



**NORTHWEST**  
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

## **CAMPUS FREE EXPRESSION POLICY**

Policy Name:	Campus Free Expression Policy
Effective Date:	December 17, 2015
Responsible Office:	Student Affairs
Category:	Operations

### **I. Purpose**

The Missouri Legislature has passed the “Campus Free Expression Act” (Section 173.1550 RSMo), which dictates the rights of individuals wishing to engage in expression at the University, and also governs the University’s ability to regulate such expression.

### **II. Policy**

Outdoor Areas:

Recognizing that outdoor common areas on the University campus are public forums, these areas are available for expressive activities that are either planned or spontaneous, provided the activities are lawful and do not materially and/or substantially disrupt the functioning of the University. The following activities will generally be considered disruptive: obstruction of entrances and exits, obstructing vehicle or pedestrian traffic, interfering with classes, meetings, events, ceremonies and other essential processes or student life activities.

Reserved University Spaces:

Students, faculty, and staff may reserve University space for a planned and/or organized demonstration, picketing, counterdemonstrations, or counter-picketing from the Vice President of Student Affairs or designee. The activity may be regulated or shut down if:

- i. the activity and/or speech materially and substantially disrupts the functioning of the University, examples of which include, but are not limited to:
  - a. impeding the flow of traffic on campus;
  - b. impeding the ability of persons to move freely between buildings on campus;
  - c. the audible volume of the speech is such that it disrupts the ability of students to participate in coursework;
  - d. the time and audible volume of the speech is such that it prevents students living in the University's housing facilities from sleeping;
  - e. the speech incites physical violence or threatens physical violence; or
  - f. the speech and/or activity damages University property.
- ii. the speech and/or activity is illegal;
- iii. the event involves written or verbal speech that rises to the level of illegal harassment as defined by the University's policies prohibiting discrimination and harassment; or
- iv. another organization has reserved the same space for the same time, in which case, ample alternative means of expression will be made available.

C. Notice of Expressive Activities:

While unscheduled and/or spontaneous, noncommercial expressive activities are permitted at the University, the University strongly recommends students provide notice to the Vice President of Student Affairs or his or her designee prior to engaging in picketing, protests, demonstrations or any other group expressive activity on campus. Providing notice enhances the University's ability to ensure a secure environment for public discourse.

At no time, will the University permit expressive activities that are illegal or which materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the University.