

## **Student Affairs and Academic Support**

## Free Speech on Campus

The university is committed to fostering an environment where the open exchange of ideas and information is valued, promoted and encouraged. The First Amendment is fundamental to ensuring civil debate and free expression, which are vital aspects of campus life.

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Part of the long tradition of American higher education is the belief that free and open dialogue is a key ingredient to arriving at universal truths and common understanding. Because of this tradition, colleges and universities are on the forefront of not only scientific discovery, but also important societal change.

### The Carolinian Creed

The Carolinian Creed was developed in 1990 to establish a university values statement. The Creed is not an enforceable code of conduct. The Creed is an aspirational statement that reminds students of the importance of civil discourse while embracing mutual respect for everyone, even those we disagree with.

*As a Carolinian ...*

- I will practice personal and academic integrity;
- I will respect the dignity of all persons;
- I will respect the rights and property of others;
- I will discourage bigotry, while striving to learn from differences in people, ideas and opinions;
- I will demonstrate concern for others, their feelings, and their need for the conditions which support their work and development.

To learn more about the Creed and participate in events that celebrate it, visit the [\*\*Creed site\*\*](#).

### Using Your Voice

There are many ways to exercise free speech, and the university makes resources available to any student who wants to become more engaged in issues they care about.

Expand all

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**Join a Student Organization**



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**Host an Event on Campus**



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**Get Involved Beyond Campus**



## Respecting Other Voices

The Carolinian Creed urges civil discussion and debate; however, we do not have a “speech code” that prohibits constitutionally protected speech, even when the speech does not conform to our deeply held community values. Still, free speech doesn't mean any speech is acceptable; there are some limits.

Expand all

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**Silencing Speech**



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**Threats/Harassment**



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**Time/Place/Manner**

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## We're Here to Help

A group of trained volunteers can assist students before, during and after free-speech events. The Safely Engaging in Expression Delegates (SEED) is a group of students and staff who attend events and help educate students about free speech on campus. Students who have concerns about an event or would like to request assistance during a planned event should contact SEED ([odos@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:odos@mailbox.sc.edu)) to speak with a team member.