

## University of Georgia Policy on Freedom of Expression

No rights are more highly regarded at the University of Georgia than the first amendment guarantees of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and the right to assemble peaceably. The University of Georgia remains firmly committed to affording every member of the University community the opportunity to engage in peaceful and orderly protests and demonstrations which do not disrupt the operation of the University. However, such opportunities must be provided on an equal basis and adhere to the basic principle of the University's being neutral to the content of any public demonstration. In order to achieve this objective, while at the same time insuring that the University fulfills its educational mission, the University has the responsibility to regulate the time, place, and manner of expression. Through such regulation, the University can assure equal opportunity for all persons, preserve order within the University community, protect and preserve University property, and provide a secure environment to individuals exercising freedom of expression.

The following provisions serve as a guideline for governing Freedom of Expression at the University of Georgia. Other provisions are occasionally applicable and are approved by the Associate Dean of Students at least 48 hours in advance.

**A. Speeches and Demonstrations.** The areas designated as "Free Expression Areas" for speeches and demonstrations are the Tate Student Center Plaza and the Memorial Hall Plaza, which are generally available for this purpose between 8:00 am and 9:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Use of these areas for speaking, demonstrating and other forms of expression will be scheduled through the Associate Dean of Students to best accommodate all interested users. Groups wishing to gather at times other than the hours noted above must obtain approval from the Associate Dean of Students at least 48 hours in advance and receive a permit for gathering.

All other areas of campus may be used for speeches and demonstrations. Groups that wish to gather for speeches and demonstrations in a location(s) other than the "Free Expression Areas" must be approved by the Associate Dean of Students at least 48 hours in advance and receive a permit for the gathering.

**B. Distribution of Written Material.** Non-commercial pamphlets, handbills, circulars, newspapers, magazines and other written materials may be distributed on a person-to-person basis in open areas outside of building and other closed structures on the campus. No stand, table or booth shall be used in distribution except in the Tate Student Center Plaza and the Memorial Hall Plaza and only with the permission of the Associate Dean of Students. The University maintains a position of neutrality as to the content of any written material distributed on the campus under this policy.

The distribution of commercial materials and publications is covered by the Campus Solicitation Policy.

**C. Marches.** Marches may take place on streets and sidewalks of the campus. Plans must be approved by the Associate Dean of Students at least 48 hours in advance and receive a permit for the gathering.

**D. Provisions.** In order that persons exercising freedom of expression not interfere with the operation of the University or the rights of others, the following will apply without exception to any form of expression and will be used to evaluate any plans requiring approval. Reasonable limitations may be placed on the time, place and manner of speeches, demonstrations, distribution of written material, and marches in order to serve the interest of public health and safety, prevent disruption of the educational process, and protect against the invasion of the rights of others.

1. Events which may obstruct vehicular, pedestrian or other traffic must be approved at least 48 hours in advance by the Associate Dean of Students.
2. Use of sound amplification on campus is regulated and must be approved at least 48 hours in advance by the Associate Dean of Students.
3. There must be no obstruction of entrances or exits to buildings.
4. There must be no interference with university activities inside or outside of buildings.
5. There must be no impediment of passersby or other disruptions of normal activities.
6. There must be no interference with scheduled University ceremonies, events or activities.
7. Malicious or unwarranted damage or destruction of property owned or operated by the University, or property belonging to students, faculty, staff or guests of the University, is prohibited. Persons or organizations causing such damage may be held financially responsible.
8. Persons or organizations responsible for a demonstration or other expressive event must remove all signs and litter from the area at the end of the event. If this is not accomplished, persons or organizations responsible for the event may be held financially responsible.
9. No camping is allowed and temporary structures (tents, etc.) are prohibited on University property.
10. There must be no affixing of items to any permanent structure (fences, the Arch, trees, etc.)
11. Candles are prohibited from being placed on steps or walkways.
12. There must be compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and University policies, rules and regulations.
13. Any items left behind or unattended may be removed at the end of the day (to include memorials).

### Questions about this policy may be directed to:

Dr. Jan Davis Barham, Associate Dean of Students and Director of the Tate Student Center  
 325 Tate Student Center, Athens, GA 30602  
 Phone: 706-542-7774

Updated 8.24.12

#### Helpful Student Affairs Links

- ▶ Recreational Sports
- ▶ Student Support Services

#### Helpful DOS Links

- ▶ Student Government Association
- ▶ Greek Life

#### Dean of Students

Hours: 8:00 am - 5 pm  
 Monday - Friday

▶ University Health Center

▶ Student Conduct

▶ [Google Map to Office](#)

▶ University Housing

▶ University Union

▶ University Testing Services

▶ Submit a Complaint

▶ SACS Accreditation

▶ Student Rights & Responsibilities

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Office of the Dean of Students | The University of Georgia | Tate Student Center | Athens, GA 30602  
Phone: (706) 542-7774 | Fax: (706) 542-8550

**Text Only Version | Website questions: [lkendric@uga.edu](mailto:lkendric@uga.edu)**