

**Many actions by state legislatures, regents, and regulatory agencies interfere with an individual university's curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment. Although a university administration could assert academic freedom to resist infringement, this First Amendment right is vague and difficult to apply. The judicial doctrine of academic abstention, however, resonates with the same justifications and could function as a corollary. This essay explores the legal and theoretical backing for this combined concept and explains its application with examples.**