



ACTA Gold Standard for Freedom of Expression Recommendations for Arizona's Public University System

The **American Council of Trustees and Alumni's (ACTA)** Campus Freedom Initiative® (CFI) has used its Gold Standard for Freedom of Expression™ to conduct thorough evaluations of **Arizona State University (ASU)**, **Northern Arizona University (NAU)**, and the **University of Arizona (U of A)**. We have compiled the results in ACTA's first report card on a public university system.

ASU achieved the highest score, but all of Arizona's public universities meet several Gold Standards of which they can be proud. At the same time, our report card and survey data from students at all three universities show that ASU, NAU, and the U of A must do more to protect and promote open inquiry and free expression on their campuses. Here we offer recommendations all three universities, and the Arizona Board of Regents, should implement to pursue these important goals.

Arizona Board of Regents

Select Gold Standard Achievements:

- Sponsors the Regents' Cup, an annual debate competition between all three of Arizona's public universities that promotes civil discourse.
- Generates an annual report on free expression, documenting successes and challenges at all three Arizona public universities.
- Protects free expression rights in its policy on free expression and Student Code of Conduct.
- Prohibits DEI statements in faculty hiring at all three Arizona public universities.

Recommended Next Steps:

- Recommend all three Arizona public universities adopt policies of institutional neutrality modeled on the University of Chicago's Kalven Report (or a similar statement).
- Recommend all three Arizona public universities take action to improve intellectual diversity among faculty by adopting appropriate policies for faculty hiring, annual reviews, and tenure and promotion procedures.
- Make commitment to and provide evidence of making freedom of expression and intellectual diversity a hiring qualification in all university president searches.

Arizona State University

Select Gold Standard Achievements:

- Has adopted the Chicago Principles on Freedom of Expression.
- Supports the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership, one of ACTA's Oases of Excellence.
- Holds regular events and debates that model civil dialogue and promote intellectual diversity.
- Includes free expression training during new-student orientations.

Recommended Next Steps:

- Adopt a policy of institutional neutrality modeled on the University of Chicago's Kalven Report or a similar statement.
- Adopt the University of Chicago's Shils Report on the Criteria of Academic Appointment and make intellectual diversity a stated goal in faculty hiring, evaluation, and promotion.
- Require free expression and viewpoint diversity training for administrative staff.
- Conduct regular evaluations of the state of free expression and intellectual diversity on campus.

Northern Arizona University

Select Gold Standard Achievements:

- Has adopted the Chicago Principles on Freedom of Expression.
- Includes free expression training during new-student orientations.
- Has clear policies on free expression for students and faculty.
- Deploys the SpEAK (Speech Expression Action Knowledge) Team to facilitate civil discourse at free speech events on campus.

Recommended Next Steps:

- Adopt a policy of institutional neutrality modeled on the University of Chicago's Kalven Report or a similar statement.
- Adopt the University of Chicago's Shils Report on the Criteria of Academic Appointment and make intellectual diversity a stated goal in faculty hiring, evaluation, and promotion.
- Require free expression and viewpoint diversity training for administrative staff.
- Conduct regular evaluations of the state of free expression and intellectual diversity on campus.
- Support academic centers dedicated to free inquiry and intellectual diversity.
- Encourage the formation of student groups that promote free expression and bring more debate programs to campus.

University of Arizona

Select Gold Standard Achievements:

- Has adopted the Chicago Principles on Freedom of Expression.
- Supports the Center for the Philosophy of Freedom, one of ACTA's Oases of Excellence.
- Supports the establishment of student groups promoting free expression.
- Practices viewpoint neutrality in the recognition and funding of student groups.

Recommended Next Steps:

- Adopt a policy of institutional neutrality modeled on the University of Chicago's Kalven Report or a similar statement.
- Adopt the University of Chicago's Shils Report on the Criteria of Academic Appointment and make intellectual diversity a stated goal in faculty hiring, evaluation, and promotion.
- Require free expression and viewpoint diversity training for administrative staff.
- Conduct regular evaluations of the state of free expression and intellectual diversity on campus.



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