



## POLICY STATEMENT

Delta State University recognizes that in the community of scholars there are certain indisputable rights to freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought, and freedom of expression. The University encourages the search for truth and knowledge and does not abridge searchers' rights to reveal their findings, by both spoken and written word, even if in so doing they might find themselves at variance with their peers as well as the lay community. To dissent, to disagree with generally accepted truth and knowledge is acceptable. The University also stands for the right of all the university community to pursue their legitimate activities without interference, intimidation, coercion, or disruption. The University will protect the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly and affirms all rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States.

## DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply for purposes of this policy only:

**Amplified Sound:** means sound that is increased or enhanced by any electric, electronic, or mechanical means, including handheld devices such as megaphones and sound trucks. Other sound, specifically individual shouting or group chanting/singing is subject to general regulations concerning disruption of official University functions.

**Campus Grounds:** means all outdoor areas owned, leased or controlled by the University that are common and accessible to all students and employees such as sidewalks and park-like areas.

**Designated Areas:** means outdoor areas of property owned, leased or controlled by the University that may be reserved by students and employees for expressive activity and used by sponsored guests for this purpose.

**Disruptive Activities:** any action by an individual, group, or organization to impede, interrupt, interfere with or disturb the holding of classes, the conduct of University business, or authorized scheduled events and activities of any and all segments of the University.

**Employee:** means a person currently employed by the University on a full-time, part-time, temporary or hourly basis.

**Expressive Activity:** means the verbal or symbolic expression of an idea, thought or opinion and may include speeches, assembly, marches, parades, rallies, picketing, distribution of literature, graphic or pictorial displays and other similar activities intended to communicate an idea or opinion. Expressive activity does not include speech that is likely to incite or produce imminent lawless action, expression that consists of fighting words or threats of physical harm or expression that is defamatory, obscene or commercial in nature.



## GUIDELINES

1. Registered University organizations and University departments may display signs and banners at designated locations on campus. For information regarding these designated locations, contact the Vice President for Student Affairs' office located in H. L. Nowell Union Building, room 307.
2. Literature can be distributed in public forums. However, the party distributing the literature is responsible for cleaning up any discarded paper and restoring the campus to its previous condition. Literature may not be distributed in non-public forums. Literature distributed under this policy by a student, employee, sponsoring organization, or sponsored guest that contains the name "Delta State University" or "DSU" in its name or that contains any reference to being affiliated with the University, must include the statement that the literature is not official University literature and does not represent the views or official position of the University.
3. No amplification equipment may be used.
4. Use of campus land is on a temporary basis.
5. Flyers may be placed on open bulletin boards inside or outside University buildings.
6. Outdoor exhibits and structures may be placed only in designated areas, except that individuals may place displays on easel-type supports on campus grounds that are open and accessible for expressive activity.
  1. Outdoor exhibits and structures are subject to the following limitations:
    - may not exceed twenty-five feet in length or width or fifteen feet in height,
    - may not extend into or onto any sidewalks or walkways in such a way as to interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic or otherwise present an unreasonable threat to public safety.
    - the interior of three dimensional structures or exhibits must be fully visible from at least one side of the exhibit or structure, and no exhibit or structure may provide opportunity for individuals to be completely secluded from view.
  2. Sponsored guests may set up exhibits only in accordance with this policy. Exception to the dimension regulations shall be granted by the Vice President for Student Affairs upon a showing by the individual or organization seeking the exception that the exhibit will not present a safety hazard and will not interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Proof that the individual or organization has insurance to cover injury or damage to persons or property is not grounds for an exception to the dimension regulations.
  3. Request for exception to the outdoor exhibit regulation must be made at least eight business days in advance of the desired display date.
7. Students, employees and sponsoring organizations that wish to organize parades or marches in areas that cross thoroughfares or would stop or slow traffic must register with the Vice President for Student Affairs' office at least eight business days in advance of the activity in order to ensure that the proposed route does not substantially interrupt the safe and orderly movement of traf

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**Application of Policy.**

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