
YORK COLLEGE POLICY

RALLIES, DEMONSTRATIONS AND PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

York College respects the right of all members of the academic community to explore and to discuss questions which interest them, to express opinions publicly and privately, and to join together to demonstrate their concern by orderly means. It is the policy of York College (“the College”), to protect the right of voluntary assembly, to make its facilities available for peaceful assembly, to welcome guest speakers, to protect the exercise of these rights from disruption or interference.

York College also respects the right of each member of the academic community to be free from coercion and harassment. It recognizes that academic freedom is no less dependent on ordered liberty than any other freedom, and it understands that the harassment of others is especially reprehensible in a community of scholars. Therefore, York College will not allow disruptive or disorderly conduct on its premises to interrupt its usual operation. Persons engaging in disruptive action or disorderly conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion or separation, and also charges of violations of law.

II. LOCATION

Specific locations on campus for rallies, demonstrations, and/or public assemblies have not been designated in an effort to provide the greatest flexibility for the organizers of such activities. However, the following parameters may impact the choice of an appropriate location in order to have the activity comply with the policies described herein.

III. REASONABLE TIME, PLACE AND MANNER GUIDELINES

The rights of assembly, free speech, and expression do not include unlawful activity or activity that endangers the safety of the campus community or the threat of damage to the College facilities and/or property. In addition, these rights do not permit the disruption of the normal operations of the College.

Campus rallies, demonstrations, and/or public assemblies shall adhere to the following parameters:

- The activity must be lawful, and may not violate or conflict with the College policies or local, state, or federal laws.
- The activity may not unduly disrupt the educational purposes of the College.
- The activity may not unduly disrupt traffic, either pedestrian or vehicular.
- The activity may not jeopardize public or individual safety.
- The activity may not prevent, unduly obstruct, or interfere with the regular academic and institutional activities, or other approved activities of the College.
- The activity may not include expression that is obscene, defamatory, or consists of fighting words, threats of physical harm, or incite imminent lawless action, to the extent not entitled to protection as expression.

IV. PROTOCOL

1. The president designates the vice-president of student development to be in charge of demonstration protocol.
2. The vice-president of student development will consult with the director of public safety.
3. Peaceful, non-obstructive demonstrations will not be interrupted, blocked or provoked, and efforts should be made to conduct business as usual.
4. Non-peaceful and/or obstructive demonstrations shall result in demonstrators being asked to leave.

V. CONCLUSION

Please note that anyone who elects to ignore or violate this policy becomes subject to applicable campus disciplinary and/or legal sanctions.