

Effective Date	08/13/2025
Policy Number	OPS-PL-102.2
Sponsor	Vice President of Student Affairs
Responsible Office	Campus Life Office
Next Review Date	08/13/2030

I. REASON FOR POLICY

The State University of New York (SUNY) respects and fully supports the rights of free speech guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and the State of New York. SUNY values the free expression of ideas and supports individuals' right to assemble. SUNY Fredonia promulgates this policy to provide meaningful opportunities for members of our community to express their views and to ensure that the time, place, and manner of such expression does not interfere with the safety and security of our campus community or disrupt the regular operations of the campus.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

SCOPE

This content-neutral policy is applicable to all SUNY Fredonia students, faculty, staff and third parties.

POLICY

Individuals are guaranteed the rights of free inquiry and expression. Subject to applicable content-neutral policy, individuals are guaranteed the right to hold public meetings and engage in peaceful and orderly assemblies—including, but not limited to, protests, demonstrations, rallies, vigils, marches, and picketing—in and upon designated public areas of campus grounds and buildings.

SUNY Fredonia designates the following as public areas for the purpose of peaceful and orderly assemblies: Dods Grove, Clock Tower and Amphitheatre. There are no designated indoor areas for assemblies.

The following conduct is prohibited:

1. Conduct that prevents the orderly administration of college classes, lectures, meetings, interviews, ceremonies, and other campus events or University operations;
2. Conduct that obstructs the free movement of vehicles or of persons, including, but not limited to in any building or facility, inclusive of blocking hallways and doors;
3. Engage in conduct that could foreseeably cause injury or damage to persons or property;

4. Operation of amplifying and audio equipment (for example but not limited to: microphones, bullhorns etc.) is prohibited;
5. Constructing or erecting structures, whether or not they are anchored, inclusive of screens and/or objects requiring penetration in concrete or grass, or camp on College grounds without authorization from the offices of Environmental Health & Safety and Sustainability and Facilities Planning. Indoor and outdoor encampment is generally prohibited.
6. Possession and/or ignition of an open flame of any type, including, but not limited to, torches;
7. Assemblies lasting more than 4 hours in a one-day period, and assemblies between the hours of 10:00PM and 8:00AM are prohibited;
8. Activities that violate the provisions of [SUNY Policy 3653, Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order](#); and
9. Activities that violate the provisions of any other applicable campus policy, including but not limited to: ([Posting](#) and [Student Code of Conduct](#)).

In addition, the following activities are strictly prohibited:

1. Entry into any private office of an administrative officer, member of faculty, or staff member, or entry into any other college area that is not authorized, without permission;
2. Unapproved occupation of a building.
3. Obstruction of any roadways running through or adjoining the University's campus grounds.

All individuals participating in protests and demonstrations are required to provide a form of University issued or government issued identification upon request from a University official.

SUNY Fredonia takes compliance with this policy very seriously. Students should expect that violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action under the University Student Code of Conduct, up to and including interim suspension, suspension, and expulsion. Faculty and staff in violation of this policy may be reviewed and investigated by Human Resources for possible disciplinary action. Third parties in violation of this policy may result in appropriate administrative or legal sanctions.

EXCLUSION PERIODS

The University has designated certain days during the academic calendar where the use of campus facilities, including outdoor locations, are reserved exclusively for campus-related activities. No public forums are permitted during these restricted days:

- Opening Weekend for fall and spring semesters, study week and exam week
- During campus-wide celebrations such as, but not limited to, Homecoming, Family Weekends, and Commencement
- All Admissions open houses
- During, but not limited to, Academic Convocations, statewide conferences, and University Foundations celebrations and dinners

- During energy conservation shut down of academic, administrative and non-essential buildings as defined on its calendar and official website
- Cancellation of the event may also be necessary during a campus-wide emergency incident.

PROCEDURES

SUNY Fredonia respects and supports individuals' efforts to exercise their rights to free speech and assembly. The University has designated the Office of Campus Life to provide the appropriate support for the successful implementation of these events. Following University procedure will ensure a safe and effective assembly activity. The College will make every effort to respond affirmatively to all requests to engage in assembly activity. However, content-neutral consideration must be given to the time, place, and manner of the assembly activity to ensure the health and safety of the participants and the noninterference with authorized College business, activities, or events.

To help ensure the safety of participants and the protection of the rights of all members of the campus and community, the University reserves the right to determine location, safety, crowd control, site preparation/cleanup, and/or other such facilities or requirements it deems necessary.

Request for Designated Public Forum Use:

For assemblies where reasonably foreseeable, event organizers shall, within 10 business days prior to the planned event, [submit an application](#), as follows:

The application request should contain the name of the sponsor/organizer, the proposed location and any other Services sought, the date and time of the planned assembly, and the number of persons expected to participate.

The request should be submitted to:

Campus Life Office

Attn: Director of Campus Life

State University of New York at Fredonia

G112 Williams Center

Fredonia NY 14063

Phone (716) 673-3143

Email: Campus.Life@fredonia.edu

- A. A professional staff member from Campus Life will promptly respond to the request for Services after receipt of the written request but no later than three (3) business days prior to the proposed date of the planned event.

- B. A professional staff member will review the request and work with the sponsor/organizer to accommodate requests and determine a reasonable time, place, and manner for the assembly activity.
- C. While every attempt will be made to accommodate all requests, some modifications to the assembly activity request may be required due to the availability of the proposed time and place of the activity, safety and security concerns, and services requested. A Campus Life professional staff member will inform the sponsor/organizer of these modifications and provide guidance as the assembly activity is planned.
- D. In the event that the proposed assembly activity is planned in direct response to a current event, the Office of Campus Life realizes that it may not be possible to submit a request in advance. In such cases, the event organizer should contact the Office of Campus Life as soon as possible in order to promptly coordinate the assembly activity, where reasonably possible.

III. RELATED DOCUMENTS, FORMS AND TOOLS

[Application](#) for Designated Public Forum Use

IV. DEFINITIONS

There are no applicable terms or definitions for this policy.

V. CONTACT & ENFORCEMENT

ROLE	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL - Website
Responsible Office	Dean of Students & Residence Life	(716) 673-3341	reslife@fredonia.edu
Enforcement	Campus Life Office	(716) 673-3143	Campus.Life@fredonia.edu
Policy	University Policy Office	(716) 673-4828	policy@fredonia.edu