



Policy Name:	Campus Free Expression
Policy Number:	2.018
Effective Date:	September 4, 2018
Date of Last Revision:	September 29, 2022
Functional Area:	Student Services

Campus Free Expression

Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College 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 campuses, subject only to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions. All campuses of Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College 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 Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College. 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. Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College 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, Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College will uphold the following provisions:

1. Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College 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.
2. It is not the proper role of Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College 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.
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. Freedom of expression activities may take place anywhere on campus with the following exceptions: inside parking lots and structures, inside institution buildings, and near any location in which instructional, educational, and/or official business activities are being conducted. Demonstrations may not occur within 20 feet of said buildings.

Prohibited activities include:

- Activities which interfere with college business or events.
 - Activities which impede college or passerby traffic.
 - Obstructing entrances and exits.
 - Activities which damage, deface, or destruct property.
 - All expressive activities must take place during normal college hours. Such activities are prohibited when college is not in session.
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 Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College are traditional public forums that are open on the same terms to any speaker. These include sidewalks and campus lawns.
 9. The policy supersedes and nullifies any provision in the policies and regulations of Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College that restricts speech on campus and that any such provision is therefore inconsistent with this policy on free expression.

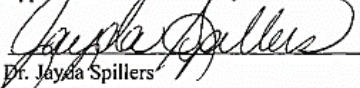
Publication and Dissemination

Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College's policy on campus free expression will be made public on its website and through student orientation programs. They will be incorporated in the materials, programs, and procedures provided to employees and students. Students aggrieved by a violation of the institutional policy on free expression may seek relief by the guidelines outlined in the Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College Grievance Policy No. 2.020.

Compliance

Failure to comply with any applicable laws and regulations, including those listed above, shall constitute a failure to comply with this policy. Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College shall make all due diligence efforts to comply with applicable laws and regulations, including those listed.

Approved:



Dr. Jayda Spillers

Chancellor

