

Student Free Speech Policy

Valparaiso University is committed to free and open inquiry, expression, and advocacy in all matters, and the unrestricted verbal and nonverbal expression of ideas providing it is peaceful and not patently offensive to Christian sensibilities. It is Valparaiso University's policy to provide all faculty, students, and staff the freedom to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn. The thoughts, ideas, and reflections of different members of the University community will often and naturally be in conflict. It is not the role of the University to shelter individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or offensive.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of differing ideas does not mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, wherever or whenever they wish. The University prohibits expression that violates the law, falsely defames a specific individual, constitutes a genuine threat, violates the University's Non-Discriminatory and Harassment Policy, promotes genocide, hate, or violence toward any person(s) or group(s) including cultural, racial, or religious groups, or unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests. A protest is peaceful if it does not interfere with academic freedom and freedom of speech (including not only disruption of a class but also interference with the freedom of any speaker invited by any group of the university community to express their views); does not restrict the freedom of movement of any member or guest of the University; does not harass persons in the area; and does not obstruct the normal processes and activities of the University community.

The University may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt the ordinary activities of the institution (see Time, Place, and Manner policy). Violations of the policy and/or the related guidelines by students will be handled through the student conduct system administered through the Dean of Students Office.