

CAMPUS LIFE

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Events

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Campus Protest Policy



Overview

Williams recognizes and affirms that freedom of expression, academic freedom, and intellectual inquiry and debate are vital to its academic mission and must be protected, even when the views expressed are unpopular or controversial. As part of this commitment, Williams recognizes and supports the right of students on campus to protest peacefully within the framework of the college's policies.

At the same time, Williams retains the right to regulate the time, place, and manner of protests and will not permit protests that threaten safety, suppress others' right to speech or equal access to the campus, involve harassment, or obstruct the college's operations.

This policy applies to students. Individuals who are not current Williams students, staff, or faculty are not permitted to engage in protests on college property unless they are invited to campus by a college department or registered student organization in accordance with college policy.

Forms of Protest and Pre-Planning

Protests may take many forms including, but not limited to: assemblies, demonstrations, rallies and picketing, displaying fliers/posters/banners, distribution of leaflets and petitions, chalking, tabling, and the temporary installation of an object.

In advance of a planned protest, organizers are strongly encouraged to consult with relevant offices including but not limited to: the Dean of the

College, the Davis Center, Campus Life, Campus Safety Services, the Chaplains, and Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Receiving advance notice enables the college to provide information and resources to protest organizers and gives both protesters and the college an opportunity to plan for security needs and other contingencies. While 48 hours' advance notice is generally sufficient to plan for most protests, protesters are encouraged to give notice as early as possible, especially for events that are expected to be large, complicated, or have unique needs. The college reserves the right to determine an appropriate location for a protest to ensure that college policies are followed.

Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions

To ensure that the safety of the community is protected and that the principles of freedom of inquiry and expression are supported, the college has established the basic rules listed below regarding protests.

- Protests may not violate or conflict with college policies or the law, including the disruptive behaviors policy.
- A single person or group of people does not have the right to prevent the public expression of others (e.g., preventing an invited speaker from being heard or interrupting an admissions tour).
- Protests may not threaten or jeopardize anyone's physical safety. The use of flames is prohibited unless protesters have received prior approval from Campus Safety Services.
- Protesters may not engage in harassing behavior.
- Protests may not prevent, obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with the normal academic, administrative, or programmatic operations of the college. These include but are not limited to:
 - Academic activities, such as classes, labs, activities in any academic building, libraries, etc.

- Administrative activities, such as meetings
- Athletic events, including both varsity and club sports
- Events or speakers hosted in accordance with college policy by academic departments, administrative offices, or recognized student organizations
- The functioning of the college's student residences and dining halls
- Pedestrian & vehicular traffic flow
- Access to/from any college facilities
- Protesters may not alter any campus structure or landscape unless authorized in advance by the college. Formal requests can be made to the manager of the location being considered; if the manager is not known, Facilities may be contacted for assistance. Students who damage property may be required to pay for replacement/repair costs (in addition to facing potential disciplinary action).
- Protests may not exceed legal building capacity limits.
- Protests in the form of fliers, banners, installations, or other large format materials, chalkings, or table tents, must adhere to the college's Posting Policy.
- The use of amplification equipment for protest is allowed as long as it does not prevent an invited speaker from being heard, interfere with the normal operations of the college, or violate local noise laws.

Enforcement

Protest participants are required to comply with this and all college policies and should understand that violation of college policy may result in disciplinary action. In the event of a violation, and barring only exceptional circumstances, college personnel and/or other officials will issue a warning and ask for immediate compliance prior to taking any other action. Such requests for compliance may include, but are not limited to, requiring protesters to move to a different location, disperse, leave events, or cease use of certain props, tools, or signs that constitute a violation of this or other

college policy. The college reserves the right to take any other action it determines is warranted to preserve the rights of others to access, participate in, or benefit from its educational programs, activities, and services.

Protesters are required to comply with the requests of campus officials and to identify themselves if asked. Such requests may be made by faculty or staff event organizers where the protest occurs during a scheduled campus event, or by members of Campus Safety Services, the Dean of the College's Office, the Dean of the Faculty's Office, the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, or the Office of the President. Law enforcement may be called in extraordinary circumstances.

The orderly, equitable, and safe functioning of the college requires adherence to this policy and its consistent enforcement. Sanctions for violation of this policy will vary based on the nature of the violation and whether it is the first instance or a subsequent occurrence. The college's [sanctions rubric](#) provides a sense for which infractions are likely to lead to an informal meeting and which to formal disciplinary action.

Any community member who has questions or concerns about an ongoing protest should contact Campus Safety Services (413-597-4444) or another trusted campus partner in one of the offices listed above.

Related Policies

- [Posting Policy](#)
- [Public Art Process and Policies](#)
- [Disruptive Behaviors Policy, Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Harassment, Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Procedures for Adjudicating Violations of Social Misconduct, Student Code of Conduct](#)

- [College Resources and Political Activity Policy](#)
- [Fire Safety Rules](#)

Campus Postings Policy



Overview

Williams recognizes and affirms that freedom of expression, academic freedom, and intellectual inquiry and debate are vital to its academic mission and must be protected, even when the views expressed are unpopular or controversial. As part of this commitment, Williams recognizes and supports the right of students, faculty, and staff to share information publicly on campus in the form of postings. At the same time, Williams retains the right to regulate the time, place, and manner of postings.

This policy applies to the entire campus community. It does not apply to postings in individual dorm rooms or offices or to dedicated unit, departmental, or program display areas.

Forms of Posting

Postings may take many forms including, but not limited to: posters, fliers, banners, chalkings, and installations. For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- *Fliers and Banners* (any primarily two-dimensional temporary sign, poster, flier, flag, or banner)
- *Chalkings* (messages installed on hard permanent surfaces such as brick, cement, etc. with chalk)

- *Other* (any physical installation that does not fit within the categories of Fliers and Banners or Chalkings).

Clear Ownership

All postings must clearly indicate the name and email address for the person and/or group responsible for the posting. The email does not need to be a williams.edu address, but, except where permission has been granted as described below, any group name must be an established unit or department of the college or registered student organization. College groups that are not an established unit or department of the college or registered student organization may seek permission to post without a williams.edu address or individual's name on the face of the posting by reaching out to postings@williams.edu and providing the name and contact information for a student, faculty, or staff member associated with the group. This process does not involve a review of posting content.

Installation

Postings are to be installed by the person/group responsible for the postings. When affixing a posting other than on a bulletin board, blue or purple masking tape must be used to avoid damaging or marking surfaces. This includes postings on glass or on the exterior of buildings; duct tape, scotch tape, nails, tacks (except when used on bulletin boards where tacks are provided), spray adhesive, and other attachment methods are prohibited. (The Office of Campus Life makes masking tape available to the community during regular office hours.) Postings may not be affixed to the glass portion of doors.

Chalkings may be installed on horizontal outdoor concrete surfaces that are exposed to the elements, i.e., not on walls, pillars or other vertical surfaces, and not under overhangs of any kind.

The location of a posting must not pose a risk to health or safety, including by breaching Fire Codes or similar life/safety regulations as determined by the appropriate college or town officials.

For postings that fall into the Other category, the installer must reserve the posting space by emailing postings@williams.edu.

Individual offices, departments, and programs often provide dedicated bulletin boards or other display areas that are managed by those units and may not be available for general postings. These units may remove any posting on their boards at any time and for any reason.

Administrative or academic units that manage entire buildings may choose to further restrict the location of postings within the building, for example by requiring that postings be confined to bulletin boards, by clearly advertising that fact within the building.

Any prominent exterior signage locations generally associated with advertising events or programming may be used only to advertise programming within the associated building and shall include the name(s) and date(s) of that programming.

Content

Postings may not defame an individual, constitute harassment, fighting words, or a threat of violence, unjustifiably invade substantial privacy or confidentiality interests, or otherwise violate college policy or the law.

Duration and Regular Removal

College staff remove postings from college buildings on the 1st and 15th of every month. If the 1st or 15th falls on a weekend or holiday, they will be removed on the next business day. Postings will also be removed and

discarded campus-wide on the day after the last day of final exams at the end of each semester, at the end of Winter Study, and in mid-August.

Regularly removed posters will be recycled. Community members who wish to reuse posters should remove them prior to the 1st or 15th deadline.

Event-related posters will not be removed until the last program date on the flier has passed but may not be posted more than four weeks prior to the first program date on the flier. Thereafter, they may be removed by any member of the community. Event dates must be listed on the poster itself and may not be accessible solely via link or QR code. Posters advertising regularly scheduled and recurring meetings (e.g., weekly meetings for the duration of the semester) will be removed as part of the regular clean-up process. Only health and safety-related postings and legally mandated HR postings are exempt from the requirement of regular removal.

Unauthorized Removal, Defacement

With the exception of removal of expired event-related posters, community members may not remove, cover over, or write on others' postings unless given explicit permission to do so by the original poster. Community members whose postings have been improperly covered over, removed, or defaced can alert the college by sending a message to postings@williams.edu.

Enforcement

Everyone who posts on college property is required to comply with this and all college policies and should understand that violation of college policy may result in disciplinary action. Postings that do not comply with college policy, for example because they were hung improperly or do not contain proper identification, will be removed and recycled. Postings removed due

to their content will be held in the Dean of the College's Office for at least one week.

Decisions to remove a posting due to its content will usually be made by one or more members of the posting advisory group in consultation with others as needed. The advisory group also receives emails sent to the postings@williams.edu account. Current member names are listed at the bottom of this policy. Community members with questions about this policy or its application are encouraged to reach out to one or more members of this advisory group.

The orderly, equitable, and safe functioning of the college requires adherence to this policy and its consistent enforcement. Sanctions for violation of this policy will vary based on the nature of the violation and whether it is the first instance or a subsequent occurrence. For students, the college's [sanctions rubric](#) provides a sense for which infractions are likely to lead to an informal meeting and which to formal disciplinary action. If college property is damaged by any posting, those responsible will be charged for any associated costs in addition to possible disciplinary action.

Postings that do not appear to adhere to these policies should be referred to postings@williams.edu or Campus Safety Services at [413-597-4444](tel:413-597-4444).

Exceptions

Individuals who are creating postings as part of academic projects, programs, or assignments may seek exceptions to some of these parameters. Please contact postings@williams.edu in advance for guidance.

Individuals, entities, and groups external to the college who seek to post on campus to advertise local events or resources of interest to the college

community may do so only with advance permission by emailing postings@williams.edu.

Posting Advisory Group

- Jeff Malanson, *Chair*
- Bilal Ansari
- Rachel Bukanc

Related Policies

- [Protest Policy](#)
- [Public Art Process and Policies](#)
- [Harassment, Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Procedures for Adjudicating Violations of Social Misconduct, Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Faculty/Staff Nondiscrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#)
- [College Resources and Political Activity Policy](#)
- [Fire Safety Rules](#)

Use of College Property	+
Requests from External Entities or for Non-College Purposes	+
Student Event FAQ's	+

Student Events with Alcohol Policies

Student Events with Alcohol Policies



Food Requirements for Events with Alcohol



Hosts and Servers



Events Planned by Faculty or Staff

Faculty or Staff planning events should refer to the [Office of the Dean of the Faculty event planning site](#).

[Print this page](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jewsraelis: Israel's Revolution and Polarization - Virtual Lecture with Shmuel Rosner

[Thu May 15](#) | [Paresky Center 205 - Chaplains' Office](#) | [12:00 PM](#)

An Evening With Eric Wilson

[Thu May 15](#) | [The Williams Bookstore](#) | [4:00 PM](#)

Eph Sports Information Frank Deford & Aaron Pinsky Awards Night

[Thu May 15](#) | [Griffin Hall 3](#) | [7:00 PM](#)

BIG ART SHOW Thurs, May 15th 7-9pm

[Thu May 15](#) | [Spencer Studio Art](#) | [7:00 PM](#)

Opening Reception for Senior Studio Art Show

[Fri May 16](#) | [Williams College Museum of Art \(WCMA\)](#) | [6:00 PM](#)

CAMPUS LIFE

The Paresky Center

39 Chapin Hall Drive

Williamstown, MA 01267 USA

 413.597.4747

 campus-life@williams.edu

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