

Free Speech Requests - FAQs

Where are Free Speech Areas?

As stated in the [Public Access and Expression on College Property Administrative Procedure](#), the College's free speech areas are any outside spaces not in use for College functions.

Can the College provided tables & chairs be used for Free Speech Activities?

No. Free Speech participants may bring their own tables, chairs and tents as long as these items are removed once the free speech activity is complete for the day. No property should be left overnight.

What is Free Speech/Public Expression?

"Public Expression" means all Speech – excluding Breaches of the Peace, Commercial Speech, Defamation, Fighting Words, Gratuitous Violence, Harassment, Heckler's Veto, Obscenity, Prohibited Discrimination, or True Threats – by persons who are lawfully present on College property that is conducted in a Public Area, including, but not limited to, protests, demonstrations, rallies, speeches, forums, the distribution of posters or leaflets, and the collection of signatures for petitions, and includes all activities related to an individual's right to peacefully assemble and/or petition the government for a redress of grievances.

What groups or individuals qualify to use the Free Speech/Public Expression?

Any individual or group expressing their views on an idea (including religion), a candidate, a petition, or other related political activity. This also includes community groups working to better the local or regional community.

Individuals or groups looking to sell items, or promote a business are not eligible as they would fall under commercial speech.

What time can free speech and public expression activities take place?

Free Speech activities can take place from 7:00am to 9:00pm on days when the College is open.

Examples of allowed Free Speech Usage

- Political Party Voter registration and outreach
- Petition Drives
- Political Advocacy around local or global issues
- Church/Mosque/Synagogue/Religion promotions
- United Way Volunteer drive
- Red Cross Donation Collection

Examples not allowed under Free Speech Usage

- Advertising for new restaurant
- Selling clothing or jewelry

- Student Housing Sales
- Promoting business activity or event

Does selling of items or services constitute public expression?

No. Selling items is considered a commercial activity. Requests for commercial activity should follow the facilities use request process.

An exception to this rule would be the selling of political merchandise that would be considered political speech, meaning activities intended to promote a particular candidate for public office or a ballot initiative.

Does collecting money for a cause or non-profit constitute public expression?

No. Any collection of money should go through the college's facilities use request process.

What is the process for using free speech/public expression areas?

Reservations or prior permission from the College are not required for free-speech/public-expression activities, but the College accepts reservations for specific outdoor areas upon request. Reservations may be made by contacting the [Campus Vice President's Office](#) or [Student Life Office](#) to complete the [Campus Public Expression Activity Reservation Form](#). The College appreciates advance reservations to assist in planning other College activities

Can indoor spaces be used to collect ballot signatures?

No. These activities should use only free speech/public expression areas outside.

Can indoor spaces be used to register voters?

Only as part of college sponsored events. Any individual or group not expressly invited to participate in a college event for the purpose of registering voters should use only free speech/public expression areas outside.

Can individuals or groups rent tabling space inside the campus's open areas

No, tabling of any kind is only allowed inside the campus facilities as part of a college sponsored event/activity.

Outside groups may still rent other spaces such as classrooms, theater areas, community rooms, the gym etc. through the facilities use request process.

Process for complaints

If a member of the public wishes to file a complaint regarding the free speech accommodations, the Student Life Coordinator will provide the individual with the contact information for the Campus Vice President. If the individual becomes disruptive, Student Life is advised to contact campus police and report the matter.