



# UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

## Policy Manual

---

<b>Policy #:</b>	SEC-2012	<b>Policy Title:</b>	Policy on Campus Protests and Demonstrations
<b>Effective:</b>	05/06/2024	<b>Responsible Offices:</b>	Public Safety Office Office of the General Counsel
<b>Date Approved:</b>	05/05/2024	<b>Approval:</b>	Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Vice President and University General Counsel
<b>Replaces Policy Dated:</b>	Pre-2020	<b>Responsible University Official:</b>	Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Vice President and University General Counsel

---

### PURPOSE:

The mission of the University of Richmond is to educate in an academically challenging, intellectually vibrant, and collaborative community dedicated to the holistic development of students and the production of scholarly and creative work.

In furtherance of its mission, the University of Richmond has adopted a Statement of Free Expression (the “Statement”) that promotes and protects the freedom of expression of all members of the University community. The Statement recognizes the freedom of members of the campus community to engage in non-disruptive counter-speech or protest. However, the Statement also recognizes the University’s right to “reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt classes, operations, or university-sponsored events.” Similarly, the Statement provides that, when protesting, members of the campus community may not obstruct or otherwise interfere with the ability of other members of the community to invite speakers or engage in permitted free expression.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for members of the campus community who wish to engage in peaceful protests and demonstrations, including but not limited to picketing, marches, rallies, and concerted or individual action during speakers or at other indoor events, (referred to collectively as “demonstrations”) and counter-protests or counter-demonstrations (referred to collectively as “counter-demonstrations”) on the University’s campus.

---

### SCOPE:

This policy applies to all demonstrations and counter-demonstrations (as defined herein) planned to occur or occurring on the campus of the University of Richmond (the “Campus”) or on property owned, leased by or otherwise under control of the University (“Other UR Locations”). It applies to all University students,

faculty, and staff and to any third-party seeking to engage or engaging in a demonstration or counter-demonstration.

## INDEX:

---

SEC-2012.1 .....Policy Statement

## POLICY STATEMENT:

---

### *SEC-2012.1 – Policy Statement*

#### ***1 – Viewpoint-Neutral Application***

Consistent with the Statement, this policy is intended to establish reasonable time, place, and manner guidelines for any demonstration or counter-demonstration that are neutral with respect to the viewpoint or message intended to be conveyed in a demonstration or counter-demonstration.

#### ***2 - Right to Protest or Demonstrate Limited to Members of the Campus Community***

As a private institution of higher education, the University has the right to limit the use of the Campus and Other UR Locations by individuals who are not members of the campus community. In order to ensure the safety of the campus community and to avoid unnecessary disruption to classes, co-curricular activities, and University operations, the University does not permit outside organizations or individuals who are not members of the campus community to organize or participate in demonstrations or counter-demonstrations on the Campus or Other UR Locations, except for roadways that are deemed to be public right-of-ways.

For purposes of this policy, the phrase “members of the campus community” is defined as current University students, faculty, and staff, and student organizations recognized by the University.

#### ***3 - Registration***

Any member of the campus community who seeks to conduct a demonstration or counter-demonstration on the Campus or at any Other UR Location, must first register the event with the University’s Office of Events, Conferences, and Support Services (the “Events Office”). The purpose of this registration requirement is to promote the safety of those participating in a demonstration or counter-demonstration, as well as the safety of the campus community, and to minimize disruptions to University operations.

The Events Office will review all requests to conduct a demonstration or counter-demonstration in accordance with this policy and the University’s [policies and procedures on the use of campus space](#), to the extent applicable.

All requests to register a demonstration or counter-demonstration must be made at least three (3) business days prior to the date of the planned demonstration or counter-demonstration. The University may permit registration within a shorter timeframe in its reasonable discretion. The Events Office will use reasonable efforts to respond to such request as quickly as possible, commensurate with an appropriate review of the factors set forth in this policy. In conducting such review, the Event’s Office will consult with the University Police Department and such other campus officials as necessary. The Events Office, University Police Department and other campus officials will work collaboratively with the organizers of a planned demonstration or counter-demonstration in an effort to have the event take place in a manner consistent with this Policy. If the requested location for a demonstration or counter-demonstration is not available or is not

approved based on the criteria set forth in this policy, the Events Office will work in good faith with the organizers to identify an alternative location.

The planned demonstration or counter-demonstration may not commence until the Events Office has notified the organizer(s) that the event has been approved.

#### ***4 – Safety and Security***

The University Police Department is responsible for assessing the potential effect of a planned demonstration or counter-demonstration on the safety and security of the campus community. The University Police will evaluate potential risks to the safety of the campus community and the participants in the demonstration or counter-demonstration. In making this assessment, the University Police will consider, among other factors, the following:

- Whether the event organizer has identified and provided contact information for an on-site representative who has is designated to de-escalate conflict prior to and during an event;
- Any specific concerns the organizer(s) may have;
- The available University police staffing on the requested date and time;
- The availability of assistance from local law enforcement agencies;
- The staffing needs of other approved events on Campus;
- The likelihood that the event will draw attempted participants from outside the campus community;
- The risk that the planned demonstration or counter-demonstration may result in physical confrontation, violence, threat of violence, or damage to property;
- The risk that the planned demonstration or counter-demonstration will disrupt University classes, events, or operations; and
- The options for mitigating any safety risks associated with the event.

#### ***5 – Location, Time, and Duration***

The Events Office and the University Police Department will work with the organizers of a planned demonstration or counter-demonstration to identify an appropriate location for the event and to establish parameters for the duration and timing of the event. In assessing the location, duration, and timing of a demonstration or counter-demonstration, the Events Office and University Police Department will be guided by the following considerations:

- Demonstrations or counter-demonstration may not interfere with University classes, exam weeks, co-curricular activities, other campus events, or University operations;
- The University may place reasonable limitations on the start time and duration of a demonstration or counter-demonstration;
- Demonstrations and counter-demonstrations may not be held during breaks in the academic calendar;
- Demonstrations and counter-demonstrations must conclude before dark;
- Demonstrations or counter-demonstration may not block access to or from any University building or facility; and
- If the demonstration or counter-demonstration is in reaction to a University event or speaker, the approved location will be as proximate to such event or speaker as practicable, provided that the demonstration or counter-demonstration does not block or impede access to or disrupt such event.

All demonstrations and counter-demonstrations must be conducted within the approved location and at the time and for such duration as approved by the Events Office.

### ***6 – Use of Placards, Signs, Loudspeakers, etc.***

Organizers of and participants in demonstrations and counter-demonstrations are required to comply with the following:

- The use of large signs, staked signs or other items, pickets, other large items, bullhorns, or amplified sound is limited to outdoor demonstrations and counter-demonstrations;
- The projection of images, messages, or signs on University buildings or other private property is prohibited;
- The volume of bullhorns or amplified sound at demonstrations and counter-demonstrations must be limited so that it does not disturb University classes, co-curricular activities, other campus events, University operations, or individuals living on campus or in private residences adjacent to campus;
- The demonstration or counter-demonstration must comply with other applicable University policies, including the [policy on the use of the Forum](#); and
- The demonstration or counter-demonstration must comply with all applicable local ordinances, including noise ordinances, and Virginia law.

### ***7 – Masks/Face Coverings***

Consistent with Virginia Code Section 18.2-422, participants in a demonstration or counter-demonstration on campus are prohibited from wearing any mask, hood or other device whereby a substantial portion of the face is hidden or covered so as to conceal the identity of the wearer, unless such person has a bona fide medical reason to wear a mask or is wearing a face covering based on their sincerely held religious beliefs. Upon request of any University official, an individual wearing a mask or other face covering must show their University identification card to the requesting official.

### ***8 - Prohibited Conduct***

The conduct listed below is prohibited on campus, including at any campus demonstration or counter-demonstration:

- Violations of any provision of this policy or other University policies, or the Standards of Student Conduct;
- Carrying or otherwise having possession of or ready access to any weapon, explosive, torch, bat, stick, or other dangerous item;
- Engaging in any act of violence, force, coercion, threat, or intimidation;
- Engaging in conduct that violates the University's policies prohibiting discrimination or harassment;
- Damaging or defacing University property or other private property;
- Engaging in disorderly conduct;
- Disrupting University classes, co-curricular activities, speakers, other campus events, or University operations;
- Blocking access to or from any University building, facility, walkway, road, or public right of way;
- Erecting unauthorized barriers, structures, or tents on University property;
- Refusing to show a University ID or a government issued ID upon request from a law enforcement officer or University official; and

- Failure to comply with the direction of, and/or interfering with, a University official acting in the authorized performance of duty.

### **RELATED POLICIES:**

---

[Statement on Free Expression](#)

[Standards of Student Conduct](#)

[GOV-3101 - Policy Prohibiting Discrimination](#)

[GOV-3103 - Policy on Preventing and Responding to Discrimination and Harassment Against Students](#)

[GOV-3104 - Policy on Preventing and Responding to Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Involving Faculty or Staff](#)

### **POLICY BACKGROUND:**

---

*Original policy was effective prior to 2020. Revised policy reviewed by President's Cabinet and approved by Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer and Vice President & University General Council on May 6, 2024.*

### **POLICY CONTACTS:**

---

Vice President and General Counsel

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer