



EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY & GROUNDS AND FACILITY USE POLICY

Grand Valley is a public university, committed to upholding the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which protects free speech. We welcome freedom of expression and consider the university a "marketplace of ideas."

Many areas of campus represent a public forum for speech and other expressive activities including speeches, demonstrations, protests, and pamphleting.

The university has created a Grounds and Facility Use Policy to ensure the university achieves its educational mission, while allowing for the exchange of ideas. The Grounds and Facility Use Policy addresses the use of space on campus, and tells students, registered student organizations, employees, and non-university groups and individuals where, when, and how they can use areas of campus for Expressive Activities.

What follows are some of the basic guidelines of the policy. The entire policy can be found at gvsu.edu/policies/groundsandfacilityuse and additional resources can be found at gvsu.edu/inclusion/expressiveactivities.

EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY

1. Meetings and other group activities of students and student organizations;
2. Speeches, performances, demonstrations, rallies, vigils, and other events by students, student organizations, and outside groups invited by student organizations;
3. Distributions of literature, such as leafleting and pamphleting; and
4. Any other expression protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

VIEWPOINT NEUTRAL

Viewpoint of the Expressive Activity or the possible reaction to that Expressive Activity in applying this policy cannot be considered, nor restrictions imposed because of viewpoint.

ENSURE SAFETY WHILE ALLOWING ACTIVITY TO CONTINUE

Negative reactions to Expressive Activity should be handled ensuring public safety while allowing the activity to continue, unless the university's operations are materially and substantially disrupted.

GROUNDS AND FACILITY USE POLICY

EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY FOR STUDENTS AND REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (RSO):

1. Can organize in areas that don't block campus buildings or prevent access/exiting to the university, property, parking lot, building, facility, or event (generally a minimum of 25 feet).
2. Must take place at least 50 feet from academic buildings.
3. Must not obstruct traffic (vehicular or pedestrian).
4. Must be lawful.
5. Must not create a clear and present threat to public safety.
6. May take place in locations that have not already been reserved.
7. Must not use amplification devices.
8. Must comply with the university Posting Guidelines (gvsu.edu/posting/).
9. May solicit or accept donations, as long as space is reserved for these purposes.
10. Must take place between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., unless reserved to take place after 5 p.m. The Carillon Tower and the Transformational Link allow activities until 11 p.m.
11. May distribute materials in person.
12. Must clean up any printed materials or fees may be charged.
13. Must not use parking lots, ramps, or garages for expressive activities, and windshield flyers are prohibited.
14. May be assessed a fee if found to have damaged university property
15. For university employees, the Expressive Activity must address a matter of public concern.
16. Must not violate the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

OUTDOOR SPONTANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Allowed, and must follow items 1-16.

INDOOR SPONTANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Allowed, and must follow items 1-16.

- Most activities should take place in Kirkhof per Event Services reservation protocols.
- Distribution of written or printed materials is allowed in Kirkhof if reserved.
- Guest speakers allowed if invited by RSO or university office.

NON-GVSU GROUP/INDIVIDUAL

Allowed, and must follow items 1-16.

- Can use the area surrounding the Carillon Tower or the plaza surrounding the Transformational Link free of charge.
- A reservation takes precedence over a spontaneous activity, and reservations can be made through Event Services.
- Must stay within 50 feet of each of these landmarks.
- The Expressive Activity must end by 5 pm, unless specifically reserved to take place after 5 pm.

