

On-Campus Demonstration Guidelines

The University of Pittsburgh affirms the rights of community members to engage in peaceful, orderly and nondestructive demonstrations. A demonstration is defined as any public display of support for, or in opposition to, any person, group, organization, cause, institution, idea or policy.

Students or student groups who engage in an on-campus demonstration must refrain from disrupting the educational process and from infringing upon the rights of other members of the University community. Additionally, on-campus demonstrations must be compliant with all applicable federal, state, or local laws and ordinances, as well as with these “On-Campus Demonstration Guidelines” and all other applicable University guidelines, policies and procedures including the Student Code of Conduct.

The University maintains the right to regulate and monitor the time, place and manner of any proposed on-campus demonstrations as may be necessary to help ensure the safety and well-being of community members and the orderly conduct of classes and other functions of the University.

The University neither permits nor forbids demonstrations off-campus by members of the University community. Persons demonstrating off-campus are reminded that they are expected to act in a manner that will conform to all federal, state and municipal laws and ordinances.

For any demonstrations on University property, reserved or otherwise, please note:

1. Only registered student organizations are eligible to reserve University property, including facilities, certain outdoor spaces, equipment and services. For reservation information, please use the contact list found at: [Reserving Space in the Student Union](#).
2. Please contact the City of Pittsburgh, Office of Parks and Recreation, to apply for any necessary special event permits for demonstrations on City property.
3. No demonstration shall impede pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic.
4. No demonstration shall block or otherwise interfere with any person’s ability to enter or exit any University property (buildings/patios/plaza/gathering spaces, etc.).
5. No demonstration shall obstruct or disrupt activity related to the University’s educational process, including, but not limited to, activity occurring in classrooms, offices, laboratories or other University facilities or grounds, except as may be permitted under the [Event Scheduling Guidelines](#), which outlines appropriate means to demonstrate during a sponsored event.
6. Use of Tiki lamps, oil lamps, torches, or similar open flame devices are prohibited during any demonstration. Use of candles and luminaries during religious or ceremonial events may be permitted as outlined in the University’s Environmental Health & Safety “Fire Safety and Fire Prevention Guidelines” found at <http://www.ehs.pitt.edu/assets/docs/fire-safety.pdf>.
7. Use of sound/voice amplifiers is prohibited inside University owned or operated facilities. Use of sound/voice amplifiers is also prohibited if it disrupts activity related to the University’s educational process.
8. Demonstrators shall not engage in any behavior or activity that causes or threatens to cause physical injury to another person.

9. No demonstration shall cause damage to or the destruction of any property.
10. Distributing or posting literature is acceptable in accordance with University policies on solicitation and/or the University's posting policy found at: [Posting and Chalking Guidelines](#). For information related to literature distribution during registered speakers or events, please see: [Event Scheduling Guidelines](#)
11. Picketing through the use of signs attached to rigid supports or frames is prohibited in any University owned or operated building.

Enforcement

1. University officials or law enforcement agents may reposition or request the removal of any demonstrator believed to be in violation of federal, state or municipal laws and ordinances, and/or the Student Code of Conduct (policies are covered in the Code).

Any individual who was involved in or who witnessed an incident in which they believe a member of the University community responded inappropriately, is encouraged to report this information to the appropriate University office ([Office of the Dean of Students](#), [Human Resources](#), [Student Conduct](#), [Office of the Provost](#), or the [Pitt Police](#)).

These Guidelines outline the University's parameters that must be followed by individuals involved in an on-campus demonstration. For more information about your rights during a demonstration, please visit the following ACLU link:

[ACLU Know Your Rights: Protests & Demonstrations](#)