

Free Intellectual Inquiry Policy - HE

Policy Code: ACA-013**Version:** 10.0**Effective Date:** 16 July 2024

Purpose

Endeavour College of Natural Health will deliver student centred higher education courses that are informed by research, and promote intellectual enquiry, critical thinking and creative reasoning. The College's value as an institution of learning depends upon its ability and its determination to challenge, revise and renew accepted ideas, its encouragement of vigorous debate, and its support for the development and testing of theories. For the College to fulfil this role, its academic staff are encouraged to exercise their own professional judgment in engaging in teaching, learning and research, and to disseminate the results of research, without undue interference.

Definition of "College" – *In the higher education sector, the Australian College of Natural Medicine Pty Ltd (ACNM) trades as Endeavour College of Natural Health and Endeavour Wellness Clinic. For the purpose of this policy, any reference to 'College' or 'the College' should be considered a reference to each or any of these respective trading names / entities.*

Scope

- All Campuses
- All staff
- All Higher Education students
- All governing bodies including ACNM Board and Academic Council

Policy Statement

Students and staff should expect that their right to hold values of their own choosing will be respected even when those values are being questioned. Free intellectual inquiry carries associated responsibilities to exercise professional care and competence in the conduct of teaching, learning and research, to subject academic work to the critical scrutiny of others, to consider the impact that one's work may have on others, and not to impinge on the ability of others to engage freely in teaching, learning, research and academic debate. Students and staff must take particular care not to breach laws and regulations such as those relating to privacy, discrimination and vilification.

This Policy reflects the requirements of the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021* and *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011*.

Principles

The College will promote investigation, critical enquiry and innovation through scholarship, teaching and partnerships with business, industry, education and government.

The College will provide individuals with a learning environment that:

- Motivates and engenders enquiry and learning about health science, natural medicine, society, culture, the international environment, science, technology and industry

- Encourages, facilitates and supports positive, analytical discourse and awareness
- Promotes free intellectual inquiry and diverse opinions
- Promotes scholarship and research that leads to the creation of new knowledge and original creative endeavours
- Examines and discusses all questions of interest to them, and express opinions publicly as well as privately.

The College will support this learning environment by:

- maintaining a framework for academic integrity and honesty
- promoting scholarly activity

In the exercise of academic and intellectual freedom, staff, affiliates and students will observe the College's relevant *Code of Conduct*, acting in a professional and ethical manner. It is also expected that all discourse of academic freedom of expression must be undertaken reasonably and in good faith.

Public Comment

Academic staff members and senior administrators are experts in their professions, and are able to make a valuable contribution to public debate. Academic freedom and intellectual inquiry is valued by the College and should be protected. Academic staff members may be called upon to make public comment in a variety of forums including conferences, research and the media.

Academic staff must consult with the Director of Education and Head of Marketing before providing information or interviews to the media that may reflect on the College. Refer to the *Media Policy* for advice on appropriately handling media enquiries and the *Social Media Policy* for online conduct in social media forums.

Academic papers, journal articles or conference presentations that claim to represent the College's view or official position must be forwarded via the authoring staff member's relevant line manager for Director of Education and Head of Marketing approval prior to formal submission, public presentation or general release.

Responsibilities and delegations

Academic staff are responsible for

- Promoting free intellectual enquiry, critical thinking and creative reasoning in the higher education student body
- Encouraging, facilitating and supporting positive, analytical discourse and awareness in the higher education student body.

All College higher education staff have a role in ensuring quality assurance and continual improvement policy and procedure is supported and carried out.

Academic Council is the primary academic governance decision-making body of the College and oversees the College's higher education operations.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements

This Policy will be reviewed and updated regularly in line with the College's *Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement Framework*.



Definitions

Student – is an individual person who is formally enrolled to study at the College. The individual person is that who appears on the College's documents such as enrolment, admission and payment documents, and who is assigned an individual student ID.

Related Procedures

Not Applicable

Further Information

Related Policies

[Academic Integrity Policy - Higher Education](#)

[Employee and Contractor Code of Conduct](#)

[Media Policy](#)

[Social Media Policy](#)

[Student Code of Conduct - HE](#)

Related Documents

Not Applicable

Guidelines

Not Applicable

Benchmarking

Christian Heritage College

Southbank Institute of Technology

TAFE NSW

Supporting Research and Analysis

Not Applicable

Related Legislation

[Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2021](#)

[Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011](#)

Review and Approval

Policy Author

Director of Education

Policy Owner

Director of Education

Contact

Director of Education

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Recommending Body

Teaching and Learning Committee / Director of Education

Meeting date: 13 November 2012; and

Academic Board

Meeting date: 27 November 2012

Approval Body

College Council

Meeting date: 7 December 2012

Policy Status

Revised

Responsibilities for Implementation

- Director of Education
- Head of Marketing
- Heads of Department
- National Librarian

Key Stakeholders

- Academic Council
- ACNM Board
- All staff
- Education Board
- Students