018. Motion #2018-12-01.

Revised and approved by the Board of Governors: June 9, 2022 – resolution #2022-06-04.