

Demonstration and Protest Policy

Pulled from the Club/Org Handbook, updated August 2023

Loyola University Maryland strives to create an environment in which members of the community may discuss questions, express opinions, and debate issues publicly while respecting the rights of others. Students at Loyola are afforded several rights, including the right to express one's views in a reasonable and civil manner and to meet peaceably on university property with other members of the University community. Loyola is committed to standards promoting speech and expression that foster an open exchange of ideas and opinions. The right to free speech and expression is subject to reasonable restrictions of time, place, and manner (as outlined in the guidelines), and does not include unlawful activity. In all events, the use of the University forum shall not imply acceptance or endorsement by the University of the views expressed.

In keeping with the University's commitment to promoting free speech and expression, Loyola respects the right of all members of the academic community to explore, discuss, and express opinions, and debate issues publicly in a civil, orderly, and safe manner. The University seeks to protect the right of voluntary assembly, make facilities available for peaceful assembly, and protect the exercise of these rights from disruption or interference.

Loyola University Maryland will not allow disruptive behavior or disorderly conduct on its premises to interrupt its proper operation. Persons engaging in disruptive behavior or disorderly conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Guidelines: These guidelines pertain to demonstrations, protests, and other organized gatherings. Demonstrations on University property or at university-sponsored events must be organized and led by students, so that there is an appropriate University contact for the demonstration. RSO members planning to demonstrate, protest, or hold an organized gathering are expected to contact the Office of Student Engagement to schedule a meeting with the Director (or Directors' designee). Sponsored RSOs must contact their sponsoring office (Student Engagement, ALANA Services, or Residence Life and Housing) to schedule a meeting with the Director (or Director's designee) of the sponsoring office. Students not affiliated with any student group should contact the Director of Student Engagement (or Directors' designee) to schedule a meeting. Students are encouraged to schedule this meeting with as much notice as possible. Notice will allow University staff time to work with the student to assure the demonstration will abide by university guidelines and maximize the learning experience inherent in the process of demonstrating.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the details of the proposed demonstration including proposed time, place, manner, planned size, and location for the event. Reservation of campus space (including the Quad) for any event will be contingent upon availability and should follow the guidelines and process established by Event Services. The sponsoring office or Student Engagement will help the student coordinate the details and prepare for any additional needs (security, safety concerns, etc.).

Responsibility of Student Organizers: Once the details of the demonstration have been confirmed, student organizers in conjunction with the sponsoring office, are responsible to notify other offices of the demonstration, including the Office of the Vice President for Student

Development and Public Safety. Student organizers are also responsible for maintaining peace and order, which includes educating participants about the University's expectations. Individuals or groups who organized the event are accountable for the conduct of their guests and may be subject to disciplinary action as the responsible party for violations of university policy incurred by their guests.

During a demonstration, the expression of viewpoints may invite or elicit a response from others, including counterdemonstrators or passersby. In all circumstances, others' right to personal expression may not be denied. Organizers should be aware that other demonstrations may also be approved that may include opposing views. Maintaining peace and order is especially important under these circumstances to support a rich campus environment that is accepting of divergent expression.

Student organizers of demonstrations, protests, organized gatherings, etc. must ensure the following:

- The demonstration prioritizes the safety of those involved, as well as the safety of those not involved in the demonstration, including those who disagree with the position taken by the organizers.
- The demonstration permits the continued operation of university functions and is not disruptive-i.e., allows free movement about campus; allows classes and university-sponsored events to continue unhindered and uninterrupted (including excessive noise in or near academic buildings); allows other students, faculty, administrators, staff, contractors, and visitors to conduct their business; allows entrance and egress from university buildings and grounds as needed. Demonstrations are not permitted in residence halls.
- The demonstration respects and preserves University property, including building opening and closing times, facility cleanliness and appearance, and structural integrity.
- Those who attend the demonstration must not engage in any violent or threatening behavior and must abide by all state and federal laws and any University policy.

Expression that is indecent, grossly obscene, or grossly offensive on matters such as race, sex, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, gender or gender identity, or any other legally protected classification is inconsistent with the University Community Standards and will not be tolerated.

Presence of University Personnel: When demonstrations are scheduled, student organizers should expect University personnel to be present for all or part of the event. This presence is often necessary to ensure organizers' own rights are protected and the University's regular operations and activities are not interrupted. A staff member from the sponsoring office (or designee of that office) and Public Safety staff must be present for the entire demonstration.

Responsibly Conclude the Demonstration: The length of any given demonstration may vary. Demonstrations will usually be permitted to continue until and unless University officials determine that University operations and/or the rights of others have been compromised. This includes staff who may be attempting to close facilities according to the established closing hours of buildings.

At the conclusion of any demonstration, the student organizers are expected to make a reasonable effort to return the grounds/area to the condition it was in before the event. This includes properly disposing of all garbage. Any unanticipated and accidental property damage should be reported to university administrators immediately. Any property damage related to a demonstration (whether peaceful or disruptive) may result in the assessment of fees for cleaning, repairs, and replacement of property to the organization or individuals involved in both.

Note: the University may require the demonstration be held in the outdoor seating area outside McManus Theatre.