

Student Expression

The ability and opportunity to freely express ideas and viewpoints is vital to a liberal arts education; also vital is the necessity of being exposed to ideas and viewpoints that are different, and perhaps challenging, to one's previously held ideas and viewpoints. The University of Redlands supports the rights of students to freely express ideas and viewpoints in responsible ways. Expression is "responsible" when the expression meets the following four guidelines (in the rest of this policy, these guidelines are collectively referred to as the "Four Guidelines"): (1) it is nonviolent and does not advocate for or incite violence; (2) it does not damage or destroy property (nor does it advocate for, or incite, such destruction); (3) it does not violate the University's Code of Student Conduct; and (4) it does not substantially disrupt the operations of the University or unnecessarily infringe on the rights of other members of the University community.

To facilitate the need to engage in free expression, while also attempting to protect the living, learning, and working environment, the University has established five campus locations as "free expression zones." These zones were selected because of their high degree of visibility and likelihood to promote effective communication while not being disruptive of University activities like classroom learning. Expression/speech/protests/demonstrations that take place in the free expression zones require no advance arrangement or notification. The only limitations are: (a) the activity must not impede/interfere with events on campus,¹ and (b) the activity must comport with the Four Guidelines. The five free expression zones are:

- 1) Outside on the Hunsaker Plaza (between the Hunsaker Center and the Irvine Commons);
- 2) In front of the Administration Building (facing the quad/Memorial Chapel);
- 3) In the Greek Theatre;
- 4) In front of the Memorial Chapel (facing the quad/Administration Building); and
- 5) On the quad between East Hall and Williams Hall.

In addition to the five free expression zones, the University has designated the sidewalks around the campus quad, and the campus quad itself, as a location where moving or marching expression/speech/protests/demonstrations can take place, again without advance notice or arrangement. The only limitations for the moving or marching on or around the quad are that the activity must not: (a) impede/interfere with events on campus, and (b) comport with the Four Guidelines.

¹ If the protest/expression is unrelated to the campus event, the protest/expression must be moved to a completely different area (e.g., no protests related to climate change on the steps of Memorial Chapel during a wedding or funeral service). If the protest/expression is related to the campus event, the protest/expression will be moved, but accommodated so that the message can be delivered (e.g., a protest related to climate change prior to a speech about climate change in the Memorial Chapel will not be permitted to take place on the front steps where people are entering, but protesters will be moved to a nearby location where the message can be seen/delivered but the event can proceed unimpeded).

Expression in the zones/locations identified above, as previously stated, requires no advance notice. That does not mean that free speech is *only* available at those locations. If individual students or student groups believe that access to other parts of campus is important to the effective communication of viewpoints or the effective protest against actions or ideas, individual students or student leaders should approach the Student Leadership and Involvement Center (SLIC). SLIC will be happy to explore how access to other parts of campus can be accomplished without unnecessarily or inappropriately interfering with other, legitimate University interests. SLIC also strongly encourages communications about events inside the free expression zones so that it can provide logistical support for the event (e.g., voice amplification tools, security, and publicity support) and prevent unanticipated conflicts with existing events.

Expression through written means that is not affixed to anything (handheld signs, posters, leaflets, etc.) is welcome in the free expression zones without prior approval as long as the written material comports with the Four Guidelines. Expression through written means that is affixed to something (signs planted in the ground, posters taped to walls/stairs, chalking, etc.), and expression through written means that is not affixed to anything but which is displayed in locations outside the free expression zones, must be approved in advance by SLIC.

Actions that take place in violation of this policy expose participants to possible disciplinary action and participants also will be charged with costs experienced by the University (e.g., cleaning graffiti off University property).