

As an institution of higher education, one specifically committed to the Catholic and Jesuit tradition, Georgetown University is committed to free and open inquiry, deliberation and debate in all matters, and the untrammelled verbal and nonverbal expression of ideas. It is Georgetown University's policy to provide all members of the University community, including faculty, students, and staff, the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn.

The ideas of different members of the University community will often and naturally conflict. It is not the proper role of a University to insulate individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. Deliberation or debate may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or ill conceived.

It is for the individual members of the University community, not for the University as an institution, to judge the value of ideas, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting those arguments and ideas that they oppose. Fostering the ability of members of the University community to engage with each other in an effective and responsible manner is an essential part of the University's educational mission.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competing ideas does not mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, wherever they wish. The University prohibits expression that violates the law, falsely defames a specific individual, constitutes a genuine threat, violates the [University's Harassment Policy](#), or unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests. In addition, the University may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression in order to ensure that it does not disrupt the or] " expoeensiv

members of the University community share in the responsibility for maintaining civil and respectful discourse. But concerns about civility and mutual respect can never be used as a justification for closing off the discussion of ideas, no matter how offensive or disagreeable those ideas may be to some members of our community.

The following guidelines implement the foregoing propositions:

An individual member or group of members of the academic community may invite any person to address the community. For purposes of this document, an event is any public meeting organized by such an individual or group primarily for the dissemination or exchange of ideas. Events may be sponsored by individual students, groups of students, or student organizations with access to University benefits. "Public meeting" shall not be construed to include formal academic convocations, regularly scheduled classes, or regular business meetings of University organizations. Student organizations with access to University benefits may engage in co-sponsorships with any group, regardless of Access to Benefits status of the partner group. Guidelines on co-sponsorship are available on the Center for Student Engagement website. Student organizations that co-sponsor an event with any other group will not be sanctioned on that basis.

Classrooms are places of dialogue and free exchange for the Georgetown University community. The University will accommodate equally all students and student groups who wish to schedule an event or meeting exclusively for the Georgetown community in a classroom space, subject to availability. Restrictions shall not be placed on individual's reserving classrooms for the purpose of limiting managing or controlling the content of the gathering. Individuals must comply with the [Classroom Use Policy fl.Hdt.##fYlgfUf'YcflYrckb'YXi#gWYXi`Yg#YjYbhgWYXi`lbl#Wgfccla!i gU Y#](#) and any other relevant university policies. The individual reserving the classroom is responsible for ensuring compliance with all relevant policies. Failure to comply with the [Classroom Use Policy fl.Hdt.##fYlgfUf'YcflYrckb'YXi#gWYXi`Yg#YjYbhgWYXi`lbl#Wgfccla!i gU Y#](#) or other relevant policies may result in an individual's or organization's loss of ability to reserve classrooms in the future. Classrooms are reserved through the Office of the Registrar. This policy does not pertain to commercial activities or gatherings or use of classrooms; commercial activity – the conducting of any business for exchange of goods and services for money or personal financial gain – is not permitted in Georgetown University classrooms. This policy does not pertain to external organizations.

Requests to host external groups or speakers in university classrooms are subject to review and consideration under the [Classroom Use Policy fl.Hdt.##fYlgfUf'YcflYrckb'YXi#gWYXi`Yg#YjYbhgWYXi`lbl#Wgfccla!i gU Y#](#) and the [Access to Benefits fl.Hdg.##hXbhZUfg'YcflYrckb'YXi#dc'Wg#hXbh cflUblrlHcbg#UWgg!c!VbVlgl](#) policy and must be approved. External groups are not permitted to use university classrooms without sponsorship by a university department or organization with access to benefits, or a contract defining the terms of use.

Physical space to conduct dialogue is a critical component of free speech. Individual students who seek to host events to promote dialogue or discussion can attend training hosted by the Center for Student Engagement to clarify and affirm their understanding of policies related to classroom use for free speech purposes. Students who attend training will have access to the same expedited classroom reservation process as student organizations with access to University benefits for internal group meetings only.

The individual or group hosting such an event must reserve the place where it will occur, in accordance with registration requirements. However, certain areas of campus shall be considered “public squares” and shall be available, without prior arrangement, for individuals and groups during daylight hours for the purpose of exchanging ideas. These areas include: Red Square (the plaza adjacent to ICC), the east area of Regents Lawn between Regents Hall and Tondorff Road, Leavey Lobby, and a portion of the entry foyer in Healey Family Student Center. Because of the proximity of outdoor public square areas like Red Square to classrooms, sound amplification in conjunction with any presentation is prohibited during weekday business hours (Monday through Friday, 9am – 5pm) Indoor public square areas like Leavey Lobby and the Healey Family Student Center are subject to restrictions in the number of tables permitted due to egress and safety concerns. Tabling occupancy limits shall be available from the office managing the designated space.

An individual, organization, or department hosting an event is responsible for all costs associated with the event, including security if such is deemed necessary by the University administration). No University subsidy will be available unless by prior arrangement. A group hosting an event is responsible for all costs associated with the event. However, excessive security costs shall not be construed as a disincentive to host an event of a controversial nature, so groups encountering budget limitations should reach out to the Center for Student Engagement as early as possible to plan for event costs accordingly.

In rare cases, groups may request a waiver of security costs. For more information, contact the Center for Student Engagement at getinvolved@georgetown.edu

the space has been reserved for that purpose, as long as the actions do not violate other university policies, disrupt university business, or curtail the free speech rights of others.

Protestors who are members of the university community will be allowed entrance into any university building unless they are disturbing university activities such as class or office work. They will be able to stay in the building until the building is closed for the day, or until the office or area closes for business that day. Entrance into the building does not mean entrance into any or all offices. The departments of Student Affairs, the Registrar, Protocol and Events, and Public Safety will confer to determine whether a protest may continue.

Protestors may not enter a building if that space has been secured for a speech to be given in that building. For example, the Healy lobby is often used for entrance to speeches in Gaston Hall. In that case, the protestors must remain outside the building in a space previously designated by the Center for Student Engagement, the Office of Campus Activity Facilities, the Department of Public Safety and the Office of Protocol and Events. This policy applies to any buildings where a major event or speaker is hosted.

Georgetown University encourages the community to promote events and activities responsibly through a full range of available media. Certain information and communication channels are open to any individual member of the university community, such as flyering on designated bulletin boards, chalking messages in Red Square, tabling in public square areas, purchasing or requesting advertising in campus media, and using any variety of public social media platforms. Certain information and marketing channels are deemed official university resources and are available only to organizations with Access to Benefits or University departments. These channels include reserved tables in designated campus locations, university broadcast messages, electronic message and display system, and banners in designated banner areas.

Communication and publicity should be conducted in a manner that is respectful of others' rights to share information and recognizes one's part in the University community. The foremost issue in this policy is the safety and security of the University community and visitors. Georgetown also strives to be environmentally responsible. Many of the restrictions exist to ensure safety and respect for all.

Only members of the Georgetown University academic community may hang posters or distribute handbills and pamphlets. No student organization other than one granted access to University benefits may use Georgetown in its name, or for any other reason except to identify the location of an event.

Interior bulletin boards exist in the following Main Campus locations: Leavey Center, Healey Family Student Center, Intercultural Center, Hariri, Regents Hall, Reiss Science Building Walsh, New North, and Old North. Some residential areas also provide bulletin boards for general announcements.

All posters and flyers placed on campus inside buildings must be in compliance with the following guidelines:

calendar notices and special interest pieces.

All campus media groups fall within the free speech protections offered by the Speech and Expression Policy. Georgetown University does not engage in any pre-production editorial review of any campus media outlet. As publisher of campus media organizations, Georgetown reserves the right to restrict paid advertising in campus media, in accordance with the Advertising Policy for Campus Media.

Technology offers many underutilized alternatives for communication and publicity. Technology is usually free and reaches a broad audience.

Groups or individuals may maintain email distribution lists for the purpose of promoting events.

University officials from the Office of Residential Living, the Office of Campus Activity Facilities, the

Violations of the policy and/or guidelines by students will be handled through the disciplinary system administered through the Office of Student Conduct. It is a violation of this policy to curtail the free speech rights of others. Actions that violate this policy include disrupting events to prohibit other students from hearing the views of an invited speaker, removing flyers or other materials from individual student's residence hall doors, or otherwise limiting another's ability to express a view or perspective.

Nothing within this policy shall be construed to confer rights on any person not a part of the academic community as defined herein.

The Speech and Expression Committee hears complaints from members of the Georgetown community regarding issues of free speech and expression. The Committee issues opinions regarding these complaints which may serve to illuminate the nature of the issues at stake with these concerns, and offer guidance for practical follow up and policy clarification.

Division of Student Affairs