

Campus Speech and Demonstration Policy

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

Campus Speech and Demonstration Policy

Louisiana Tech University recognizes and supports the rights of students, employees of all categories, and visitors to assemble, express ideas, and speak in public and to demonstrate in a lawful manner. In order to maintain safety, security, and order, to insure the orderly scheduling of campus facilities, and to preclude conflicts with academic and curricular activities, Louisiana Tech University reserves the reasonable right to limit such activities by the following regulations regarding time, place, and manner of such activities. Except as allowed by law, the University shall not apply these restrictions in a discriminatory manner toward the content of the view being expressed or the speaker.

Time, Place, and Manner Limitations

University students, faculty, staff and affiliated organizations:

For University students, faculty, staff, and affiliated organizations, Louisiana Tech University reserves the right to require that speakers, demonstrators, etc., use designated locations in order to avoid unreasonable conflict with the normal functions and requirements of the University and to assure that the flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic will not be impeded. Teaching, research, and other official functions of the University shall have priority in the use of space on campus. Use of the University facilities shall comply with established procedures for any specific facility and should be scheduled in advance with the Director of Student Development in Tolliver Hall. Such events will be scheduled in blocks of time not to exceed four (4) hours for any single event between 9:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and 11:00 am to 4:30 pm Saturdays and Sundays so as to best accommodate all users and to avoid monopolization by any person, agency, or organization. Authorization for any speech or demonstration will require identification of the individual or organization and agreement to abide by University policies and procedures. This policy shall not apply to agents or employees of the University acting within the course and scope of their employment.

Individuals not affiliated with the University:

Individuals not affiliated with the University or sponsored by a University-affiliated organization are free to express their views in the Free Speech Zone. Individuals shall reserve the Free Speech Zone at least 48 hours in advance of the planned activity with the University Police by use of the Online Free Speech Request Form. So as to best accommodate all users and to avoid monopolization by any person, agency, or organization of the Free Speech Zone, individuals or persons acting on behalf of either an organization or a group with a common interest who schedule an event shall be limited to one event per seven day period and such events will be scheduled in blocks of time not to exceed four (4) hours for any single event between 9:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and 11:00 am to 4:30 pm Saturdays and Sundays. University Authorization for any speech or demonstration will require identification of the individual or organization and agreement to abide by University policies and procedures. Individuals wishing to speak at a location other than the Free Speech Zone may speak on the public property outside of the University with a close proximity to campus (subject to any City of Ruston Municipal Ordinances) or be sponsored by a University-affiliated organization.

Equipment Limitations:

No musical instrument or sound amplification equipment of any kind, including stereo speakers, turntables, stationary or mobile public address systems are allowed on concourses, streets, or in areas adjacent to academic buildings without the approval by the office of the Vice President for Student Advancement and the appropriate facilities manager.

Prohibited Activities:

Expressions, assemblies, or demonstrations may not:

- Engage in provocations by fighting words or incitements to engage in immediate violence;
- Make threats which demonstrate a serious expression of intent to commit an act of unlawful violence to a particular individual or group of individuals;
- Interfere with the free and unimpeded flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic on campus or the entry or exist into University facilities;
- Materially and substantially disrupt the normal activities of the University;
- Express or exhibit obscenity as defined by law;
- Advocate the deliberate violation of law by preparing the group addressed for imminent action and seeing it to such action.
- Engage in commercial or for-profit activities absent a prior written agreement with the University authorizing such activities.

Enforcement:

Administration, enforcement, and appeals: These regulations shall be administered and enforced by the office of the Vice President for Student Advancement, the University Police, and such other University officials as shall be designated.

Visitors to the campus and all others violating these regulations regarding time, place, and manner of speech and demonstration will be subject to immediate eviction or removal from the campus without further warning by appropriate University agents or officials and may be subject to appropriate legal action.

Individual students violating these regulations may, upon written complaint to the office of the Vice President for Student Advancement, be subject to action by the University Behavioral Standards Committee.

Student organizations violating these regulations may, upon written complaint to the office of the Vice President for Student Advancement, be subject to action by the University Student Organizations Committee.

Non-Endorsement:

Nothing in this policy is intended nor should be understood as an endorsement or approval by Louisiana Tech University of any speech or demonstration, an invitation or license to speak or demonstrate, or the granting of any right or permission to speak or demonstrate on campus beyond the rights existing under federal and state law.

For more information, contact the office of the Vice President for Student Advancement.