

PURPOSE

Southwestern Oregon Community College recognizes and supports the rights of free expression and speech. We believe that engaging with individuals and groups with beliefs and perspectives different from our own is a learning experience that enhances our understanding of the world and ourselves. We believe that as an inclusive college, Southwestern Oregon Community College commits to protecting and creating the opportunity for expression by all of us in a manner that fosters inquiry, debate, and understanding. We accept that we will encounter expression that may create a wide range of feelings, including discomfort, anger, frustration, and offense. We value the learning experience that results from thoughtful engagement with all protected expression, knowing free expression is necessary for accomplishing our mission and sustaining our values.

It is the purpose of these guidelines to inform members of the College community and the public of the manner in which they may engage in constitutionally protected speech and expression at Southwestern Oregon Community College. These individuals or groups include, but are not limited to, those that represent religious organizations, groups desiring petition signatures, political candidates and their representatives, and groups representing political issues. It is the intent of these guidelines to ensure the primary educational purpose of the College while promoting debate, the sharing of information, and protecting free speech rights.

FREE SPEECH DISCLAIMER

All information and ideas expressed by the individual or organization using the Southwestern Oregon Community College free speech areas are that of the individual or organization and do not necessarily represent the views of Southwestern Oregon Community College.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Users shall contain their presentation and materials to the designated indoor free speech area and designated posting area, and are encouraged but not required to use the designated outdoor area.
2. Users shall not impede individuals or pedestrian traffic flow or disrupt the regular or authorized activities in classrooms, offices and other college facilities.
3. Users shall not impede the progress of passersby, nor shall they force passersby to take materials.
4. Users shall not touch, strike, or impede the progress of passersby, except for incidental or accidental contact, or contact initiated by a passerby.
5. User's speech activities shall be conducted at a volume which does not disrupt the orderly conduct of College business, other campus activities, or classes taking place at that time.

6. No means of amplification that creates a noise or diversion that disturbs the orderly conduct of College business, other campus activities, or classes taking place at that time shall be used.
7. Approaching individuals of the public or the College community is not permitted.
8. Any activity that may damage College property is not permitted.
9. Leaving trash, litter, pollutants, or other materials in any area is not permitted.
10. Fraud or misrepresentation of self/organization or misrepresentation/implication that the College sponsors, supports, or endorses any view, belief, statement, literature, company, product, or service being disseminated or exhibited is not permitted.
11. Any activity in violation of the Southwestern Policy on Student Conduct is not permitted.
12. Any violation of the College's Non-Discrimination/Non-Harassment Policy is not permitted.

INDOOR CAMPUS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION GUIDELINES:

1. Normal hours of presentation shall be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on days the College is open for business.
2. Must be reserved through the Office of Student Life.
3. Speech activities will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Events will not be scheduled only if there is a scheduling conflict with an earlier planned event or if the requested event will clearly result in a violation of this policy. The viewpoint to be expressed through the speech activity is not a factor in scheduling. A decision not to schedule an event may immediately be appealed to the College President or designee.

OUTDOOR CAMPUS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION GUIDELINES:

1. Presentations shall be allowed on days the College is open for business.
2. In the event of a counter advocate group wishing to be heard in the same area, the two groups shall remain a minimum of 30 feet away from each other.

FLYERS/POSTERS:

Flyers and posters must adhere to specifications in APP 8070 Campus Postings.

LOCATIONS FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION:

INDOOR FREE SPEECH:

Empire Hall Lobby - This is considered downstairs in front of the Performing Arts Center entrance.

Curry Campus – Krieger Community Room 137A/B

OUTDOOR FREE SPEECH AREAS:

Front side of Tioga Hall

Curry Campus – Outside the east entrance in the area designated with brick pavers

FLYERS/POSTERS:

May be posted on the Free Speech Board in Empire Hall.

BP 4030

Adopted as Administrative Policy/Procedure: October 4, 2017

Revised: August 8, 2018