



# UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

## Policies and Procedures

<b>Proposed Policy Number and Title: 444 Academic Freedom and Information Access</b>			
<b>Existing Policy Number and Title: 444 Academic Freedom and Information Access</b>			
<b>Approval Process*</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Substantive Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Compliance Change
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Revision–Limited-Scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Revision–Limited-Scope
<input type="checkbox"/> Revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Revision		<input type="checkbox"/> Deletion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deletion	<input type="checkbox"/> Suspension		
Anticipated Expiration Date (Temporary Policies): Click or tap to enter a date.			

\*See UVU Policy 101 *Policy Governing Policies* for process details.

<b>Draft Number and Date:</b> <u>Stage 2 University Entities Review Draft, Deletion</u>	
<b>President's Council Sponsor:</b> <u>Christina Baum</u>	<b>Ext.</b> _____
<b>Policy Steward:</b> <u>Joe Belnap</u>	<b>Ext.</b> _____

POLICY APPROVAL PROCESS DATES	
<b>Policy Drafting and Revision</b> Entrance Date: <u>2/8/2024</u>	<b>POST APPROVAL PROCESS</b> Verify: <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Number <input type="checkbox"/> Section <input type="checkbox"/> Title <input type="checkbox"/> BOT approval <input type="checkbox"/> Approval date <input type="checkbox"/> Effective date <input type="checkbox"/> Proper format of Policy Manual posting <input type="checkbox"/> TOPS Pipeline and Archives update
<b>University Entities Review</b> Entrance Date: <u>2/8/2024</u> Close Feedback: <u>10/2/2025</u>	
<b>University Community Review</b> Entrance Date: _____ Open Feedback: _____ Close Feedback: _____	
<b>Board of Trustees Review</b> Entrance Date: _____ Approval Date: _____	<b>Policy Office personnel who verified and posted this policy to the University Policy Manual</b> <b>Name:</b> _____ <b>Date posted and verified:</b> _____



# UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

## Policies and Procedures

Page 1 of 5

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	Academic Freedom and Information Access	<b>Policy Number</b>	444
<b>Section</b>	Facilities, Operations, and Information Technology	<b>Approval Date</b>	October 14, 2004
<b>Subsection</b>	Information Technology	<b>Effective Date</b>	October 14, 2004
<b>Responsible Office</b>	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 Rights and Responsibility Policy*~~
- ~~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 Rights and Responsibility Policy*, 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~~



# UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

## Policies and Procedures

Page 2 of 5

expression, 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		
Date of Last Action	Action Taken	Authorizing Entity

○ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

## Policy 444 Academic Freedom and Information Access

---

<b>Date:</b>	<b>May 29, 2025</b>
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Christina Baum
<b>Steward(s):</b>	Joe Belnap, Kedric Black
<b>Policy Process:</b>	<b>Regular</b>
<b>Policy Action:</b>	<b>Deletion</b>
<b>Policy Office Editor:</b>	Cara O’Sullivan
<b>Embedded Attorney:</b>	Not applicable.

---

**Issues/Concerns (including fiscal, legal, and compliance impact):**

**May 29, 2025, Update:** After consulting with Academic Affairs and Dx IT Security, Brett McKeachnie, the policy steward, determined that the deletion of this policy can proceed without Policy 115. This policy is already in Stage 2 and will complete that stage in Fall 2025.

**January 25, 2024:** Policy 115 *Personal Use of University Property* is a new policy in Stage 1 Drafting that will cover data governance at the University. It will also include the topic covered in Policy 444; therefore, we request that Policy 444 be deleted from the Policy Manual. Policies 444 and 115 will go through the policy process together.

**Suggested Changes:** Not applicable.

**Requested Approval from President’s Council:** Entrance to Stage 1 Drafting, regular policy process.

**Proposed Drafting Committee:** Not applicable.

**Target Date for Stage 1 Draft to Enter Stage 2:** This policy will enter Stage 2 at the same time as Policy 115.

**Target Date for Board of Trustees Review:** [Click here to enter a date.](#)



VISIT THE POLICY OFFICE ONLINE AT [WWW.UVU.EDU/POLICIES/](http://WWW.UVU.EDU/POLICIES/)