

Demonstrations and Reporting Guidelines

Northeastern believes it is fundamental to the democratic process to uphold the rights of the Northeastern community to express their views and to protest actions or opinions. A university is where individuals express diverse ideas and viewpoints in an atmosphere free of any physical force. Northeastern insists that all demonstrations be peaceful and orderly and abide by Northeastern regulations. This longstanding policy was developed to protect the interests of students who are demonstrating as well as the rights of others to study and work without disruption.

Demonstrations MUST be registered at least 7 days in advance by completing the “Demonstration Permit Application” found on the Campus Activities website. Approved demonstrations will be granted a permit from the office that must be present on site with the demonstration leader. This permit must be produced when asked.

Important Notes:

- Demonstrators must NOT block corridors or entrances or disrupt a class, conference, meeting, or assembly.
- Demonstrations may NOT be conducted in faculty or administrative offices, classrooms, libraries, or study areas.
- Moving picket lines in Northeastern corridors are prohibited. Protests may be registered by individuals or groups standing in a single line against a corridor wall, but corridors must be kept open at all times for the free passage of other members of the community.
- Students who violate these regulations will be subject to disciplinary action; violators also jeopardize their right to remain in the Northeastern community.
- Persons who are not students of Northeastern are prohibited to participate in demonstrations on campus, even if invited to do so by a Northeastern student. Such persons would be considered trespassers if they were to participate in a demonstration on Northeastern property and would be subject to arrest.

Bias Related Incident Reporting

The Bias Incident Response Protocol offers an effective and efficient process for individuals and/or groups to report bias incidents and/or hate crimes. It also outlines University procedures that will be instituted to respond to such acts. The protocol should be implemented whenever a bias incident or hate crime is perceived or suspected to have occurred on Northeastern University’s campus and/or in our educational programs. For more details, contact the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity at (617) 373-2133 or visit their website at northeastern.edu/diversity/policies/bias.

On-Campus Appearances by Political Candidates

Northeastern University encourages its students and employees to vote and to be involved in the democratic process. However, tax laws prohibit the University from being involved in the political process and also prohibit the use of University resources from being used to support or oppose any candidate. It is permissible to provide opportunities to speak at the University on an equal basis to all legally-qualified candidates for a public office. However, the following guidelines must be adhered to:

- If a candidate is invited to speak in his/her individual capacity as a candidate, all legally qualified candidates must also be invited to participate in the same way.
- Favor to any particular candidate cannot be shown. For example, it is unacceptable to invite one candidate to speak at a well-publicized, campus-wide event and another to speak at an unpublicized, limited access meeting.
- An explicit statement must be included in any communications and publicity about the speaker.
- An explicit statement must also be given at the beginning of the event that the University does not support or oppose any candidate.

Voter Registration

Voter education or registration drives that demonstrate bias or support for one candidate or party over the other are prohibited. Northeastern has a comprehensive policy on demonstrations. Please see Demonstrations and Reporting Guidelines on page 46. For more information or help planning an event with a Political Candidate