



## Thammasat University Notification of Policy on Academic Freedom

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To ensure that institutions of higher education fulfill the mission of promoting the common good through the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge, academic freedom is essential and applies to both teaching and research. Freedom in research is fundamental to advancing knowledge frontier, while Academic freedom in teaching is crucial for protecting faculty rights and students' freedom to learn. Pursuant to The Royal Gazette of the Kingdom of Thailand, dated December 20, 2021, the management of higher education is mandated to adhere to principles of social responsibility, Academic freedom, independence, and equality. Thammasat University fully endorses these principles, recognizing the rights and obligations articulated therein:

### 1. Definition

“University” refers to Thammasat University

“Students” refers to students enrolled at Thammasat University.

“Administrator” refers to individuals in leadership positions responsible for overseeing various aspects of University operations. This includes roles such as the president, provost, dean, department chair, and other administrative staff.

“Faculty members” refers to an individual who is employed by an educational institution, typically in a teaching, research, or administrative capacity

“Academic freedom” refers to the liberty of faculty, staff, and Students to teach, learn, conduct research, and express ideas without fear of censorship, retaliation, or institutional constraints, provided such activities do not violate legal or ethical standards.

“Freedom of expression” refers to the right of individuals to express their thoughts, opinions, and beliefs without censorship or restraint. This includes the ability to communicate ideas freely in various forms, whether through speech, writing, or other means, and is fundamental to a democratic society and a vibrant academic community

“Controversial topics” refers to subjects that provoke strong opinions and disagreements, which can be relevant to academic discussions but must be approached with care to maintain focus on the curriculum.

2. In accordance with the Thammasat University Regulations on the Code of Ethics, 2020, all administrators, faculty members, and students are required to respect and support academic freedom and freedom of expression.

3. Thammasat University affirms the academic freedom of faculty, staff, students, and scholars to express opinions and engage in academic work without coercion or interference.

4. The University shall provide necessary facilities and activities that promote the exercise of academic freedom to enhance the knowledge and potential of students and staff.

5. Faculty members are entitled to exercise Academic freedom in teaching, research, academic service, and the expression of academic opinions to promote and enhance the institution's academic excellence, with a fundamental commitment to correctness. Such exercises must comply with applicable laws and the moral standards of the country.

6. Faculty members are granted the right to conduct research and publish findings freely, provided they fulfill their other academic obligations. Any research conducted for financial gain must adhere to prior agreements established with university authorities.

7. Faculty members, as members of a learned profession and officers of an educational institution, shall be free from institutional censorship or disciplinary action when expressing themselves as citizens. However, their unique position entails specific obligations. They must be mindful that the public may evaluate their profession and institution based on their statements. Consequently, they should strive for accuracy, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for differing opinions, and clearly indicate that they are not representing the institution.


8. Faculty members possess the freedom to discuss their subjects within the classroom; however, they must exercise caution to avoid introducing controversial topics that are not pertinent to their subject matter. This guideline is not intended to discourage controversial

discussions, as such controversy is integral to free academic inquiry. Faculty should avoid persistently introducing unrelated material that does not align with their disciplinary focus.

9. While faculty members are responsible for designing assessments to evaluate students' mastery of course content, they must recognize and respect the distinction between a student's mastery of content and the student's freedom of belief. Faculty shall assess student learning based solely on mastery of course content. Decisions regarding course content and the quality of scholarship must adhere to the standards of the academic profession as interpreted and applied by the qualified scholarly community.

10. A student's freedom of belief pertains to an individual's subjective decision to agree or disagree with the curricular content of a specific course within a broader academic discipline. Instructors have a duty to enhance student learning through assessments of course content mastery, but they do not possess the authority to compel students to adopt specific beliefs.

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