

# Protest Guidelines for the DePaul Community

*The Guiding Principles for Speech and Expression at DePaul University* set forth that each person is invaluable and worthy of respect and that the university affirms the right of members of the DePaul community to engage in speech and expression consistent with the values of academic freedom, free inquiry, and civil discourse.

Members of the University community may engage in speech and expression in accordance with applicable university policies. This includes the Demonstrations and Other Similar Events policy for students as detailed in the Code of Student Responsibility <https://www.depaul.edu/university-catalog/academic-handbooks/code-of-student-responsibility/university-policies-applicable-to-students/Pages/demonstrations-and-other-similar-events.aspx> and all other applicable university policies and procedures such as the Student Center Policies and Procedures <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-centers/Documents/Student%20Centers%20Policy%20and%20Procedure%20Manual.pdf>.

Violations of university policy may be grounds for discipline under the Student Conduct Process <https://www.depaul.edu/university-catalog/academic-handbooks/code-of-student-responsibility/judicial-review-process/Pages/default.aspx>, through the Faculty Handbook [http://policies.depaul.edu/documents/other/Chapter%204%20\(7-1-16%20Edition\).pdf](http://policies.depaul.edu/documents/other/Chapter%204%20(7-1-16%20Edition).pdf), or through the progressive discipline process <https://offices.depaul.edu/human-resources/employee-relations/workplace-issues/progressive-discipline/Pages/default.aspx>.

As such, all demonstrations and other similar events on or adjacent to campus must be orderly and peaceful. Such events may not impede passage, may not create excessive noise, or may not interfere with the business operations of the university.

Issues of speech and expression on campus are often thought-provoking, challenging and complicated. Student organizations and other groups may bring to campus speakers that other members of the campus community find offensive and derogatory. Below are suggestions for expressing your message when you disagree with a sponsored program.

- Share your concern with the sponsoring student organization or other group.
- Write guest editorials or send letters to media outlets, such as *The DePaulia*.
- Contact your representatives in student government, staff council or faculty council.
- Form a coalition of like-minded others and work with your representing organizations to affect change within the university community.
- Start a petition.
- Organize a peaceful protest outside of the event, as long as it respects the right of individuals to express their views and is otherwise aligned with university policy.
- Attend the program and engage in a dialogue with the speaker about the controversial ideas.
- Engage in a protest at the event as long as it respects the right of individuals to express their views and is otherwise aligned with university policy.
- Organize a teach-in with faculty members.
- Host another event or speaker to present an alternative point of view.

- Hold a counter-demonstration away from the event.
- Choose not to attend the event and find other ways to express your viewpoints.
- Lend support, reassurance, and empathy to students and other campus community members who may be hurt by offensive messages.

Examples of conduct in violation of these expectations could include, but are not limited to:

- Interfering with others' ability to see or hear the event.
- Blocking, obstructing or impeding passage or access to the event.
- Obstructing the view of the event including standing or holding signs that block the view of the event.
- Substantially interfering with the speaker's presentation through sustained, repeated, loud, unnecessary or unusual noise.
- Threatening force or violence.
- Defacing posters or other advertising for the event.
- Shutting down an event or attempting to shut down an event. For example, grabbing the microphone from a speaker, turning off the lights or power to the venue, causing an environmental danger by releasing something into the air such as pepper spray, mace, or discharging fire extinguishers.

If you would like more information about how to engage in civil discourse in a manner reflecting DePaul's Catholic, Vincentian and urban mission, or would like to discuss these ideas further, please contact the Speech & Expression Advisory Committee ([SEAC@depaul.edu](mailto:SEAC@depaul.edu)).