
SPIRAL Academic Press

A Division of SPIRAL With Fredah LLC

INSTITUTIONAL CHARTER

Governing Document of the Press

ADOPTED
January 2026

VERSION
1.0 — Founding Edition

NAICS 541611 · 611430
spiralacademicpress.org · editorial@spiralacademicpress.org

PREAMBLE

“To publish rigorous interdisciplinary scholarship that advances the science and practice of human development, leadership, learning, and organizational transformation — making knowledge accessible to researchers, practitioners, educators, executives, and institutions worldwide.”

— Mission Statement, SPIRAL Academic Press

SPIRAL Academic Press (hereinafter “the Press”) is established as an independent scholarly publishing division of SPIRAL With Fredah LLC, a limited liability company organized under the laws of the United States. The Press is founded on the conviction that rigorous scholarship should serve not only the academy but the world of practice — that the science of human development, leadership, and organizational transformation belongs to everyone who seeks to lead more wisely, live more fully, and build institutions that endure.

This Charter constitutes the foundational governing document of the Press. It establishes the Press’s identity, mission, values, organizational structure, editorial independence, and operating principles. All policies, handbooks, and operational procedures of the Press derive their authority from and must remain consistent with this Charter.

I. Identity and Establishment

Section 1.1 — Name and Legal Status. The Press operates under the name SPIRAL Academic Press and is a division of SPIRAL With Fredah LLC. The Press is not a separate legal entity; it operates under the legal authority and financial responsibility of SPIRAL With Fredah LLC.

Section 1.2 — Founding Date. The Press was formally established in January 2026.

Section 1.3 — Registered Identifiers. The Press operates under NAICS codes 541611 (Administrative Management and General Management Consulting Services) and 611430 (Professional and Management Development Training). The Press will seek registration with Crossref for DOI assignment, with ISSN International for journal registration, and with the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) as publications become eligible.

Section 1.4 — Principal Address. The Press maintains its principal administrative address in the United States. The editorial office is reachable at editorial@spiralacademicpress.org.

II. Mission, Vision, and Values

Section 2.1 — Mission. The mission of SPIRAL Academic Press is to publish rigorous interdisciplinary scholarship advancing the science and practice of human development, leadership, learning, and organizational science. The Press serves researchers, practitioners, educators, executives, and institutions worldwide.

Section 2.2 — Vision. The Press aspires to become a recognized independent publisher in the fields of Human Development and Developmental Science — a press known internationally for the quality, rigor, and real-world impact of its publications.

Section 2.3 — Core Values. The Press is guided by six foundational values:

1. **Scholarly Rigor.** The Press upholds the highest standards of research methodology, peer review, and scholarly integrity in all publications.
2. **Intellectual Honesty.** The Press is committed to transparency, accuracy, and the honest representation of research findings, including null results and replication studies.
3. **Accessibility.** The Press believes knowledge should be freely available. Its commitment to open access ensures that scholarship reaches those who need it most.
4. **Interdisciplinarity.** Human development is inherently complex. The Press actively seeks scholarship that bridges disciplines and integrates multiple ways of knowing.
5. **Ethical Practice.** The Press holds itself and its authors to the highest standards of research ethics, publication ethics, and responsible conduct of research.
6. **Global Perspective.** The Press actively seeks scholarship from diverse geographic, cultural, and institutional contexts, recognizing that human development is a universal concern.

III. Scope of Publishing Activity

Section 3.1 — Subject Areas. The Press publishes scholarship in the following primary subject areas: Human Development across the lifespan; Developmental Psychology and Neurodevelopment; Self-Leadership and Metacognition; Organizational Science and Transformation; Executive Leadership and Decision Science; Educational Research and Reflective Pedagogy; Human Coherence and Systems Psychology; and the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Human Development.

Section 3.2 — Publication Types. The Press is authorized to publish the following categories of scholarly work:

- **Peer-reviewed journals**, including original research articles, theoretical contributions, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and critical perspectives.
- **Books and monographs**, including authored volumes, edited collections, and scholarly handbooks.
- **Conference proceedings**, including papers from symposia and colloquia organized or co-sponsored by the Press.
- **Institutional repositories**, including working papers, technical reports, and pre-publication materials as designated by the Editor-in-Chief.

Section 3.3 — Open Access Commitment. All publications of the Press shall be made available under open access terms. The Press adopts the Budapest Open Access Initiative definition of

open access and commits to making all peer-reviewed publications freely available online without subscription barriers.

IV. Organizational Structure

Section 4.1 — Publisher. SPIRAL With Fredah LLC serves as Publisher of the Press. The Publisher holds ultimate legal and financial responsibility for the Press and appoints the Editor-in-Chief.

Section 4.2 — Editor-in-Chief. The Editor-in-Chief (EIC) is the senior editorial officer of the Press. The EIC is responsible for the overall scholarly direction of the Press, the quality of its publications, and the integrity of its editorial processes. The EIC serves at the pleasure of the Publisher but exercises independent editorial judgment in all matters of scholarly content.

Section 4.3 — Managing Editor. The Managing Editor oversees the day-to-day operational functions of the Press, including manuscript tracking, production workflows, author communications, and compliance with publishing standards.

Section 4.4 — Journal Editorial Boards. Each journal of the Press shall have an Editorial Board composed of qualified scholars in the relevant field. Editorial Board members are appointed by the EIC in consultation with the Publisher. Editorial Board members serve in an advisory and review capacity and do not hold employment relationships with the Press.

Section 4.5 — Editorial Independence. The editorial decisions of the Press — including decisions to accept, reject, or request revision of manuscripts — are made solely on the basis of scholarly merit and are not subject to commercial, political, or institutional influence. The Publisher shall not intervene in individual editorial decisions.

V. Peer Review Standards

Section 5.1 — Mandatory Peer Review. All original research articles, theoretical papers, and systematic reviews published in Press journals shall undergo double-blind peer review by a minimum of two qualified reviewers with relevant expertise.

Section 5.2 — Reviewer Qualifications. Reviewers shall hold doctoral-level qualifications or equivalent demonstrated expertise in the subject area under review. Reviewers are selected by journal editors from the reviewer database and external nominations.

Section 5.3 — Review Integrity. Reviewers are required to declare all conflicts of interest prior to accepting a review assignment. Reviewers who have a personal, professional, or financial relationship with the authors that could bias their assessment shall recuse themselves.

Section 5.4 — Timeliness. The Press is committed to timely peer review. Target review periods are established in the Editorial Handbook. Authors shall be notified of editorial decisions within the timeframes specified therein.

VI. Publication Ethics

Section 6.1 — Governing Standards. The Press adheres to the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) where applicable, and the principles of the Budapest Open Access Initiative.

Section 6.2 — Research Integrity. The Press takes research misconduct seriously. Allegations of plagiarism, data fabrication, data falsification, duplicate publication, or undisclosed conflicts of interest shall be investigated in accordance with COPE guidelines. The Press reserves the right to retract publications where misconduct is substantiated.

Section 6.3 — Author Responsibilities. Authors are responsible for the accuracy and integrity of their work, the appropriate attribution of all sources, the disclosure of all funding sources and conflicts of interest, and compliance with applicable ethical standards for research involving human or animal subjects.

Section 6.4 — Corrections and Retractions. The Press maintains a transparent corrections and retractions policy. Corrections of significant errors, expressions of concern, and retractions shall be published promptly and linked to the original article.

VII. Intellectual Property and Licensing

Section 7.1 — Open Access Licensing. All articles published in Press journals shall be published under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0) unless an alternative open license is specified for a particular journal or publication type.

Section 7.2 — Author Rights. Authors retain copyright in their work. By submitting to the Press, authors grant the Press a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license to publish, distribute, and archive the work in all formats and media.

Section 7.3 — Press Branding and Trademarks. The name “SPIRAL Academic Press,” the Press logo, and associated marks are the property of SPIRAL With Fredah LLC. Their use by third parties requires written authorization.

VIII. Financial Principles

Section 8.1 — Sustainability Model. The Press operates on a sustainable open access model. The Press does not charge subscription fees. Article Processing Charges (APCs), where applicable, shall be disclosed transparently and waiver policies shall be maintained for authors from low-income countries or without institutional funding.

Section 8.2 — No-APC Founding Period. During the founding period (2026–2027), the Press shall not charge APCs for manuscripts submitted to founding journals, in recognition of the importance of building a strong initial corpus of scholarship.

Section 8.3 — Financial Independence of Editorial Decisions. Under no circumstances shall financial considerations influence editorial decisions. The acceptance or rejection of manuscripts shall be determined solely by scholarly merit.

IX. Amendment and Review

Section 9.1 — Charter Review. This Charter shall be reviewed no less than once every three years by the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief. Reviews shall assess whether the Charter continues to reflect the Press’s mission, practices, and the evolving standards of scholarly publishing.

Section 9.2 — Amendment Procedure. Amendments to this Charter may be proposed by the Publisher or Editor-in-Chief. Proposed amendments shall be circulated to the Editorial Board for comment. Amendments take effect upon written approval by the Publisher.

Section 9.3 — Supersession. This Charter supersedes all prior statements of purpose, mission documents, and informal governing agreements of the Press. In the event of conflict between this Charter and any operational policy or handbook, this Charter shall govern.

ADOPTION AND AUTHORIZATION

This Charter was adopted by SPIRAL With Fredah LLC as the foundational governing document of SPIRAL Academic Press.

Publisher, SPIRAL With Fredah LLC
Date: January 2026

Editor-in-Chief, SPIRAL Academic Press
Date: