



Policy Name:	Freedom of Expression Policy
Effective Date:	April 13, 2016
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Approving Authority:	Northwest Leadership Team
Responsible Office:	Student Affairs
Category:	Student Life

## I. Purpose

Northwest Missouri State University believes that the pursuit of knowledge and attainment of mature attitudes can be greatly facilitated by freedom of expression. This policy is intended to inform students of their positive rights under the law as well as their obligations.

## II. Policy

### Publication

Students have the right to both establish and issue student-directed publications by registering the name with the Student Senate.

The Student Senate will determine whether registration will be granted, denied, or if it will be withdrawn. The registration will consist of:

1. Submission of a written and signed statement of the objectives and standards of the publishers and the faculty sponsor, to be approved by the Senate; and
2. The signing of a statement that the editors and staff will not violate any law or University policy, and that material to be published must be approved by the publication's faculty sponsor. The faculty sponsor will be responsible for the publication's conformity to law and to the

stated objectives and standards of the publication. The faculty sponsor will also be responsible for exercising their judgment to maintain reasonable standards of good taste.

### **Speech**

Students have the right to express their opinions publicly on any subject. Students may invite individuals to speak on campus, provided they are sponsored by a recognized campus organization or Northwest Department and approved by Student Senate.

Dress and grooming modes of personal expression and taste shall be left up to the individual student except for reasonable requirements related to decency, health, and safety.

### **Assembly**

Freedom of assembly shall be guaranteed to all unless it involves behavior that causes or threatens to cause damage to private or University property, or physical injury, or materially and substantially disrupts the functioning of the University, or is unlawful, or involves written or verbal speech that rises to the level of illegal harassment, discrimination, or retaliation as defined by the University's policies prohibiting discrimination and harassment. Any necessary logistical arrangements must be made in advance through the Auxiliary Services office.

The University may restrict the time, place, and manner of such assemblies in service of a significant University interest.