



UNIVERSITY OF
WEST GEORGIA

Last Approved 09/2022
Effective 09/2022
Next Review 09/2025

Area Administration/
Governance
Chief Or Chief Legal
Responsible Officer
Office

Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom (#1006)

Purpose/ Reason for Policy

The rights guaranteed by the First Amendment, including the right to free speech, free expression, free exercise of religion, and the right to assemble peaceably are of the utmost importance. The University System of Georgia (USG) is committed to protecting those rights in accordance with the First Amendment of the Constitution, Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act O.C.G.A § 20-3-4,8, and the [Board of Regents Policy 6.5, Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom](#).

For specifics related to Academic Freedom, see [USG 6.5.1, Academic Freedom](#)

Policy Statement

The University of West Georgia ("UWG or the University") places great importance on First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and the right to assemble peaceably. The University remains firmly committed to affording groups and individuals the opportunity to engage in peaceful and orderly protests and demonstrations. In order to achieve this objective, while at the same time ensuring that the University fulfills its educational mission, the University may regulate the time, place, and manner of expression to 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 University shall allow members of the University Community to spontaneously and contemporaneously assemble or distribute literature. The law permits reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions for the use of Campus facilities to support Institutional mission for teaching, education, research, and other forms of learning.

While public assembly on Campus is permitted any place where persons assembling are permitted to be (at the time of the assembly), this right to assemble is subject to the rules on the use of University facilities.

The Chief Legal Officer is authorized to establish procedures for compliance with this Policy

Scope/ Applies to

✓ All Employees Faculty Staff ✓ Students ✓ Vendors/Contractors ✓ Others **Visitors/ Speakers**

Associated Procedures

Campus Use Procedures

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
	Teresa D'Emilio	09/2022
President Signature	Brendan Kelly [TD]	09/2022

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