

This note investigates whether a concept of constitutional academic freedom can be used as a shield against state anti-affirmative action laws. It observes that colleges and universities specially serve central First Amendment values and the line of Supreme Court academic freedom cases arguably support a First Amendment right of academic freedom. Finally, in an attempt draw the many strands of academic freedom together, this note proposes a theory of academic freedom that protects, not particular players in the academic world, but the academic endeavor itself--a theory that includes college and university admissions policies within its scope.