Student Rights and Responsibilities
Free Inquiry, Expression, and Assembly – DSA.DA.100.001

Students are encouraged to freely examine and exchange diverse ideas both inside and outside the classroom. In doing so, however, students and others must comply with other, generally applicable, University policies.

Speaker’s Corners

To facilitate robust debate and the free exchange of ideas, the University has established high visibility areas on campus as “Speaker’s Corners.” These areas may be used by any person, including non-students and other campus guests. This use may be without permission from the University so long as:

- the area has not been previously reserved or scheduled for a particular function
- no sound amplification is used
- participants do not violate other University policies

Designated Speaker’s Corners include:

- the edge of the Union Plaza adjacent to the Grove
- the area surrounding the flagpole in the Lyceum Circle
- the plaza in front of Fulton Chapel

Although it is not necessary for a person using one of the designated Speaker’s Corners to obtain prior permission from the University, such persons are encouraged to contact the Office of the Dean of Students for scheduling purposes to minimize possible conflicts.

Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as limiting the right of student expression elsewhere on campus so long as the expressive activities or related student conduct do not violate any other applicable University policies.

Organized Student Demonstrations

Organized student demonstrations sponsored by a student or Registered Student Organization (RSO) may draw a large crowd, require security, impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic, include a parade, march, or other similar activity, or pose a substantial risk of disrupting the functioning of the University or violates any other University policy. The University requires the student or RSO to contact the Office of the Dean of Students in advance of the activity and complete a RSO Event Registration form, and if appropriate, a Grounds Use Request form. A representative of that Office will work with the requesting student or RSO to either meet the request or find a suitable time and location that balances the rights of the requesting student or organization with the rights of others and the University’s educational mission.

The purpose of this policy is not to designate University streets and common areas as a public forum or to accommodate demonstrations or protests by those who are not part of the University community (non-students and other campus guests). Rather, the purpose of this policy is to promote and facilitate student expression while allowing the University to make any necessary arrangements (such as arranging parade route, providing security) to assure such activities do not interfere with the University’s mission and operations or with the rights of others. If an outside group wishes to conduct an organized demonstration or to demonstrate in areas other than one of the Speaker’s Corners, the group should seek the sponsorship of a RSO.
Handbills, Posters, Flyers, Banners, and Signs

Building mayors or other University officials may designate areas inside classrooms and in or around University buildings for students or RSO who wish to post handbills, posters, flyers, banners, signs, and other similar items on campus. However, The University of Mississippi prohibits the posting or display of these items by students or organizations outside of these designated areas, including on the exterior of any University building, telephone/utility pole, tree, sidewalk, window, trash can, or any other exterior surface located on the campus, including vehicles. Requests to post fliers within on-campus housing must be submitted to the Department of Student Housing.

Use of Chalk on Sidewalks

The University of Mississippi limits the use of sidewalk chalk, sidewalk art, or other sidewalk chalk displays to University messages in support of University sponsored events or activities. Sidewalk chalk should not be used on University structures and buildings, including but not limited to steps, verandas, porches, columns, and monuments. All request to use chalk should be submitted to the Office of the Dean of Students in order to ensure that chalking will no appear on non-chalking structures and buildings.