

DEMONSTRATION / PICKETING

PURPOSE

Westfield State University acknowledges the rights and responsibilities of faculty, staff and students to demonstrate and the corresponding right and responsibility of the University community to maintain the normal conduct of University affairs without undue interference.

Dissent and/or demonstrations are viable expressions of thought and shall be viewed as such. Methods of peaceful dissent such as picketing, dissemination of literature, etc., can perform an educational function on campus. However, the events should not be disruptive, result in damage or destruction, or represent a physical or emotional threat to any individual or group. To ensure that public demonstrations of opinion do not violate directly or indirectly the rights of others by preventing the ordinary operation of the University, notification of a public speech, rally, demonstration, march, or protest **should be submitted, if possible**, a minimum of 48 hours in advance to the Vice President of Student Affairs. All activities must be conducted in accordance with the rules set forth below.

POLICY

1. All faculty, staff and students have a right to demonstrate on University property provided, however, that no such demonstration shall be permissible which for any reason of time, place, or type of behavior materially disrupts class work or other University business, or involves substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others.
2. Campus buildings are for University business. Any form of demonstration that interferes with University business in office or classroom spaces is a violation of this policy. Picketing is not permitted inside University buildings.
3. Demonstrators are prohibited from blocking free entry to or free exit from buildings, interfering with free movement, or presenting obstacles to regular University activities. "Interfering with free movement" is defined as any physical denial or restriction of a person's ability to freely reach or leave a given geographical area, or harassment, which leaves a person feeling intimidated and prevents them from normal movement.

Westfield State University

Policy concerning:

section Public Safety

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4. There shall be no interference with demonstrations on the grounds of content of speech, except for any speech or demonstration which incites immediate, violent action and represents a clear and present danger to the campus community, which shall be a violation of this policy.
5. No member of the campus community shall intentionally and substantially interfere with the freedom of expression of another person on University property or at University-sponsored activities.
6. Failure to cease any activity in violation of this policy immediately following either written or oral notice by a University official shall also be a violation of this policy.
7. Any violation of this policy by a student will subject the student to sanctions defined in the Student Handbook as may be deemed appropriate by the University.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually, and revised as needed, by the Director of Public Safety and the Vice President for Student Affairs.