



Approved By: Cabinet
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Category: Student Affairs
 Contact: Vice President for Student and
 Campus Life
 (585) 245-5618

Assembly Policy

Assembly Time, Place, and Manner Conditions for Public Areas on Campus Grounds

Free speech and peaceful assembly are fundamental to the purpose of a college as a center for open inquiry in the search for knowledge and insight. Geneseo is strongly committed to the protection of these rights. However, these rights bring with them a concurrent obligation to maintain a campus atmosphere conducive to scholarly pursuits and respect for the rights of all individuals.

As stated in the New York State [Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order](#):

No student, faculty member or other staff member or authorized visitor shall be subject to any limitation or penalty for expressing his or her views or for assembling with others for such purpose; peaceful picketing and other orderly demonstrations in public areas of campus grounds and buildings are not subject to interference provided there are no violations of the rules in section I.A. of the Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order.

Assemblies, demonstrations, and similar expressions of First Amendment rights may not infringe on the rights of others or disrupt essential operations of the College.

GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR ASSEMBLIES

Any authorized assembly, picketing, or demonstration is not permitted to exceed twenty-four consecutive hours.

Authorization to use sound amplification equipment will be considered on a case by case basis. Requests for such authorization should be submitted to the Office of Campus Scheduling and Special Events.

The construction of shelters and other temporary structures, or camping on campus grounds is prohibited without the written authorization of the Vice President for Finance and Administration.

The use of campus grounds does not imply the College's endorsement of any organization or activity.

The College will not interfere with orderly demonstrations on campus grounds provided that the Trustees' Rules for Maintenance of Public Order are upheld at all times.

Applications for Planned Assemblies and Demonstrations in Public Areas by Individuals or Groups Not Affiliated with the College

Individuals or groups not affiliated with the College interested in using the campus grounds for assembly, picketing, or demonstrations are required to inform the College of their intentions and obtain authorization through the Office of the Vice President for Student and Campus Life. Forty-eight hours minimum advance notice is required. Applicants to utilize campus grounds are required to submit: their name(s); the name of their organization; the location sought; the date and time of the planned demonstration; the number of persons expected to participate; and the manner of demonstration.

Once authorization is given by the Vice President for Student and Campus Life, the applicant's information will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Scheduling and Special Events.

Authorization to assemble or demonstrate on campus grounds will only be granted provided that:

- the applicant's status with the campus is not "persona non grata," or there is not a court order prohibiting the applicant's presence on campus;
- the proposed time, place, or manner of assembly or demonstration would not prevent, disrupt, or unreasonably interfere with the regular academic and institutional activities or other essential operations of the College;
- the proposed assembly or demonstration would not unreasonably obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic;
- the proposed assembly or demonstration would not constitute an immediate and actual danger to College students, faculty, or staff or to the peace or security of the campus that available University Police could not control with reasonable effort;
- the proposed assembly or demonstration would not violate the Trustees' Rules for Maintenance of Public Order.

The College will evaluate the location requested for each assembly or demonstration individually based on availability and the need to conduct its regular academic and institutional activities. If the requested location is deemed as inappropriate based on the needs of the College, a reasonably appropriate alternative location will be authorized by the College.

All assembly or demonstration requests and requests for authorization to use sound amplification equipment will be acted on in a manner reflecting viewpoint neutrality.

If, in the judgment of College officials, an activity is not consistent with the purposes previously articulated by the users when they notified the College or the activity has been misrepresented, authorization to use campus grounds will be withdrawn and the activity in progress will be halted.

The College reserves the right to terminate any use of College property in the event that either the speaker or a participant or participants engages in conduct that violates the Trustees Rules for Maintenance of Public Order.