

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



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STUDENT HANDBOOK

Joint Statement on the Rights and Freedoms of Students

In recent years Wesleyan University has operated under two separate statements of student rights, which are concurrent and to some degree overlapping. These are the Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students (see below) subscribed to by the faculty on June 5, 1969, and the portion of its former University Code headed Responsibilities of the University to its Members (see page 91). Both statements remain in effect. In addition, the University has developed a separate policy statement on student records, as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. That statement also appears below.

- [Preamble](#)

- Academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the general well-being of society. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. As members of the academic community, students should be encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Institutional procedures for achieving these purposes may vary from campus to campus, but the minimal standards of academic freedom of students outlined below are essential to any community of scholars.

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus and in the larger community. Students should exercise their freedom with responsibility.

The responsibility to secure and to respect general conditions conducive to the freedom to learn is shared by all members of the academic community. Each college and university has a duty to develop policies and procedures that provide and safeguard this freedom. Such policies and procedures should be developed at each institution within the framework of general standards and with the broadest possible participation of the members of the academic community. The purpose of this statement is to enumerate the essential provisions for student freedom to learn.

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