

AC301: Research Freedom

Policy Title:	Research Freedom
Policy Number:	AC301
Owner:	Senior Vice President, Academic
Approved by:	College Executive Team
Effective Date:	September 2020
Reference:	
Links to Other Policy:	Freedom of Speech; Research Integrity

St. Lawrence College is committed to making our resources fully accessible to all persons. This document will be made available in alternative format upon request.

BACKGROUND

Definitions:

Research Freedom - includes the right to freedom to carry out research and disseminate and publish the results thereof; freedom to produce and perform creative works; freedom to acquire, preserve, and provide access to documentary material in all formats; Research freedom always entails freedom from institutional censorship.

Purpose:

To define and affirm the importance of College-sanctioned research.

Scope:

Research activities and research dissemination that provides students, faculty and/or staff with opportunities to learn that is operationally feasible, sanctioned and funded by the College.

POLICY STATEMENTS

1. St. Lawrence College serves the common good of society, through searching for, and disseminating knowledge, and through understanding and fostering independent thinking and expression in academic staff and students. These ends cannot be achieved without scholarship and research.

2. The support, funding and resourcing of research must be in line with the College's institutional mission, the Strategic Mandate Agreement and be approved by the appropriate manager.
3. When funding is available and research is conducted and research results disseminated, faculty, staff, and students will be expected to be knowledgeable of and to comply with their professional codes of conduct, research guidelines, regulations, relevant laws and best practices. Research freedom makes intellectual discourse, critique, and commitment possible. Research freedom includes the right to disseminate research results without censorship, legitimate, evidence-based classroom discussion, and the advocacy of diverse opinions in St. Lawrence College's learning environments.

MONITORING

With regards to research involving faculty, the Research Office and Associate/Campus Deans are responsible to monitor implementation. With regards to research involving staff, the Research Office and the staff member's manager are responsible for monitoring implementation.

NEXT POLICY REVISION DATE

September 2025

SPECIFIC LINKS

APPENDIX A AND ATTACHMENTS