



Policy Name:	Policy on Student Demonstrations		
Associated Forms:	N/A	Policy Number:	2023-20
Reviewed:	Non-Academic Policy Committee	Approved:	August 17, 2023
Approval Authority:	President <i>Susan Parish</i>	Adopted:	August 28, 2023
Responsible Executive:	Vice President of Student Affairs	Revised:	N/A
Responsible Department:	Student Affairs	Contact:	Associate Dean of Student Affairs

Policy

The University believes that students or members of groups within the Mercy University community should have the right to engage in individual or organized activity to express their views on a particular issue or cause, whether against the University or society. Demonstration and rallies, however, should not interfere with the operation of the institution. The University has an obligation to protect the safety and welfare of its students, faculty, and staff, and to ensure that its academic mission is not compromised. Therefore, demonstrations and rallies must be nonviolent, considerate of the rights of all members of the University community and may not involve disruptive conduct. It will be considered disruptive conduct under this policy for participants to:

1. Gather in such a fashion as to physically hinder entrances to, exits from, or passageways within any University building or other structure, or hinder the normal flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on or to any campus.
2. Create a volume of noise that prevents members of the University from carrying on their normal activities.
3. Employ force or violence, or constitute an immediate threat of force or violence, against persons or property.
4. Congregate, or assemble within any University building or on University property in such a fashion as to disrupt the University's normal functions or violate the following rules:
 - A. No group may be admitted into a private office unless invited, and then not in excess of the number designated or invited by the occupant. Passage through reception areas leading to a private office must not be obstructed.
 - B. Corridors, stairways, doorways, and building entrances may not be blocked or obstructed in violation of the regulations of the New York City Fire Department or of the University. Clear and unimpeded passageways must be maintained at all times.
 - C. Space may be occupied only when assigned through established University procedures.
 - D. Any noise which interferes with the work or study of persons in a building will not be permitted.
 - E. Buildings must be cleared at normal closing time for each building unless other arrangements are approved in advance.

Permission for organized demonstrations on University property or in University facilities, as well as request to bring individuals who are not Mercy community members, must be obtained in advance and in writing from the Vice President of Student Affairs, who shall consult with appropriate campus administrators, including the VP of Operations and Facilities and Executive Director of Campus Safety. The decision by the VP of Student Affairs shall be final. Once approval is granted for a demonstration or rally, individuals organizing the event are responsible for ensuring that it is conducted in a responsible manner. The University reserves the right to take steps to address inappropriate conduct. The location of a demonstration or rally will be clearly defined by the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. The University also reserves the right to notify the local police in advance of a demonstration or rally to be on call to prevent any infraction of local laws.