



Policy SS300.016

Title: CAMPUS FREE EXPRESSION

Authority: CLTCC

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Last Revision: N/A

Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC) 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 Central 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 Central 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. Central 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, Central Louisiana Technical Community College will uphold the following provisions:

1. Central 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. 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 Central 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. Central Louisiana Technical Community College 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. Students, faculty, and staff may distribute written and electronic material that does not defame others or interfere with the normal business or activities of the College. Students, faculty, and staff who elect to participate in protests, demonstrations or other political activity, in whatever form, including via electronic or social media must ensure that their participation is in no way communicated or perceived as a spokesperson for the College. Students, faculty, and staff in leadership roles and those whose positions are considered natural advocacy and safety roles, should carefully consider their participation in protests and demonstrations with their supervisor in advance of the activity. Students may not interrupt, shut down, or otherwise disrupt an event. It is also a violation to obstruct the view of the speaker with banners or placards.
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 Central Louisiana Technical Community College are traditional public forums that are open on the same terms to any speaker. Each campus has a designated area for student congregation (Canteen, lounge, vending area, student commons). In addition, public areas generally consist of outdoor areas that are accessible to the majority of students, administrators, faculty, and staff, such as grassy areas, walkways, or other similar common areas,

and do not include areas where access is restricted. Prohibited Activities: It is unlawful to interfere with college business or activities inside or outside of buildings; No obstruction of entrances or exits of buildings; No interference of scheduled College ceremonies, events, or activities; Activities can not impede traffic or passersby; and no event shall damage, deface or lead to destruction of property.

9. The policy supersedes and nullifies any provision in the policies and regulations of Central 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

Central Louisiana Technical Community College'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. Failure to comply with this policy may result in removal from campus property, employee or student disciplinary action, and/or civil or criminal liability. If an individual feels aggrieved or violated regarding this policy they may seek counsel with the administration or an external counsel.

Compliance

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

NOTE: This list it is not exhaustive of all statutes that may apply, and the CLTCC Student Conduct Code is also applicable to activities associated with demonstrations and assemblies. Statutes are subject to change; always consult official statutes.