Freedom of Expression

Virginia State University (VSU) fosters an atmosphere that inspires academic and moral excellence, where the rights and opinions of others are respected and a sense of integrity and fairness prevail. VSU is committed to freedom of expression and inquiry, free speech, academic freedom, and diversity of thought. Our policies and practices support these rights for our employees and students.

The University’s Faculty Handbook, which is posted on the university’s website and shared with all faculty, outlines the Academic Freedom policies which summarizes faculty rights to freedom of teaching or delivery of instruction, and freedom of research, and in the publication of research. In addition, as citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution, the Faculty Handbook also notes that when speaking and writing, faculty are free from institutional censorship or discipline.

As a community of scholars in which the ideals of freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought, freedom of expression and freedom of the individual are sustained, Virginia State University seeks to maintain an environment where students have the rights to expression, association, education, and learning beyond formal instruction among other rights. Virginia State University officially recognizes freedom of speech as a fundamental right and is committed to creating an environment that cultivates the discovery, improvement, transmission, and dissemination of knowledge by means of research, teaching, discussion, and intentional debate. All VSU students have the right to freely examine and exchange diverse ideas in an orderly-manner inside and outside the classroom, and VSU encourages free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberation by all students. These rights are detailed in the Student Handbook which is posted on the university’s website and shared with all students.