

SECTION: Compliance with Federal Law
SUBJECT: Expressive Activities by the Campus Community
SOURCE REFERENCE: Board of Trustees Policy 224.01

NUMBER: E/1.8

Purpose

- A. Gadsden State Community College's primary function is the discovery, improvement, transmission, and dissemination of knowledge by means of research, teaching, discussion, and debate. To fulfill that function, the College will strive to ensure the fullest degree possible of intellectual freedom and free expression.
- B. It is not the proper role of the College to shield individuals from speech protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, including without limitation, ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or offensive.
- C. Students, administrators, faculty, and staff are free to take positions on public

- B. Members of the College Community shall be permitted to engage in expressive activities in outdoor areas of the College with general access during regular hours of College operation, subject to limitations. Expressive activities are defined as those activities protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 4 of the Alabama Constitution, including any lawful verbal, written or electronic communication of ideas; lawful forms of peaceful assembly, protests, and speeches; distributing literature; carrying signs; and circulating petitions.
- C. Outdoor areas where expressive activities are not allowed include areas of restricted access as identified by the College, which may include but are not limited to areas adjacent to classrooms or places of residence; athletic facilities; areas being used as outdoor classrooms or educational training; or areas where access is restricted due to operational or safety protocols.
- D. Except for Section II.H. below, this policy does not apply to expressive activities that take place in indoor areas of College property including, but not limited to, classrooms or classroom buildings; interior hallways and breezeways; administrative buildings or offices; auditoriums; performing arts venues; events centers; and recreational facilities. Expressive activities in these areas are governed by College policies related to academic freedom, facilities use, and other applicable policies and protocols.

Members of the College Community who engage in expressive activities in

- F. Conduct that may materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the College or infringe upon the rights of others to engage in expressive activities may include:
1. Obstruction of vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian, or other traffic;
 2. Obstruction of entrances or exits to buildings or driveways or impeding entry or exit from any building or parking lot or vehicular path;
 3. Violations of a state, federal or local law, regulation, or ordinance;
 4. Threats to passersby or the use of

- G. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the application of laws related to disruptions, disturbances, or interference with the functions of the College.
- H. The College may employ police and security officers and use other security measures to ensure the safety of all participants.

restrictions employ clear, published, content-neutral, and viewpoint-neutral criteria, and provide for ample alternative means of expression.

- M. Complaints or questions regarding the application of this policy should be addressed by use of the complaint process posted on the College's website.

III. Commercial Activity on Campus

Individuals, organizations and groups, both internal and external to a College, may not conduct commercial transactions or engage in commercial speech on College property unless authorized and approved in accordance with the College policies. Commercial speech means speech in which the speaker is engaged in commerce, the intended audience is commercial or actual or potential consumers, and the content of the message is commercial. Fundraising, including political fundraising, is considered solicitation and is therefore deemed commercial speech under this policy.