

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY®

Do individuals have the right to express themselves freely on the Mississippi State University campus?

Yes, individuals have the right to express themselves freely on the MSU campus as long as their speech does not pose a threat to physical safety, disrupt the university's normal operations, or violate the University's policies. It's important to note that freedom of speech comes with accountability, and others have the right to challenge expressed ideas.

Does Mississippi State University have the right to place reasonable limitations on speech in outdoor spaces on campus?

Yes, certain outdoor areas of campus may be reserved by individuals or groups or otherwise may be restricted for official University use. Please see the map on the other side of the handout for information about use of the Drill Field. Noise disruptions may require the speech activity to be relocated to another area on campus and/or the speaker may be asked to reduce their noise level. It is highly recommended that groups planning outdoor meetings, assemblies, picketing activities, demonstrations, protests, and gatherings provide advance notice per applicable event approval processes to ensure space availability and the adequate provision of security.

What activities and items are prohibited at MSU?

Prohibited activities and items include:

- Sleeping tents, boxes, and/or other structures
- Use of amplified sound without prior approval
- Camping or sleeping outdoors overnight without prior approval
- Inciting violence or threats of imminent harm
- Shouting down opposing viewpoints
- Blocking walkways or roadways
- Littering, vandalism, or damage to University property
- Weapons
- Noise levels that disrupt campus operations
- Flammable liquids, torches, or open flames
- Chairs, tables, tents, and signage that isn't held by a person for non-registered events
- Any other items determined to be a public safety hazard

Relevant University Policies

91.304 Free Speech and Assembly; **91.110** Campus Advertising, Sponsorship, and Solicitation; **91.200** Student and Other University Organizations; **91.354** Facilities Use Policy and Procedure; **91.100** Code of Student Conduct; **01.14** Political Activities

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [FREESPEECH.MSSTATE.EDU](https://freespeech.msstate.edu)