

Campus Protest Policy

UMES recognizes and supports the right of students on our campus to protest peacefully within the framework of the University's policies. Protests may take many forms including, but not limited to: assemblies, demonstrations, rallies and picketing, displaying fliers/posters/banners, distribution of leaflets and petitions, chalking, tabling, or the temporary installation of an object. The University is committed to ensuring that protests take place in a safe and responsible manner without infringing upon the rights of others or violating standards of good conduct or public law.

UMES retains the right to regulate the time, place, and manner of protests. For example, "The University is obligated to maintain orderly and equitable conduct of its affairs, free of intimidation and harassment. While peaceful and orderly protest and dissent are the right of all members of the University community, any action which obstructs or interferes with the fulfillment of this basic obligation cannot be permitted. Violent acts and the incitement of violence are not permitted.

To ensure that the safety of the community is protected and that the principles of freedom of inquiry and expression are supported, the University has established the basic rules listed below regarding protests. In advance of a planned protest, students are strongly encouraged to consult with relevant offices including but not limited to: Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Experience, The Executive Director of Student Experience, The Office of Student Engagement and/or The Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

- Protests may not violate or conflict with university policies or the law.
- A single person or group of people does not have the right to prevent the public expression of others (e.g., preventing an invited speaker from being heard).
- Protests may not jeopardize anyone's physical safety.
- Protests may not prevent, unduly obstruct, or interfere with the normal academic, administrative, or programmatic operations of the University. These include but are not limited to:
 - Academic activities, such as classes, labs, activities in any academic building, libraries, etc.
 - Athletic events, including both varsity and club sports
 - Events or speakers hosted in accordance with university policy by academic departments, administrative offices, or recognized student organizations
 - The functioning of the University's student residences and dining halls
 - Pedestrian & vehicular traffic flow
 - Access to/from any University facilities
- In the event that any of the above conditions are violated, University personnel and/or other officials will ask for immediate compliance. University personnel may require students to leave public events at the University for Improper Behavior. Students are expected to comply with the requests of campus or public officials.

- Damage or alteration, whether temporary or permanent, to any campus structure or landscape is not permitted, unless authorized in advance by the University. Formal requests can be made to the owner of the location being considered; if the owner is not known, contact Facilities for assistance. Students who damage property may be required to pay for replacement/repair costs (in addition to facing potential disciplinary action).
- The University reserves the right to determine an appropriate location for rallies & picketing to ensure that University policies are followed, and to relocate or suspend any protest that violates University policies or the law. In all cases, legal building capacity limits must be strictly enforced. Rallies & picketing may not interfere with access to buildings or spaces.
- Protests in the form of fliers, banners or other large format materials, chalking, or table tents, must adhere to the University's Postings policies.
- The use of amplification equipment for protest is allowed as long as it does not prevent an invited speaker from being heard, Interfere with the normal operations of the University, nor violate local noise laws.
- Non-University groups, and individuals who are not current UMES students, staff, or faculty, are not permitted to engage in protests on university property unless they are invited to campus by a university department or registered student organization in accordance with university policy.
- Violation of these policies will result in disciplinary processes.

Extracted from the 2020-2023 Code of Student Conduct, page 55