

Freedom of Expression Policy

As a private, Catholic university based in the Ignatian tradition, free inquiry and free expression are core principles to the attainment of the mission and goals of Loyola Marymount University (LMU): the encouragement of learning, the education of the whole person, the service of faith and the promotion of justice. We are a community committed to the proposition that a LMU educated Student be equipped to develop and articulate a point of view and sustain it in the face of contrary opinions. Therefore, Students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical thought and to engage in on-going civil discourse.

As members of the LMU community, Students will be exposed to varying points of view and it is inevitable that Students will encounter others who think differently or those whose views they believe wrong or offensive. The university setting is one that welcomes and promotes intellectual inquiry, vigorous and respectful civil discourse and the freedom of expression of diverse ideas and points of view. Students are expected to respect the expressions of others, even when it makes them feel challenged or uncomfortable. It is within a civil and respectful community, like this University, that freedom of expression, debate and the exploration of competing views can best thrive.

The University seeks to ensure a fair and reasonable balance and coordination between two sets of important, and sometimes competing, rights. The first is the right of the members of the University Community to pursue their academic and co-curricular objectives without unreasonable obstruction or hindrance. The second is the right of the members of the University Community to express and communicate alternative, contrary or unpopular positions and beliefs as part of intellectual exploration, debate and the pursuit of truth and justice. The University affirms both sets of rights and believes that each can be fully exercised without compromising the other.

The expression of viewpoints, including those that are strongly held, often invites or elicit responses from others, including those with opposing positions and viewpoints that are also strongly held. Organizers of any activity, demonstration or protest should be aware that others with opposing views may choose to share them and that their right to personal expression must also be permitted as defined in this policy. The safe, civil and educational expression of opposing views, particularly deeply emotional views, is especially important and is the responsibility of everyone involved.

Individuals, Registered Student Organizations or groups who organize any activity, demonstration or protest are responsible for conveying to all participants the consequences for failing to comply with the University's expectations. All Students and their Guests are expected to comply with the Student Conduct Code and abide by all safety regulations and University policies. As such, individuals, organizations or groups who organize activities, demonstrations or protests are accountable for their conduct as well as the conduct of their Guests and may be subject to disciplinary action as the responsible party for violations of University policy caused by their Guests.

Freedom of expression includes all forms of speech including, but not limited to, debates, speeches, symposia, posting of signs, posting on social media, petitioning, information dissemination, the formation of groups, participation in activities and the invitation of guest speakers to address the University Community. It should also be understood and expressed that the positions or views espoused are those of the students or speakers and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the University.

While individuals, Registered Student Organizations and groups at LMU have the freedom to examine and discuss issues of interest to them and to express their opinions publicly and privately in the proper time, place and manner, the University has an obligation to, and will, maintain an environment where all are free to learn while protecting University and private property and processes from individual or collective actions that are, destructive, disruptive or interfere with activities of members of the community and its Guests.