



POLICY TITLE	Academic Freedom and Information Access	Policy Number	444
Section	Facilities, Operations, and Information Technology	Approval Date	October 14, 2004
Subsection	Information Technology	Effective Date	October 14, 2004
Responsible Office	Office of the Vice President of Information Technology		

1.0 PURPOSE

2.0 REFERENCES

- 2.1 UVU Policy 322 *Employee Rights and Responsibility*
- 2.2 UVU Policy 443 *Ethics in Computer Usage*
- 2.3 UVU Policy 444 *Academic Freedom and Information Access*
- 2.4 UVU Policy 541 *Student Code of Conduct*
- 2.5 UVU Policy 635 *Faculty Rights and Professional Responsibility*
- 2.6 UVU Policy 637 *Faculty Tenure*

3.0 DEFINITIONS

4.0 POLICY

4.1 To ensure that the same standards and principles of intellectual and academic freedom used in university classrooms, libraries, and other aspects of university life be applied to access for the community to resources available through computer networks. While the resources and discussions on such networks are not truly analogous to classrooms or libraries, the standards of academic freedom used in those settings must be applied. The University's overall principle is that information shall not be censored. This policy is in keeping with the University's commitment to academic freedom, as described in the UVU Policy 541 *Student Code of Conduct*, and UVU Policy 322 *Employee Rights and Responsibility*. UVU is a community of scholars in which the ideals of freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought, freedom of expression,

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and freedom of the individual are sustained. The commitment is also expressed in UVU Policy 444 *Academic Freedom and Information Access*, UVU Policy 635 *Faculty Rights and Professional Responsibility*, and UVU Policy 637 *Faculty Tenure*, which endorses the “Statement on Academic Freedom in the 1940 Statement of Principles of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).” The University's commitment parallels the national “Library Bill of Rights,” which affirms the importance of making information and ideas available in an environment free from censorship. It is also the policy of the University that the same standards of intellectual and academic freedom developed for faculty, student, and staff publication in traditional media be applied to distribution of ideas and information in electronic media. This policy statement on information access through computer networks compliments the University's overall UVU Policy 443 *Ethics in Computer Usage*, which describes the responsibilities of the University community to use computer resources in an ethical, professional, and legal manner.

4.2 There may be some instances in which resources on the University's computer network shall be made available on a limited basis. The potential reasons for limited dissemination include licensing agreements that define the audience of a given resource, cost factors, and technological constraints.

5.0 PROCEDURES

POLICY HISTORY		
November 29, 2018	Non-substantive changes: In sections 2.4 and 4.1, Policy 541 title updated from <i>Student Rights and Responsibilities</i> to <i>Student Code of Conduct</i> .	UVU Policy Office
October 14, 2004	Approved for Policy Manual.	UVU Board of Trustees