

For example, a student may be required to participate in BASICS or alcohol and other drug education group through Health Promotion and Wellness, or may be required to seek an evaluation for substance abuse and to follow treatment recommendations. Student groups may be asked to participate in educational activities. Amnesty through Responsible Action applies only to alcohol and other drug related policies. If other policy violations occurred, or may have occurred, the student or student group will participate in the student conduct process related to those policies and may be found responsible.

In order for Amnesty through Responsible Action to apply, the student or student group must agree to timely completion of any educational assignment, recommended assessment, and/or treatment. In the event that a student who receives medical assistance fails to complete the required course of action, or exhibits a pattern of problematic behavior with alcohol, that student or student group may be subject to formal disciplinary action.

As with any incident involving alcohol, parents of students under the legal drinking age will be notified. A student group that facilitates the acquisition of alcohol may also be required to notify its advisor, provide an educational program for its members, and/or change its processes for hosting events.

Should the student or student group be found responsible for a subsequent violation of University policy, the any Amnesty through Responsible Action the student has received will be reviewed for the purposes of determining an appropriate outcome, but will not be counted as a prior violation.

In limited circumstances, multiple violations of the alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs policy, inclusive of cases that received Amnesty through Responsible Action, may prompt a higher degree of concern and action that may result in separation from the university and/or referral to a alcohol, cannabis, or other drug intervention..

Amnesty Through Responsible Action, In Summary

1. The incident will be documented by the responding party (e.g., NUPD, Resident Assistant) in an incident report submitted to the Office of Community Standards.
2. Students involved will meet with staff from the Office of Community Standards to share their account of what occurred.
3. If a student is found to be eligible for Amnesty related to alcohol or other drug misconduct:
 - a. The student will not receive any disciplinary outcomes (e.g., warning or probation).
 - b. The student may receive educational outcomes such as participating in an alcohol or other drug intervention and/or having a parent letter sent home (as with any incident involving alcohol, parents of students under the legal drinking age will be notified).

4. If the student is not found to be eligible for Amnesty or there are additional allegations of policy violations unrelated to alcohol or drug misconduct, the student may receive both disciplinary and educational outcomes.



Destruction of Property

Destroying, damaging, defacing, or vandalizing property.

Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct

Discrimination, Harassment, or Sexual Misconduct related concerns can be filed directly with the [Office of Equity](#). Additional information about the Policy on Institutional Equity and the Interim Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment can be found on [page 129](#).

Disorderly Conduct

Disorderly conduct or disruptive acts, including the following:

- a. No member of the University community may cause or allow to continue any loud, unnecessary, or unusual noise that disturbs the peace of others, including violations of residence hall quiet hours or Evanston noise ordinances.
- b. No member of the University community may impede (or attempt to impede) others from participating in a University activity.
- c. Urinating or defecating in public view or in a public space, or in any space not intended for such purpose.

Demonstration Policy

Northwestern welcomes the expression of ideas, including viewpoints that may be considered unorthodox or unpopular. The University encourages freedom of speech, freedom of inquiry, freedom of dissent, and freedom to demonstrate in a peaceful fashion. Regardless of their own views, community members share a corresponding responsibility to welcome and promote this freedom for all. They also share a responsibility to maintain an atmosphere conducive to scholarly, creative, and educational pursuits and to respect the safety and rights of all individuals. In order to promote these interests and to ensure the safe and effective operation of University business, this Policy establishes the parameters community members are expected to adhere to when engaging in free expression and peaceful demonstration.

I. General Guidelines

To allow for freedom of expression and peaceful demonstration on campus while also respecting the University's operations, the following guidelines for demonstration are in place:

- A. **Rights of others.** No community member may prevent or obstruct (or attempt to prevent or obstruct) the speech or other expression of another community member, except that Northwestern Police or other University officials may act consistent with this Policy to ensure the speech or other expression of community members is consistent with the guidelines in this Policy. Similarly, no community member may deprive (or attempt to deprive) others of participation in a University activity, threaten use of force against any community member, or otherwise interfere with the function of others within the University.
- B. **University operations.** No community member may prevent or obstruct (or attempt to prevent or obstruct) (i) the regularly scheduled activities of the University, such as classes, research, learning, meetings, interviews, ceremonies, emergency services, or University business; (ii) co-curricular activities; (iii) University or public events; or (iv) medical center access or business. Similarly, no community member may use or occupy campus facilities so as to impede the carrying forward of such activities or events. Groups may occupy space but not in a manner that blocks movement around the campus (including but not limited to entrance to or egress from any campus building, campus facility, or University-owned and -maintained roadway or pathway) unless authorized by a University official.
- C. **Research areas.** Demonstrations cannot take place in research areas where the presence of participants would compromise individual safety or violate laws, regulations, or Northwestern policies relating to research safety.
- D. **Signs.** Placards, banners, and signs may not obstruct the view of those assembled or endanger other community members.
- E. **Police and other officials.** The role of Northwestern Police during a demonstration is to maximize the safety and security of community members as well as University property. When enforcing this Policy, other Northwestern policies, or applicable law, Northwestern Police or other University officials may request community members to identify themselves and/or instruct community members to remove placards, banners, or signs or to leave a University location. When possible participants will first be given a warning to leave or remove placards, banners, or signs, unless a life safety issue prevents that step. Community members are expected to follow these requests.

- F. **Facilities.** All events are subject to the requirements and limitations of the event's location, including [room occupancy](#). All events must comply with applicable [building safety codes](#).

- G. **Other laws and policies.** Participants in demonstrations or protests are subject to other Northwestern policies, city ordinances, and state and federal law in addition to this Policy.

II. Event Notification and Other Advance Arrangements

- A. **Student events.** To facilitate advance planning of an event and to help protect the community, students and/or student groups are encouraged to notify [Student Organizations and Activities](#) in advance of any demonstration (see [FAQs](#) created in support of student events). Notification should be submitted at least 48 hours before the start of the event. Whenever possible, students and/or student groups should give additional advance notice, ideally two weeks or more, to best facilitate planning. Student Organizations and Activities are not authorized to deny these events.

However, when conducting such events, student organizers are expected to promote a safe environment and, to the best of their ability, ensure participants adhere to the Student Code of Conduct.

- B. **Event Support Team (EST).** Once notified of a planned demonstration, typically involving students, the University will convene the EST, which provides on-site support to assist with management of the event. The EST will actively attempt to preserve open discourse surrounding and during the event.

- C. **Resources for risk assessment.** Occasionally an invited speaker or event will raise a credible likelihood (based on prior incidents or communications of intent) that the speaker or event may prompt a demonstration or become the target of threats or violence. In these circumstances, community members planning an event are encouraged to notify [Student Organizations and Activities](#) and/or Northwestern Police as soon as is feasible to consult and conduct a risk assessment.

- D. **Reserving space.** Community members are expected to follow applicable guidelines for seeking permission to use University space to conduct demonstrations. All outdoor events and activities are subject to the requirements outlined in Northwestern's [Outdoor Event Request Portal](#).

- E. **Security.** Community members planning an event may need police presence or security, especially if there is a possibility of protest or dissent. Northwestern Police will assess and determine the safety and security needs for the event. Their assessment may result in the presence of police officers, security officers, and

processes such as bag-check, event ticketing, and other steps to maximize the safety of attendees and the broader community.

- F. **Media.** Faculty or staff planning to invite journalists other than Northwestern student journalists to cover an event should contact [Global Marketing and Communications](#) in advance of the event.

III. Counter Demonstration

A protest, demonstration, or event on campus may cause further dissent, resulting in a counter demonstration. The guidelines in this Policy also apply to counter demonstrations. When such an occasion arises, it is the responsibility of the University as well as all involved to allow for freedom of expression from all individuals. University officers may designate a separate area for counter demonstration.

Consequences of Violating this Policy

If faculty, staff, students, or student organizations are suspected of violating this Policy, the matter will be referred to the appropriate office or department for follow up under University policies and procedures. There is no typical sanction associated with violations of this Policy. Each case is context specific; in determining whether a sanction is warranted, considerations include the severity of the violation of this and any other relevant policies as well as any prior misconduct.



Endangering Self or Others

Any action (or threat of action) that endangers or threatens to endanger the health, safety, or wellbeing of any person (including oneself). Severity and/or persistence may be considered.

Conduct that can amount to endangering self or others includes, but is not limited to:

- alcohol, cannabis or other drug use resulting in assessment for hospitalization or transport for hospitalization;
- alcohol distribution resulting in Severe Intoxication;
- threat of or actual physical abuse or harm.

Failure to Comply

The Student Code of Conduct and all other University policies are designed with the safety and well-being of the University community in mind. As such, students are expected to comply with the request or instruction of a University official when they are addressing policy or student code of conduct violations or concerns. This includes, but is not limited to, the following prohibited conduct:

- Failure to comply promptly with the reasonable request or instruction of a university official or emergency personnel acting in an official capacity;
- Refusing to provide identification;
- Refusing to dispose of or turn over to university authorities prohibited items;
- Failing to respond; and,
- Failing to follow temporary expectations or guidelines imposed for the purposes of safety and welfare, such as those associated with COVID-19.

Fire Safety

Acts that jeopardize the safety or security of the University, the University community, or any University facilities, building, or premises, including Intentionally damaging or destroying property by fire or explosives;

- a. Creating or maintaining a fire or fire hazard (except as specifically authorized), including burning candles or incense or use of unauthorized (or misuse of authorized) appliances or heating devices, including toasters, microwaves, hot plates, and space heaters;
- b. Tampering with or misuse of emergency or fire safety equipment, including emergency call devices, fire alarms, fire exits, firefighting equipment, smoke/heat detectors, or sprinkler systems;
- c. Failing to immediately exit any facility or building when a fire alarm or other emergency notification has been sounded, or hindering or impairing the orderly evacuation of any University facility, building, or premises;
- d. Smoking in any enclosed University facility, in any designated outdoor areas, or within 25 feet of an entrance, open window, ventilation intake, or similar feature of any enclosed University facility; and
- e. Violations of state or local fire and fire-related ordinances.



Guest and Visitors

Knowingly allowing visitors or guests to violate this Student Code of Conduct or other University policies, or failing to monitor the behavior of visitors or guests to assure they adhere to such standards may result in student conduct action for the host(s).

Hazing

It is the responsibility of all students/student organizations to encour-