3.7.4. The institution ensures adequate procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom. *(Academic freedom)*

**Rationale and Notes**

The essential role of institutions of higher education is the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge. Academic freedom respects the dignity and rights of others while fostering intellectual freedom of faculty to teach, research, and publish. Responsible academic freedom enriches the contributions of higher education to society.

**Relevant Questions for Consideration**

- How does the institution define academic freedom?
- What are the institutional policies and procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom of faculty?
- How does the institution publicize its policies on academic freedom for faculty?
- If there have been any instances in which issues involving academic freedom have emerged, how have these issues been resolved?

**Documentation**

- Required Documentation, if applicable
  - Publications that include the institution’s academic freedom policies
- Examples of other Types of Documentation
  - Any evidence regarding institutional academic freedom issues.

**Reference to Commission Documents, if applicable**

“Developing Policy and Procedures Documents”

**Cross References to other related Standards/Requirements, if applicable**

None noted