



# STUDENT SPEECH AND DEMONSTRATIONS GUIDE

Oberlin College works to maintain an environment where open and vigorous debate can occur. In a community of scholars and artists, individual rights of expression are informed by community standards that are designed to promote the health, safety, and security of all community members and resources. This guide provides an overview of those standards both on campus and in the surrounding town.

All students—including international, undocumented, and DACA students—may engage in speech, protest, and advocacy about issues important to them, as long as they do so lawfully and consistent with college policies. These are also times of some uncertainty, and some aspects of enforcement are outside the college's control. Students, therefore, are encouraged to use good judgment.

Students do not speak for the college. Each person is responsible for their own speech.

## IMPORTANT POLICIES

### FIRE SAFETY

During demonstrations that occur inside a building, it is important that fire safety guidelines are followed to ensure the safety of all involved. Important fire safety rules to follow are:

- **Occupancy:** All buildings on Oberlin's campus have limits to the number of people allowed in a space. This number is posted in each space.
- **Egress:** Demonstrations cannot block doorways or entrances.

### COMMUNITY FUNCTION POLICIES

- **Interference:** Unreasonable interference with any institutional activity, program, event, or facility (*Student Conduct Policy*, pg. 4).
- **Postings:** Postings on-campus must comply with the regulations in our General Posting Policy. All posters must be sponsored by a chartered student organization and can only be posted in certain designated areas. For more information, please contact the Student Union.
- **Art Installation:** All art installations must be approved in collaboration with the Office of Residential Education, Facilities Operations, and Campus Safety. Please contact Residential Education for more information.

- **Space Reservation:** All spaces on-campus must be reserved. If you are looking to reserve a certain space, please contact the Student Union.

### PRESERVING THE EDUCATIONAL MISSION

The college balances free expression with maintaining the educational environment. To achieve this goal, the college may indicate that certain areas of campus are more suitable for demonstrations, including Wilder Bowl, the Science Center Cut, and the southeast corner of Tappan Square. Noise amplification, items that can be used as weapons, and flames are not permitted during demonstrations.

### OBERLIN STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

Please visit Oberlin's official website for a full listing of all policies that apply to Oberlin students and community members.

### LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LAWS

Oberlin College community members must adhere to all local, state, and federal laws. For students, it is important to know that violations of local, state, and federal laws could result in disciplinary action through both Oberlin College and community law enforcement.

## SUPPORT RESOURCES

Questions or requests for further information can be directed to Thom Julian, director of student conduct and community standards, at [tjulian@oberlin.edu](mailto:tjulian@oberlin.edu). Information is also available at our website: [www.oberlin.edu/dean-of-students/student-conduct](http://www.oberlin.edu/dean-of-students/student-conduct).