



UNIVERSITY POLICY ON DEMONSTRATIONS, CHALKING, AND POSTING

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POLICY STATEMENT

Free speech and peaceable assembly are essential tenets of the University as a center for free inquiry and the search for knowledge and insight. Wake Forest University strongly affirms the right of students, faculty, and staff to engage in acts of free expression, including through peaceful demonstrations and other common means of expressing viewpoints on university campuses such as chalking and postings. These rights involve a concurrent obligation on the part of the University to maintain an environment in which students, faculty, and staff can pursue learning, living, working, and scholarship free of disruption, and in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. Consistent with this obligation, demonstrations, chalking, and postings will not be supported when they disrupt regular operations of the University; when they infringe on the rights of others to express themselves; when they incite or threaten physical violence or are defamatory; when they result in vandalism or damage to the University's physical facilities or property; or when they violate the University's anti-harassment and discrimination standards. Wake Forest is committed to applying this policy equitably and in a manner that complies with applicable non-discrimination laws such as Titles VI and IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

REASON FOR THE POLICY

The intent of this policy is to create an environment which safeguards the right of each member of the University community to demonstrate, regardless of viewpoint. The University can best create an environment that both promotes engagement in peaceful demonstrations and supports its obligation to provide an environment conducive to its mission by specifying when, where, and how acts of free expression can take place. This approach also supports the University's interest

in protecting the safety of individuals participating in demonstrations and the campus community. Apart from the requirement to comply with anti-harassment and discrimination standards, this policy does not speak to issues of content, which are addressed in other University policies and standards (referenced below). Instead, this policy provides a content-neutral framework within which expression through demonstrations, chalking, and posting can take place, both on campus and in University owned and leased facilities, except where otherwise specified.

The time, place, and manner guidelines in this policy are intended to clearly articulate what is and is not permissible so that members of the University community can make informed decisions when they seek to share their viewpoints. The guidelines reflect a commitment to maintaining an environment that provides fulsome opportunity for expression, while taking into account the realities that come with being a residential, research university, and the form and function of our particular learning, living, and working spaces. Several key principles inform these guidelines, including

- centering our approach on the desire to create a larger culture in which both expression and care can thrive;
- providing as much clarity and transparency as possible given the complexity of issues related to freedom of expression;
- recognizing the resources, particularly with regard to staffing, that are needed to support peaceful demonstration activities;
- establishing guidelines that can be consistently supported and enforced;
- acknowledging the functional distinctions between areas of our campus that primarily support the academic mission and those designed as residential neighborhoods; and
- acknowledging that many of our spaces support multiple, mission-driven activities.

PRIMARY GUIDANCE

[Statement on Academic Freedom](#)

[Student Code of Conduct - Statement on Free Expression](#)

[Wake Forest University Non-Discrimination Statement](#)

[Policy on Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#)

[Student Code of Conduct - Harassment and Discrimination](#)

SCOPE

- **Who Is Governed By This Policy**

This policy applies to all Wake Forest University faculty, staff, and students. Members of the external community who choose to participate in the activities described in this policy also are subject to the provisions in this policy.

- **Who Should Know This Policy**

All individuals to whom this policy applies are responsible for becoming familiar with and following this policy.

- **Exclusions & Special Situations**

This policy does not apply to the following locations owned by Wake Forest University, which, because of their function, may have other policies or limitations in effect: The Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Allegacy Stadium, the David Couch Ballpark, Graylyn Conference Center, and Reynolda Village.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, the terms below have the following definitions: N/A

POLICY

1. Participants

- a. Currently enrolled students, faculty, staff, or recognized student organizations must be the designated organizer for any expressive activity under this Policy.
 - i. Individuals who participate in demonstration activities should be clear that they speak on their own behalf and not on behalf of the University.
- b. Individuals or entities not affiliated with the University are not permitted to initiate or organize demonstration activities on University premises.
 - i. If a student, faculty, or staff member invites guests to participate in demonstration activities with them, it is the responsibility of the Wake Forest community member to inform their guests of the requirements of this Policy.
 1. If guests violate any requirements of this Policy, the University has the right to ask the guest to leave and remove the guest from campus.
- c. The University has the right to ask for identification. This right is most likely to be exercised when there are concerns regarding possible violations of policy or safety concerns.
 - i. Members of the external community who cannot or will not provide identification may be asked to leave.
 - ii. It is allowable under [NC state law](#) to ask individuals wearing masks to temporarily remove them for identification purposes.
 - iii. Members of the Wake Forest community can most easily establish their identity with their Deacon One ID card.

2. Planning

- a. **Resources for Planning.** As part of the University's commitment to maintaining an environment in which individuals can express viewpoints through demonstration activities, the University provides resources to aid in planning them. Resources for individual students and student organizations are available through the [Office of Student Engagement](#); resources for faculty and staff are

available through [University Events](#). Individuals and organizations who wish to engage in demonstration activities are encouraged to use these resources, which include

- i. Assistance with identifying locations
 - ii. Assistance with understanding and incorporating relevant policies into the planned event
 - iii. Assistance with determining communication strategies
 - iv. Assistance with identifying safety or security issues that might arise
 - b. Activities Involving Invited Speakers.** When an invited speaker will be part of a demonstration activity, organizers should work within the Event Planning guidelines through the [Office of Student Engagement](#) or through the [Office of University Events](#).
 - c. Activities Involving City Streets and Sidewalks.** Organizers intending to use city sidewalks and streets adjacent to the University must make appropriate arrangements with the city of Winston-Salem.
 - d. Cleanup.** Organizers are responsible for leaving the location as they found it.
3. **Time and Length of Demonstrations.** The following guidelines enable the University to provide a safe and appropriately staffed environment for demonstrations that does not disrupt normal activities.
- a. Demonstrations are permitted during the hours of 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.
 - b. No overnight demonstration activities are permitted.
4. **Locations for Demonstrations and Chalking**
- a. **Locations that Support Demonstrations and Chalking.** Expression through demonstrations and chalking is permitted in the following outdoor areas of Reynolda Campus that are located near to or bounded by facilities that support primarily academic functions ([see the attached map](#)). Some locations, as indicated below, serve multiple purposes and are therefore reservable through DeaconSpace. Reservations are highly recommended should individuals or groups wish to engage in demonstration activities in these locations.
 1. Manchester Plaza (available for reservation)
 - a. Chalking is permitted on the sidewalks with the exception of those surrounding the firepits (see below)
 2. Tribble Courtyard (available for reservation)
 - a. Chalking is permitted on the sidewalks
 3. The green space bounded by ZSR Library, Olin Hall, and Salem Hall
 - a. Chalking is permitted on the sidewalks in the circle in front of ZSR Library
 4. Lower Davis Field in front of Scales Fine Arts Center (available for reservation)
 - a. Chalking is permitted on the sidewalks

5. The green space in front of Farrell Hall (part of Poteat Field most adjacent to the building) (available for reservation)
 - a. Chalking is permitted on the sidewalk in front of Farrell Hall
 6. The University may modify the designated areas listed above or may designate additional areas for expressive activities with advance notice to students, faculty, and staff.
- b. **Locations in which Demonstrations and Chalking are not Supported.** Demonstration and chalking activity is not permitted in the following spaces and circumstances.
- i. Inside or on buildings or walls, or in the entryways, near doors, or other spaces that block the ability of individuals to enter and exit buildings.
 - ii. The private property that comprises Wake Downtown.
 - iii. The private property that comprises Wake Forest Charlotte Center.
 - iv. Green spaces and courtyards that are adjacent to residence halls on campus.
 - v. Hearn Plaza, which serves as both a green space for residential students and a gathering space for events that bring the community together.
 - vi. For safety reasons, chalking is not permitted in the areas just adjacent to fire pits in Manchester Plaza.
 - i. For safety reasons, demonstrations and chalking are not permitted on sidewalks adjacent to roads on campus and that border campus.
- c. **Exceptions.** The University may make exceptions to the above in situations that are planned and communicated to the community. Examples of this may include
- i. Allowing a planned demonstration to take place in a location that is not otherwise permissible in order to be proximal to a speaker or other event.
 - ii. Supporting the ability of audience members to ask challenging questions or express dissent in reaction to speaking events when those events provide such opportunity, and with the expectation that dialogue should be civil and should not violate University standards and policies related to behavior.
 - iii. Arranging space for counter demonstrations that allows for the balance between proximity and distance needed so all viewpoints have the opportunity to be heard.
 - iv. Providing appropriate space for summer camp participants to chalk as a form of artistic expression.

5. **Additional Guidelines for Demonstrations and Chalking**

- a. **Amplified Sound.** Demonstrations should follow [existing guidelines, policies or procedures](#) related to the use of amplified sound.
 - i. Amplified sound is allowable with prior approval from the Office of Student Engagement for demonstration activities between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm.
- b. **Structures.** With the exception of the circumstances listed below, the use or building of structures is not permissible as part of demonstrations.

- i. Structures include tents, stages, or other like objects.
 - ii. Tables and chairs may be permissible when demonstration activities take place in reservable locations through the DeaconSpace. Organizers should follow the existing guidelines for those spaces.
 - c. **Signage.** The content of signage used during demonstration activities must be consistent with University policies and standards pertaining to freedom of expression, academic freedom, and harassment and discrimination.
 - i. Signage is for communication purposes only.
 - 1. Signage that blocks the ability of others to fully participate in the activity is not permitted. It cannot be used to obstruct views or as a barricade that restricts access to spaces.
 - ii. Temporary placards, banners, signs, and images used for expressive activities may not be placed or projected on or attached to the exterior of buildings.
 - iii. These items should not be affixed to sticks, rods, or similar structures, regardless of material.
 - d. **Time Bounds.** There should be no expectation of permanence related to expression through demonstrations and chalking.
 - i. Chalking is by its nature time-limited. Rain and routine maintenance of physical facilities will wash chalking away.
 - 1. Spray chalk is not permitted for use.
 - 2. Existing chalking may only be removed by designated staff.
 - 3. Just as shouting over or otherwise blocking verbal speech is not permitted, chalking over or otherwise covering up or erasing existing chalking is not permitted.
 - ii. Space is a shared resource and many spaces serve multiple purposes.
 - 1. No space can be held from one day to the next for demonstration activity, other than what is possible through the DeaconSpace system and consistent with its policies.
6. **Expression of Viewpoints through Use of Postings and Other Materials.** As with signage used during demonstrations, the content of postings is subject to University policies and standards pertaining to freedom of expression, academic freedom, and harassment and discrimination.
- iii. **Permissible Locations for Expression through Postings and Other Materials.** Materials may be posted on or in the following locations.
 - 1. Bulletin boards designated for use by University community members as found in academic buildings, residence halls, and other campus locations.
 - 2. Offices designated for use by individuals.
 - 3. Residence hall rooms.
 - iv. **Permissible Methods for Expression through Postings and Other Materials.** There should be no expectation of permanence of postings. Posted materials may be exposed to weather, become dislodged, become

worn over time, or be removed for facilities or ground maintenance or as part of routine practices to make room for other postings.

1. Materials on bulletin boards should only be posted using push pins or staples.
- v. **Impermissible Locations for Expression through Postings.** Materials should never be affixed or otherwise attached to the following
 1. Trees
 2. Sidewalks
 3. Iron railings
 4. Lamp posts
 5. Benches
 6. Painted surfaces
 7. Glass doors or windows, unless located in a residence hall room or individual office
 8. Building surfaces, other than those designated
- vi. **Other Relevant Policies and Guidelines.**
 1. Placement of materials may also be subject to [environmental health and safety policies](#), particularly those related to fire safety.
 2. Employees should consider whether posting materials related to partisan political viewpoints could be perceived as endorsement of those views by the University.
 - a. Per the [Policy on Campaign and Political Activities](#), the University is not permitted to engage in activities that support or could be perceived to support a political candidate or party or a partisan cause.

If any items fail to meet the expectations set forth above, the University may remove them.

7. Campus Disruption & Policy Violations¹

- a. The University may require modifications to or the immediate ending of expressive activities that disrupt University operations or activities or put the safety of our community at risk. Disruptions that may result in such action by the University include but are not limited to activities that:
 - i. involve, incite, or threaten physical violence or present evidence of imminent danger to members of the campus community;
 - ii. obstruct the passage into or out of buildings;
 - iii. take place outside of the hours or locations permitted by this Policy;
 - iv. prevent members of a class from being able to hear a lecture, take an exam, or participate in educational activities;
 - v. damage, deface, or destroy property; and

¹ This Policy does not preclude the University from posting or permitting signs on buildings or the grounds of the University for administrative and operational purposes, nor do other provisions in the policy (such as the guidelines for use of sound amplification or structures, by way of example) apply to University-sponsored activities and events.

- vi. expression, verbal or written, that may violate the University’s anti-harassment and discrimination standards or be defamatory.
- b. Possible violations of this policy, or of other University policies and standards during the course of demonstrations, by faculty, staff, and students will be addressed through the University’s established conduct process. Consequences for violating the Policy may range from warnings to more severe outcomes, depending on the severity and frequency of the violation. Faculty, staff, students and other individuals may also be placed on interim or administrative leave, banned from campus (temporarily or permanently) and/or arrested by law enforcement. Decisions by the administration to address conduct that reasonably appears to be in violation of this policy during a demonstration will be made, when possible, after due warning. Otherwise, violations of this Policy will be addressed through the University’s established conduct processes as noted above.
- c. When making determinations under this Policy, including actions taken to enforce the Policy, University officials will do so in a nondiscriminatory manner in compliance with applicable law.

RELATED POLICIES & DOCUMENTS

(Policy and other document references should include a link so that the reader can easily access the referenced documents.)

- [Policy on Campaign and Political Activity](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct - Statement on Free Expression](#)
- [Statement on Academic Freedom](#)
- [Wake Forest University Non-Discrimination Statement](#)
- [Policy on Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct - Harassment and Discrimination](#)

REVISION HISTORY

(Revision history by date; i.e., a catalog summarization of key changes to the policy.)

Revision Date	Revision Description
12/18/2024	Links to other relevant policies and supporting offices added. Clarification that existing chalking can only be removed by designated staff and that existing chalking cannot be chalked over added.