



**THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**
WASHINGTON, DC

Responsible University Official: Senior Associate Vice President for Safety and Security

Responsible Office: Division of Safety and Security

Last Revised Date: March 14, 2017

DEMONSTRATIONS

Policy Statement

Members of the university community may demonstrate in support of or in opposition to any issue of interest to them, provided that such activities do not endanger the safety or security of the university community, infringe upon the rights of other members of the community, obstruct access to university facilities or spaces, damage property, or disrupt normal university operations. Accordingly, the university maintains the right to define the time, place and manner in which protests, rallies, or equivalent activities (hereinafter “demonstrations”) occur on its campuses and at its facilities.

Reason for Policy

The purpose of this policy is to promote the academic mission of the university by providing students, staff, and faculty with an environment that encourages and promotes the dissemination of information and the pursuit of knowledge. Dissent and demonstration are natural parts of fulfilling that mission, as long as they occur in a manner that is respectful of and does not infringe on the rights or safety of others, does not damage property, and does not disrupt normal university operations.

Who is Governed by this Policy

Faculty, staff and students

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Policy

The university is committed to allowing lawful and orderly demonstration on its campuses. Responsible demonstration may not be exercised in such a manner as to endanger the safety or security of the university community, infringe upon the rights of other members of the community, or cause damage to property. This includes the rights of others to conduct class, hold their own meetings, or hear another speaker. Demonstrators may not obstruct access to university facilities or spaces, force cancellation or interruption of authorized events involving university facilities, or disrupt normal university operations. Please refer to the [Disruption of University Functions Policy](#) for additional information.

Accordingly, the university maintains the right to define the time, place and manner in which demonstrations occur on its campuses and at its facilities. Individuals and organizations sponsoring demonstrations should contact [Marvin Center and University Conferences](#), [Mount Vernon Campus Events](#), or the Chief Academic Operating Officer/Virginia Campus, as appropriate, for information regarding compliance with university rules. Additional information is available at <http://www.police.gwu.edu>. Those offices will work with the GW Police Department to determine if safety or security related issues are presented, and consider appropriate steps that should be taken, including requiring a police presence or disbanding an event. It is expected that all demonstration sponsors and participants will cooperate in these processes.

Sponsorship or participation in demonstrations in no way relieves the individuals or organizations involved in such activities of responsibility for their conduct. Individuals and organizations sponsoring or participating in demonstrations are accountable for compliance with applicable laws, this policy, and other applicable university policies and codes.

This policy supplements and should be read in conjunction with the rights and responsibilities set forth in the [Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities](#), the [Code of Student Conduct](#), the [Residential Community Conduct Guidelines](#), the [Faculty Code](#), the [Employee Handbook](#), and/or the [Supervisor's Guide](#), as applicable.

Related Information

[Code of Student Conduct](#)

[Disruption of University Functions Policy](#)

[Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

[Marvin Center and University Conferences](#)

[Office of Civility & Community Standards](#)

[Political Activity Policy](#)

[Residential Community Conduct Guidelines](#)

[The George Washington University Statement of Ethical Principles
Disorderly Conduct \(D.C. Official Code § 22-1321\)](#)

Contacts

Contact	Telephone	Email
Marvin Center and University Conferences	(202) 994-7470	mcmail@gwu.edu
Chief Academic Operating Officer, VSTC campus	(703) 726-8220	
Mount Vernon Campus Event and Special Services	(202) 242-5117	mvevents@gwu.edu
GW Police Department	(202) 994-6110	gwpd@gwu.edu

Document History

- **Last Reviewed Date:** March 14, 2017
- **Last Revised Date:** March 14, 2017
- **Policy Origination Date:** November 7, 1967

Who Approved This Policy

Louis H. Katz, Executive Vice President and Treasurer

Forrest Maltzman, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Beth Nolan, Senior Vice President and General Counsel

This policy, as well as all [university policies](#), are located on the [Office of Compliance and Privacy's](#) home page.