

Policy on Public Speech, Assembly and Demonstrations

Northwestern State University (NSU) is committed to free speech and free expression among students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The University believes the free exchange of ideas is an essential element in a healthy university community and a free republic. NSU supports and endorses the rights of all persons to assemble, demonstrate and publicly express ideas in a lawful manner.

Safety of members of the NSU community and visitors to the campus is paramount. To maintain safety and security, to minimize risks of harm and to minimize conflict with academic processes, NSU has the right, in limited circumstances, to regulate registration, place, time, and manner of events.

Registration:

- complete specified request for event approval (form attached)
- apply at least 24-48 hours prior to the actual event date when possible and practical (processing for non-student groups or groups outside the campus community may take up to 72 hours)
- the VP for the Student Experience/Dean of Students makes every effort to approve applications quickly, however applicants may not take action until an application is processed and approved
- a requested event may not interfere with another approved event, interfere with University operations, may not be scheduled during other major university events approved by Student Affairs

Place:

University has designated 3 preferred locations; however, other locations may be considered. Preferred locations are:

- Student Union Plaza;
- Prather Coliseum East Parking Lot (at tennis complex)
- Green Space between CAPA and Varnado Hall.

The person or organization applying will select one spot.

Manner:

- Approved by the VP for the Student Experience/Dean of Students or their designee
- Peaceful

- No harmful acts, destruction or defacement of property, physical assaults or threats thereof
- May not display or threaten to use or display firearms, explosives or weapons of any type
- Amplification devices cannot be used in the Student Union Plaza
- May not obstruct, disrupt, or attempt to force the cancellation of any event sponsored by the University or by any users authorized to use University facilities.
- May not block ingress or egress to roadways, buildings, exterior patios or plazas or gathering places.
- Speech cannot be projected into areas to disrupt university classes or administrative functions

Sanctions:

- Individuals are subject to all sanctions in the NSU Student Code of Conduct.
- Individuals are subject to all sanctions under the local, state and federal laws.

Non-Endorsement

- University doesn't endorse any group and makes no guarantees for any group.

Video/Audio Taping:

- University reserves right to video/audio tape any public speech, assembly or demonstration.

Application for Public Speech, Assembly or Demonstration Request for Event Approval

Any individual or organization may publicly demonstrate in a peaceful manner after attaining the permission of the VP of the Student Experience/Dean of Students or their designee at: email-coninef@nsula.edu, Room 134, Long Student Services Building, NSU, Natchitoches, LA 71497, Ph. 318-357-5285, FAX, 318-357-6325.

An application must be made at least 24-72 hours in advance to the VP of the Student Experience/Dean of Students Office on this form.

1. The applicant's name: _____
2. Organization represented _____
3. Current Address: _____
Street or house # City State Zip Code
4. Phone Number: _____ Cell _____
5. Email _____
6. Student ID or DL# if non student _____
7. Date of birth _____
8. The proposed location from designated areas _____
9. The date and time for the assembly or demonstration _____
10. The anticipated number of participants _____
11. Attach a list of authorized representatives of the organization to be present along with their contact information.
12. The purpose of the assembly or demonstration _____
13. Signature: _____
Applicant or, if an organization, authorized representative
14. Approved: _____
VP of the Student Experience/Dean of Students

Applicants not affiliated with the University may be responsible for fees associated with normal facility charges and other university charges i.e. police personnel.

The Dean of Students or designee shall approve properly completed applications unless there are reasonable grounds to believe that:

- a. the applicant or organization is under a disciplinary penalty prohibiting publicly assembling or demonstrating;
- b. the applicant or organization is under state or federal indictments or court orders;
- c. the applicant or organization failed to follow policy at a previously scheduled event;
- d. the proposed location is unavailable or inappropriate at the time requested;
- e. the proposed date and time are unreasonable or not made in a timely manner;
- f. the assembly or demonstration would unreasonably obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic;
- g. the speech will constitute a clear and present danger to the institution's orderly operation, to students, faculty, staff, visitors, or property, through advocacy of immediate action.