

Free Inquiry, Expression, and Assembly

Summary/Purpose: To provide students notice about their opportunity for free expression.

Students at The University of Mississippi have the rights of free inquiry, expression, and assembly as guaranteed by the Federal and State constitutions.

Students are encouraged to freely examine and exchange diverse ideas both inside and outside the classroom. In doing so, however, students and others must comply with other, generally applicable, University policies.

Speaker's Corners. To facilitate robust debate and the free exchange of ideas, the University has established high visibility areas on campus as "Speaker's Corners" that may be used by any person including non-students and other campus guests. This use may be without permission from the University so long as the area has not been previously reserved or scheduled for a particular function, no sound amplification is used, and the participants do not violate other University policies. Designated Speaker's Corners include:

- a) the edge of the Union Plaza adjacent to the Grove,
- b) the area surrounding the flagpole in the Lyceum Circle, and
- c) the plaza in front of Fulton Chapel.

Although it is not necessary for a person using one of the designated Speaker's Corners to obtain prior permission from the University, the University encourages such persons to contact the Office of the Dean of Students for scheduling purposes to minimize possible conflicts.

Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as limiting the right of student expression elsewhere on the campus so long as the expressive activities or related student conduct does not violate any other applicable University policies.

Organized Student Demonstrations. If a student or student organization intends to initiate, sponsor, or host a demonstration or event that may draw a large crowd, require security, impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic, include a parade, march, or other similar activity, or pose a substantial risk of disrupting the functioning of the University or of violating any other University policy; the University requires the student or student organization to contact the Office of the Dean of Students in advance of the activity and complete a written Event Registration form, and if appropriate, a Grounds Use Request form,. A representative of that Office will work with the requesting student or student organization to either meet the request or find a suitable time and location that balances the rights of the requesting student or student organization with the rights of others and the University's educational mission. The purpose of this policy is not to designate University streets and common areas as a public forum or to accommodate demonstrations or protests by those who are not part of the University community (non-students and other campus guests). Rather, the purpose of this policy is to promote and facilitate student expression while allowing the University to make any necessary arrangements (such as arranging parade route, providing security) to assure such activities do not interfere with the University's mission and operations or with the rights of others. Should an outside group

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wish to conduct an organized demonstration or to demonstrate in areas other than one of the Speakers' Corners, the group should seek the sponsorship of a recognized student organization.

Handbills, Posters, Flyers, Banners, and Signs. Building mayors or other University officials may designate areas in classrooms and or in or around University buildings for students or student organizations who wish to post handbills, posters, flyers, banners, signs, and other similar items on campus. However, The University of Mississippi prohibits the posting or display of these items by students or student organizations outside of these designated areas, including on the exterior of any University building, telephone/utility pole, tree, sidewalk, window, trash can, or any other exterior surface located on the campus, including vehicles. Requests to post fliers within on-campus housing must be submitted to the Department of Student Housing and Residence Life.

Use of Chalk on Sidewalks. The University of Mississippi limits the use of sidewalk chalk, sidewalk art, or other sidewalk chalk displays to University messages in support of University sponsored events or activities. Sidewalk chalk should not be used on University structures and buildings, including but not limited to steps, verandas, porches, columns, and monuments.