



Policy No. 2.005
Northwest Louisiana Technical College

Campus Free Expression

Original Adoption: September 4, 2018
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Last Revision: October 24, 2018

Northwest Louisiana Technical College (NWLTC) deems the free and open inquiry into all matters fundamental to the mission of higher education and is committed to the preservation of the lawful, free expression of ideas at all of its campuses, subject only to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions. All campuses of NWLTC shall allow and protect non-commercial expressive activities by students, administrators, faculty members, staff members, and invited guests in accordance with all applicable laws and this policy.

In accordance with Act 666 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, codified at R.S. 17:3399.31 through 3399.37 (“Louisiana Campus Free Expression Law”), LCTCS hereby adopts this policy on Campus Free Expression (“Policy”). This Policy applies to all campuses under the management of NWLTC. For the purposes of this Policy, the definition of key terms and other mandatory provisions shall remain consistent with those in Act 666 of 2018, codified at R.S. 17:3399:31 through 3399.37. NWLTC will amend this policy to reflect any subsequent changes to these statutes. In cases of any inconsistency, the statutory provisions shall supersede any such inconsistent provision in this policy.

In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 17:3399.31 through 3399.37, relative to free expression on college campuses, NWLTC will uphold the following provisions:

1. NWLTC will strive to ensure the fullest degree of intellectual freedom and free expression, allowing for all forms of expression which are protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Article I, Section 7, of the Constitution of Louisiana. Neither the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America nor Article I, Section 7, of the Constitution of Louisiana protects harassment or threats or expressions directed to provoke and likely to produce imminent lawless actions.

2. It is not the proper role of NWLTC to shield individuals from speech protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Louisiana, and other applicable laws, including, without limitation, ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. NWLTC shall not deny a belief-based student organization any benefit or privilege available to any other student organization, or otherwise discriminate against a belief-based organization, based on the expression of the organization, including any requirement that the leaders or members of the organization affirm, adhere to, comply with, or further the organization's beliefs, standards of conduct, mission, or purpose, as defined by the organization.
3. Students and faculty have the freedom to discuss any topic that presents itself, as provided under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Louisiana and other applicable laws within the limits on time, place, and manner of expression.
4. Any limitations on time, place, and manner shall be those that are necessary to achieve a significant institutional interest only, and that provide ample alternative means of expression. Those who wish to assemble and engage in noncommercial expressive activities on the public areas of NWLTC's campus shall be permitted to do so freely, as long as the conduct is not unlawful and does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the campus. Public areas which include outdoor areas of the NWLTC campus, are considered traditional public forums, and are open to expressive activities. All expressive activities, protests, or demonstrations must be held during normal working hours of the College. Such activities are not permitted when the campus is closed.
5. Students and faculty may assemble and engage in spontaneous and contemporaneous expressive activity as long as such activity is not unlawful and does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the institution.
6. Any person lawfully present on a campus may protest or demonstrate there.
7. Protests and demonstrations that infringe upon the constitutional rights of others to engage in or listen to expressive activity by creating a substantial and material disruption to the functioning of the institution or to someone's expressive activity shall not be permitted.
8. The public areas of all campuses of NWLTC are traditional public forums that are open on the same terms to any speaker. These public areas include grassy areas, walkways, or other similar common areas but do not include areas where access is restricted including but not limited to classrooms, faculty and staff offices, administrative offices, service area offices, Testing Centers, Success Centers, or any areas where students are engaging in learning activities, or faculty, staff, and administration are performing their official duties.
9. The policy supersedes and nullifies any provision in the policies and regulations of NWLTC that restricts speech on campus and that any such provision is therefore inconsistent with this policy on free expression.

Publication and Dissemination

NWLTC's policy on campus free expression will be made public in the institution's handbook, on its website, and through student orientation programs. They will be incorporated in the materials,

programs, and procedures provided to all employees and students. Students who feel aggrieved by a violation of this policy should contact the NWLTC Chief Academic and Student Affairs Officer. Faculty or staff who feel aggrieved by a violation of this policy should contact the Director of Human Resources.

Compliance

Failure to comply with any applicable laws and regulations, including those listed above, shall constitute a failure to comply with this policy. NWLTC shall make all due diligence efforts to comply with applicable laws and regulations, including those listed above. *While the provisions of the laws listed above are mandatory components of the institutional policy, institutions may supplement the provisions of this Policy as necessary, but any such supplemental provision shall comply with the laws and this Policy.*

Policy Reference: LCTCS Policy #2.018 Campus Free Expression

Approved:



Earl W. Meador, J.D.
Director