

## 10. Academic Freedom and Intellectual Property Rights

- 10.1 The philosophy of Christendom College is that truth is what makes men free. To know the truth is to understand existence, perceive the ultimate goals of life, and recognize means appropriate to these goals.

Given the specific character and mission of Christendom College, academic freedom must here take into account (a) the freedom of a corporate group to make a commitment to teach in light of the truths taught by the Catholic Church, (b) the freedom of those who wish to be taught at the College, and (c) the freedom of those who carry out the specific vocation of teaching at the College.

Since the College formally and publicly adheres to the truth of the Revelation of Jesus Christ as taught by the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church (see [6.4](#)), the public rejection of this truth is regarded as grounds for dismissal (see [6.7.1](#)). Within the guiding framework of this revealed truth, however, faculty are encouraged to study and explore the entire scope of reality, to use their disciplines to attain an ever clearer perception of reality and hence an ever deepening grasp of truth. In this connection, the following activities of faculty members are not only encouraged but expected:

1. the application of established truths to new questions and problems;
2. efforts to express the truth in ways more easily understood by contemporary men;
3. explorations of the various aspects of the human experience in order to add to the understanding of how fundamental truths are revealed in or apply to particular situations; and
4. tentative probing into and discussion of as yet uncharted areas of knowledge which might increase man's understanding of reality itself.

In the pursuit of such free academic study and inquiry, due allowance is always made for tentative conclusions which might prove to be false upon further examination. Within the framework of the official teachings of the Catholic Church, therefore, the free study of reality is encouraged and supported at Christendom College in the profound hope that faculty may contribute to the advance of truth among all men.

The responsibility for teaching falls upon the individual faculty members under the overview of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the respective Department Chairmen. Due allowance shall be made, however, for the freedom to learn within the parameters of the curriculum and the specific character and mission of Christendom College. Hence, the responsibility of the Department Chairman, under the direction of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, to oversee the content and texts for each course in his department (see [5.2.2](#)) shall not be construed as an abridgment of the freedom to teach.

- 10.2 Christendom College recognizes that individual faculty members are likely to produce

ideas, programs, and initiatives relating to their expertise from which they could derive profit or some form of material gain. These ideas, programs, or initiatives may be in whole or part the product of teaching or scholarly activities which are normal parts of their salaried duties. To the extent that such ideas, programs, and initiatives do not in any way impede the duties and obligations owed by such faculty members to Christendom, the College supports and encourages them wholeheartedly and recognizes them as the intellectual property of individual faculty members.

Stipulations:

1. Creators will grant non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual licenses to the College for Intellectual Property that is developed for College courses or curriculum, so that the College's continued use of such material for educational purposes at Christendom would not be jeopardized.
2. Course materials developed for or used in the Christendom Graduate School distance learning (on-line) courses are considered commissioned works and are covered by separate written contracts between Christendom College and the faculty member(s) responsible for the works.

Similarly, any intellectual property produced by a student at Christendom College, excluding tests, exams, and quizzes, to fulfill in whole or part the requirements of a course in which the student is registered will be owned by the student. The College does not claim ownership of such intellectual property.

Commissioned Works: The College may enter into a written contract with a faculty member or student for the creation of a work using College or external resources in which the College or the external source retains ownership of the copyright of the work. In all cases, copyright ownership shall be specified in the written contract. In addition, such a contractual agreement shall

- i. be entered into prior to the creation of the work,
- ii. explicitly describe the work as a deliverable product under the contract,
- iii. specify the source of funding, which shall be distinct from the author's regular compensation,
- iv. be entered into at the option of the author and not as a condition of ongoing employment .