

Student Free Speech Policy

Valparaiso University is committed to free and open inquiry, expression, and advocacy in all matters, and verbal and nonverbal expression of ideas providing they are peaceful, not patently offensive to Christian sensibilities, and in compliance with this and other related University policy. It is Valparaiso University's policy to provide all faculty, students, and staff the freedom to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn in a manner that takes into account the respect and dignity of others. 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 threat, violates the University's Non-Discriminatory and Harassment Policy, shows serious disrespect to another person or group when there is a more respectful way to express the same message, 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.

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 Campus Policy and Protocol for Time, Place and Manner for Protests/Demonstrations/Rallies and Events that Express Viewpoint or Support for a Cause).). 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.