



Learning with Purpose

University of Massachusetts Lowell

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| Policy Title: | Demonstration Policy |
| Policy Number: | PS-6-101 |
| Responsible Office: | University Police |
| Responsible Position: | Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police |

I. Policy Statement:

The primary function of a university is to discover and disseminate knowledge by means of research and teaching. To fulfill this function, a free interchange of ideas is necessary not only within the university but also with the larger society. At the UMass Lowell, freedom of expression is vital to our shared goal of the pursuit of knowledge. Such freedom comes with a responsibility to welcome and promote this freedom for all, even in disagreement or opposition.

The right of freedom of expression at the University includes peaceful protests and orderly demonstrations. At the same time, the University has long recognized that the right to protest and demonstrate does not include the right to engage in disruptive conduct.

Faculty, staff, students, contractors, and visitors of the University Community who engage in disruptive conduct will be subject to appropriate administrative actions which may include disciplinary action as well as civil and/or criminal penalties.

II. Purpose:

This policy has been created to serve as an internal guideline to govern the demonstration, assembly, and or picketing by individuals and groups on University Property.

III. Scope:

This policy applies to all persons participating in protests and/or demonstrations on University property or property under the control of the University. Application of this policy does not preclude the application of other University policies or regulations as or any other state or federal laws or regulations that may be warranted by a given situation.

IV. Definitions:

Disruptive Conduct:

Disruptive Conduct is conduct that substantially obstructs, impairs, or interferes with teaching, study, research, or administration of the University.

V. Procedures:

Advance Arrangements:

To further the effectiveness of their event, organizations and other groups of students organizing a protest or demonstration are encouraged to make advance arrangements with the University Police.

When possible, a notification to hold a protest or demonstration should be submitted via email at least 48 hours before the start of the event to ensure its successful execution. The requester will provide requested contact information so that professional staff can follow up with any additional information.

Building Occupancy:

For a protest or demonstration, attention must be paid to the occupancy limits and general safety of the University community in the space used. Adherence to normal building operating hours is expected of people participating in a protest or demonstration within a University building and University officials will require that protestors or demonstrators leave at the time of building closure. Residence halls, private offices, libraries, utilities, emergency/communication facilities, classrooms, labs are not appropriate areas for protests or demonstrations.

Counter-Protest:

A protest, demonstration, or event on campus may invite another form of protest. When these occasions arise, the expression of all parties is important. Please note that a separate protest area may be designated by University Police for those persons with views that differ from the views held by the event organizers. In order to ensure the safety of all participants, the University Police Department may require the attendance of one or more officers.

Identification:

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

Noise Level:

All Protests and demonstrations held outdoors are to be conducted in a manner as to not disrupt University operations.

Placards, Banners and Signs:

Placards, banners, and signs generally are allowed but may not be dangerous for others or

impede the participation of others in the life of the University. If the use of placards, banners, and signs are deemed to be dangerous or impede the participation of others, University officials will require the individuals carrying the placards, banners, or signs to move to a different location or remove their materials.

Protest and Demonstration Duration:

Protests and demonstrations normally are permitted until or unless University officials determine that University operations have been compromised and/or the rights of others have been significantly infringed. Interference with instruction, study, and research are viewed as particularly disruptive to the University.

VI. Responsibility:

The Director of Public Safety will have primary responsibility over the application and implementation of this policy. The Office of Student Affairs and or the University Police may be called upon to be present at and monitor protests, demonstrations, and other events on or adjacent to University property. If called upon, the professional staff will work actively to preserve an environment of spirited and open discourse and debate, allowing for the opportunity to have all participants contribute to intellectual exchange and full participation in an event. In instances of disruptive behavior or violations of University policies, the University Police will be notified and take appropriate action.

With the appropriate advance notice, University Police together with the Office of the Dean of Students will engage with student protestors and demonstrators during the event to help assure participants' safety, and to assist organizers in seeing that the demonstration does not disrupt the normal functioning of the University. For events occurring on city sidewalks and streets adjacent to the University, students should adhere to city ordinances and applicable state and federal law.

VII. Attachments:

Freedom of Speech/Demonstration Notification Form
Guidelines for Responses to Demonstrations on University Property

VIII. Related Policies, Procedures and Announcements:

Student Code of Conduct, # SA-7-101
Vendor Table Policy, # SA-7-104

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| Effective As Of: | April 2019 |
| Next Review Date: | April 2022 |