

ASSEMBLING POLICY

Category: Administration and Governance

Responsible Office: Student Life; Finance and Administration

Responsible Executive: Vice President for Student Life; Vice President for Finance and Administration

Date Established:

Date Last Updated:

Summary

With guidance from the State University of New York Office of General Counsel, the *Assembling Policy* provides clearer time, place, and manner operational language.

Policy Statement

The University at Buffalo (UB, university) is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy campus physical environment to carry out its research and education mission. UB is authorized to control its buildings and grounds consistent with the UB and State University of New York (SUNY) policies for use of facilities, which prohibit the use of university property or buildings for purposes unrelated to sanctioned programs and activities of the university. In addition, in accordance with its responsibilities under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, the university must remain viewpoint neutral even if the viewpoints of the speaker or content of the speech run counter to UB's values of diversity, inclusion and mutual respect.

The university requires all groups using campus space to abide by university policies and state laws and regulations concerning the exhibition and management of public events.

As a SUNY institution, UB must also allow individuals or groups who are unaffiliated with the university to assemble in public outdoor forums on campus, so long as the assembly does not disrupt public order and regular operations.

The university supports individuals' rights to assemble. Public assemblies (e.g., protests, picketing) are permitted and must adhere to the following parameters:

- Assembling must not violate the provisions of the SUNY [Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order Policy](#), including:
 - enter into and remain in any campus building or facility for any purpose other than its authorized uses or in such manner as to obstruct its authorized use.
- Assembling must follow campus policy, including:
 - Assembling must be orderly at all times and should in no way jeopardize public order or safety or interfere with the university's programs.
 - Assembling must not interfere with entrances to buildings or the normal flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
 - Those involved in assembling may not interfere with university programs, classes, university business, or other assemblies.
 - Assembling may not obstruct or physically interfere with the integrity of the classroom, the privacy of the university housing, university offices, campus operations, or the functioning of the campus physical plant.
 - Operation of audio amplifying equipment in a manner that interferes with university operations is prohibited.

Violations

Violations will be subject to the provisions of the [UB Student Code of Conduct](#), the [SUNY Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order](#), the Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order for UB, and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Background

The State University of New York respects and fully supports the rights of free speech guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and the State of New York. SUNY values the free expression of ideas and supports individuals' right to assemble.

UB establishes this policy to provide meaningful opportunities for members of our community to express their views and to ensure that the time, place, and manner of such expression does not interfere with the safety and security of our campus community or disrupt the regular operations of the campus.

Applicability

This policy applies to:

- All students and employees of the university or university-affiliated organizations (e.g., state, Research Foundation, University at Buffalo Foundation, Campus Dining and Shops, Alumni Association), regardless of the funding source, and individuals and entities with contractual relationships with the university
- Visitors and guests on university premises

Definitions

Assembling. The gathering of people in or upon university premises including but not limited to meetings, protests, demonstrations, rallies, vigils, marches, and picketing.

Public Order – Maintaining and protecting safety, security, and well-being for all members of the university community, guests and visitors.

Responsibility

All Members of the University Community, Including Visitors and Guests

- Comply with the requirements of this policy.

Contact Information

Contact	Phone	Email
Office of the Dean of Students	716-645-2982	deanofstudents@buffalo.edu

Related Information

University Links

[Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#)

[Freedom of Expression](#)

[UB's Commitment to Freedom of Expression](#)

Forms

Related Links

[First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States](#)

[New York Codes, Rules and Regulations for UB 536.1 Disruption](#)

[New York Codes, Rules and Regulations for UB 536.2 Unauthorized Entry](#)

[New York Codes, Rules and Regulations for UB 536.3 Theft and Destruction of Property](#)

[New York Codes, Rules and Regulations for UB 536.4 Physical Abuses and Harassment](#)

[New York Codes, Rules and Regulations for UB 536.5 Dangerous Weapons and Explosives](#)

[New York Codes, Rules and Regulations for UB 536.6 Picketing and Demonstrations](#)

[New York Codes, Rules and Regulations for UB 536.7 Loitering and Trespassing on University](#)

[Grounds or in the University Buildings](#)

[New York Codes, Rules and Regulations for UB 536.8 Sanctions](#)

[State University of New York Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order Policy, Document Number 3653](#)

History

August 2024 The *Assembling Policy* sunsets the Student Life Picketing and Assembling Policy that was established on 1/30/2020.

Presidential Approval

Satish K. Tripathi, President

Date