



POLICY STATEMENT 38

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

POLICY DIGEST

Functional Classification: Student Affairs

Monitoring Unit: Division of Student Affairs

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I. PURPOSE

To support lawful freedom of speech and expression at LSU New Orleans by establishing campus-specific procedures and expectations for expressive activities consistent with LSU System Permanent Memorandum 79 (Freedom of Speech and Expression), applicable federal and state law, and the educational mission of the University.

II. DEFINITIONS

Definitions shall be interpreted consistent with [LSU Permanent Memorandum 79](#) and applicable Louisiana law. For purposes of this policy:

Amplified Sound: Sound broadcast through electronically amplified equipment or sound that is electronically enhanced.

Reservable Outdoor Space: An outdoor area designated by the University for exclusive use through the campus reservation process.

Expressive Activities: Any lawful verbal, written, symbolic, or other communicative activity by which individuals or groups express, communicate, or exchange ideas, opinions, or information, as protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, Article I, Section 7 of the Louisiana Constitution, and applicable law. Expressive activities include, but are not limited to, peaceful assembly, protest, speech, distribution of literature, carrying signs, circulating petitions, and similar forms of expression.

Expressive activities do not include: (1) commercial activities in which individuals or groups are compensated or are advertising, marketing, or otherwise seeking financial gain; (2) activities knowingly funded or organized by an entity designated by the United States government as a foreign terrorist organization or foreign adversary; or (3) conduct prohibited by federal, state, or local law.

III. GENERAL POLICY

The University has a special obligation to ensure intellectual freedom and free expression. On University grounds generally open to the public, all persons may exercise the constitutionally protected rights of free expression, speech and assembly. Such activities shall not interfere with the right of the University to conduct its affairs in an orderly manner and to maintain its property, nor may they interfere with the University's obligation to protect the rights of all to teach, study, and freely exchange ideas.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to limit rights protected by the United States Constitution, the Louisiana Constitution, Louisiana law, or PM-79.

Expressive activities permitted under this policy do not imply endorsement by LSU New Orleans. Individuals and organizations engaging in expressive activities are responsible for the content of their expression and for compliance with applicable University policies and federal, state, and local laws.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Reservable Outdoor Spaces

Outdoor areas owned by LSU New Orleans may be reserved for exclusive use through the University reservation process. Use of reserved spaces shall be administered in a content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral manner.

B. Reservations

Individuals and organizations seeking exclusive use of a reservable outdoor space or indoor facility shall follow established University reservation procedures.

Reservation decisions shall be based on operational, safety, and facility-management considerations and shall not be based on the content or viewpoint of expression.

C. Amplified Sound

Use of amplified sound in connection with expressive activities is subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions.

Personal devices, such as portable speakers, stereos, or similar equipment, may be used informally provided they do not disrupt academic instruction, research activities, residential living environments, staff work environments, scheduled University events, or other University operations.

Reservation is required for the exclusive use of a reservable outdoor space. Amplified sound may not interfere with academic instruction, research activities, residential living environments, staff work environments, scheduled University events, or other University operations. Amplified sound is generally permitted during the following hours:

- Sunday through Thursday: 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Friday and Saturday: 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Sound checks of up to thirty (30) minutes may be approved outside of these hours. These limitations do not apply to official University events or approved exceptions.

Sound that reaches 85 decibels or higher inside an adjacent University facility is presumed disruptive. Amplified sound may not exceed 65 decibels at the nearest campus property boundary.

D. Signage, Literature Distribution, and Displays

Posting of signs, posters, notices, flyers, leaflets, banners, and displays on University property shall comply with University procedures governing posting locations, duration, removal, maintenance, and protection of University property.

Materials shall be administered in a content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral manner.

Literature distribution may not obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic, interfere with University operations, or create litter or property damage.

E. Compliance with Law

Individuals participating in expressive activities remain subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws, including laws governing public safety, political advertising, masking, and use of public property.

F. Reporting Concerns

Individuals who believe their rights under PM-79 have been violated may utilize the grievance procedures established in PM-79 and applicable University reporting processes.

Emergency situations should be reported immediately to University Police.

V. SOURCES

[LSU Permanent Memorandum 79, Freedom of Speech and Expression](#)
[United States Constitution, First Amendment](#)
[Louisiana Constitution, Article I, Section 7](#)
[Louisiana Revised Statutes 17:3399.31 et seq. \(Campus Free Expression Law\)](#)
[Louisiana Revised Statutes 14:313 \(Wearing of Masks and Hoods\)](#)
[Louisiana Revised Statutes 18:1470 \(Political Advertising; Prohibition\)](#)

VI. APPENDICIES

[Campus Reservation Operating Procedures](#)
[OP SS-2 Expressive Activity](#)
[Incident Reporting Form](#)