

Policy Title: Campus Protest & Demonstration Policy

Policy Summary: This policy maintains order for a safe and secure living and learning environment in support of the University's [Mission](#), [Statement of Principles](#), and [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Policy Category: Administration & Operations

Policy Owner: Vice President & Dean of Students

Purpose

Drake University supports an environment where differences of opinion and experience can strengthen our community without posing a significant risk of safety or harm to individuals or property. The purpose of the policy is to ensure that any student demonstration or protest does not unduly hinder University activities, pose a material risk of harm to individuals or property, or constitute harassment or disorderly conduct as defined by the Code of Student Conduct.

The University's Statement of Principles provides the foundation for this policy. That document reads, in part:

Drake University's purpose is to transmit knowledge, pursue truth, and encourage the intellectual and moral development of its students through the activities central to academic life: teaching, research, rigorous analysis, debate, study, and service. In the pursuit of these goals, Drake encourages and protects diverse perspectives and the free flow of ideas and discussion among its members. Such diversity and differences of opinion generate debate that produces knowledge and a greater understanding of what it means to be fully human.

Policy

This policy serves to ensure all members of our campus community understand their responsibilities as it relates to protesting and demonstrating on campus. In furtherance of this, the University has established the following standards:

I. Management of Protests & Demonstrations

- A. The University's priorities when managing a protest or demonstration are:
 - 1. Promoting the safety of demonstrators and the University community.
 - 2. Engaging with demonstrators when they bring voice to issues of concern.
 - 3. Preserving the function of University activities, including teaching, research, operations, and all other on and off campus activities.

- B. Campus Activism & Responsible Engagement
 - 1. Drake University engages with activism in a facilitative and supportive manner by building trusting relationships with student groups and reacting to disruptive conduct with the lowest possible level of response to de-escalate the situation.

- a. Drake University reserves the right to enact time, place, and manner restrictions on speech to serve a University interest (e.g., public safety).
 - b. All protests and demonstrations held outdoors are subject to City of Des Moines sound ordinances pertaining to amplified sound.
 - c. Drake University strictly prohibits the erection or construction of any structure or encampment (e.g., tent, stage, in-ground signage, or other markers) on University property without the written permission of the Vice President & Dean of Students.
2. If a protest or demonstration hinders the function of University activities, to include any instance of harassment or disorderly conduct, or poses a significant risk of safety or harm to individuals or property, participants will be instructed to disperse.

C. External Protestors & Demonstrators on Campus

1. Persons who are not Drake University students and are not members of the University community and who engage in conduct violative of this policy will be treated as trespassers.
2. A respective student or student organization may be subject to the Code of Student Conduct for non-Drake members' participation in any event.

II. Policy Violations

The sanctions imposed on students are not solely intended to reprimand students for their actions, but also to offer a chance for reflection and, whenever possible, to repair harm done to the community. The Code of Student Conduct lists a range of sanctions if a student is found responsible for a violation of the Code ranging from a written warning to interim administrative leave, suspension, expulsion, or withholding of a degree.

The Code of Student Conduct requires students to comply with the directives of University officials or law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties. Failure to comply with such, to include failing to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so, may result in disciplinary action under the Code of Student Conduct.

Last Review Date: September 2024

Effective Date: October 2024

Resources and Related University Policies:

[Code of Student Conduct](#)

[Statement of Principles](#)