

Title: Academic Freedom

Policy  
No.: ADM 1.12

Date: 10/15/08  
Rev.:

Areas Affected: All BSMSON Faculty

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### **Purpose**

To insure that the Bon Secours Memorial School of Nursing supports the concept of academic freedom.

### **Definitions**

Academic freedom is defined as the freedom to discover, inquire, publish, teach, speak, assemble, and communicate without constraints from school authority. Although faculty are obligated to teach from the curriculum and syllabus approved by the Faculty Organization, faculty are free to teach in a manner that is effective for student learning.

### **Policy Statement**

Bon Secours Memorial School of Nursing provides nursing education for the community in the state of Virginia. This mission can best be accomplished in an atmosphere of free inquiry and discussion, referred to as academic freedom.

Only the scientific principles of inquiry shall provide control over this process. The best insurance against academic error is the widest exposure to differing and conflicting opinions.

Students are guaranteed the freedom to study and discuss in an open accepting academic setting while conforming to the standards of conduct operating within Bon Secours Memorial School of Nursing.

Students and faculty should be evaluated on their performance without reference to religious, social or political views.

Faculty must present accurate information and indicate that they are not speaking for the school when they are speaking or writing as citizens. Although faculty are guaranteed freedom from censorship, it is important that they realize that the public may judge them as representing their profession or Bon Secours Memorial School of Nursing.

Faculty must adhere to the Bon Secours Richmond Health System policies (i.e. Human Resources, Fiscal, Nursing, Administration, Public Relations), the Bon Secours Health System Code of Ethical Conduct, as well as the Catholic Health Directives in the administration of their duties and responsibilities.

### **Procedure**

None

Reference Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

### **Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Dean \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Vice President/Administrator \_\_\_\_\_  
Title Date

### **Approval History:**

Committees and Dates:

Faculty Forum –

Faculty Organization –

Key words: Policies, procedure \_\_\_\_\_