



Assembly and Expressive Activity Policy

Policy No: CS- ASSEMBLY_EXPR_ACTIVITY	Policy Type: <i>Choose one area from dropdown</i> Administrative
Effective Date: 5/6/2026	Responsible Official Title: Director of Campus Safety
Supersedes Policy Dated: N/A	Responsible Office: Campus Safety

PURPOSE AND POLICY STATEMENT

Nazareth University is committed to fostering a campus environment where members of the University community can engage in lawful, respectful, and safe expressive activity. This policy establishes the guidelines and procedures for how assemblies (defined below) and other forms of collective expression—may occur on University-owned or controlled property. These guidelines are intended to support public safety, preserve the integrity of academic and administrative operations, and ensure equitable access to University facilities.

This policy distinguishes between *Protected Speech* and *Unprotected Speech* as defined below, within the framework set forth by the University’s Statement on Freedom of Expression. While this policy governs the time, place, and manner in which expressive activity may occur, all questions regarding the substance or viewpoint of expression shall be referred to and governed by situation-specific interpretation through the lens of the University’s Statement on Freedom of Expression once adopted.

WHO SHOULD KNOW THIS POLICY

This policy applies to all persons, including students, staff, faculty, visitors, guests, licensees, independent contractors, or invitees, organizing and/or participating in any University sponsored activity or on any University-owned or University-operated property.

DEFINITIONS

Assemblies: For the purposes of this policy, “assemblies” refer to planned or unplanned gatherings of three or more individuals on University-owned, leased, or controlled property for the purpose of expressing views, opinions, or beliefs through protests, demonstrations, vigils, rallies, marches, picketing, or similar expressive activity.

Protected Speech: Speech or expression that is defined as protected by the University’s Statement on Freedom of Expression is Protected Speech. Protected Speech may not be curtailed, regulated or prohibited by the University, except in accordance with time, place, and manner restrictions which can be used to protect public safety and ensure that the work of the university is not impaired as described further in this policy.

1. Whenever possible, any regulation of Protected Speech shall minimize the impact such regulation shall have on the ability of members of the Nazareth community to freely express their views and to peacefully and lawfully protest against actions and opinions with which they disagree.
2. In the absence of safety concerns, Protected Speech shall not be curtailed, regulated or prevented on the basis of content or viewpoint.

Unprotected Speech: Speech or expression which is not protected by the University's Statement on Freedom of Expression is Unprotected Speech and is subject to being curtailed, regulated, or prohibited on property owned or leased by Nazareth University and at Nazareth-sponsored events or programs.

Camping: Any of the following on property owned, leased, or controlled by the University:

- The establishment of, attempt to establish, or assisting another person to establish or maintain any tent, encampment, fencing, barricade, structure designed to exclude other persons, or other temporary or permanent living quarters at any location except for occupancy of residence halls, apartments, or other University managed housing pursuant to and in compliance with the terms of an agreement executed by an authorized University official authorizing the occupancy;
- Establishing or maintaining outdoors, or in or under any structure not designated for permanent human residency, at any time during the day or night, a temporary or permanent place for cooking, storing of personal belongings, or sleeping by setting up any bedding, sleeping bag, mattress, tent, tarp, or other sleeping equipment, or by setting up any cooking equipment that has not been approved by the University or
- Sleeping outdoors with or without bedding, hammock, or similar device, structure, protection, or equipment between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

CONTACTS

Time, place, and manner restrictions are established by the Campus Safety Department in collaboration with stakeholders across campus. They shall be published and made available to the Nazareth Community. Campus Safety officially interprets this policy and is responsible for obtaining approval for any revisions required by the policy. Questions may be referred to the Director of Campus Safety.

Inquiries:

- a. From students, contact Student Conduct at 585-389-2840
- b. From faculty or staff, contact Human Resources at 585-389-2065 or humanresources@naz.edu
- c. Regarding safety concerns or general inquiries about this policy, contact Campus Safety at 585-389-2850 or campussafety@naz.edu

POLICY SPECIFICS AND PROCEDURES

I. **Assembly Planning and Approval Process:**

In order to preserve public safety and maintain the day-to-day operations of the University all assemblies on property owned or leased by Nazareth require prior approval in accordance with existing university procedures for event approval. As per policy, all events on campus must have a reserved meeting location, of sufficient size, through 25Live. When reviewing an assembly request, consideration will be given to the type of assembly planned. More information about event planning at Nazareth can be found here: <https://www2.naz.edu/campus-event-planning/>

If the event is approved, the organizer(s) is/are responsible for event planning and management. Organizer(s) agree to accept responsibility for the event including participants' adherence to policy, general behavior and post-event clean up.

II. **Assemblies:**

Nazareth University supports the rights of all members of the Nazareth Community to freely express their views and to peacefully and lawfully assemble to protest against actions and opinions with which they disagree. Outdoor picketing, marches, rallies, protests, and other demonstrations are traditional and legitimate forms of speech and expression. Such activities are allowed provided that they occur in accordance with the principles outlined in the Statement on Freedom of Expression, this policy, and the Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order.

Any decision that Nazareth might take to regulate speech or expression by members of the Nazareth Community, shall be based on Nazareth's commitment to foster a safe and civil environment where

differing views and opinions are expressed. Open-mindedness, civility, respect, decency, and sensitivity for the opinions and rights of others, however different from one's own, are crucial to fulfilling the university's academic mission.

A. General Procedures for Assemblies

- a. To maintain a reasonably safe university environment and allow the University, its faculty, staff, and students to carry out the University's mission, the University must and does reserve the right to exclude any person from its property at any time for any reason, including a determination by a University official or designee that the person is engaging in or likely will cause a material threat of violence or physical harm to any person or property, disruption of University operations, failure to produce current proof of identification upon request, or any other violation of applicable policy or law. The University reserves the right to limit, withhold approval for, or terminate speaker presentations and any other activity or event on University property at any time, including but not limited to speech and expressive activity proposed or in process that the University determines is causing or likely will create or be a disruption to University operations, that creates a material risk of harm to persons or property, or that violates applicable policy or law.
- b. All individuals participating in assemblies are required to provide a form of University issued or government issued identification upon request from a University official.
- c. Participants and attendees are expected to adhere to all Standards of Conduct (Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order, Faculty Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, and Human Resource Policies).
- d. More information about event planning at Nazareth can be found here: <https://www2.naz.edu/campus-event-planning/>

III. Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions

Nazareth University may regulate or prohibit Protected Speech or expression through Time, Place, and Manner restrictions. Some examples include:

- Place: Nazareth may designate specific areas for activities on campus to occur;
- Time: Nazareth may restrict the length of time of an event; and/or
- Manner: Nazareth may restrict conduct to occur at an event.

Time, Place, and Manner restrictions are reasonable when they are content and viewpoint neutral, narrowly drawn, serve a university interest, and promote a secure environment. Content and viewpoint neutral restrictions shall be presumed reasonable.

A. General Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions.

- i. All Time, Place, and Manner restrictions shall apply equally to all speakers, assemblies, or protests regardless of the subject matter to be presented or discussed.
- ii. All Time, Place, and Manner restrictions shall seek to achieve the least restrictive outcome and shall be narrowly tailored to address the situation presented. Time, Place, and Manner restrictions are narrowly drawn when they are carefully aimed at addressing a specific university interest.
- iii. Content and Viewpoint Neutral: Time, Place, and Manner restrictions are content and viewpoint neutral when they apply equally to all forms of Protected Speech regardless of the topic to be discussed or expressed.
- iv. Serve a University Interest: Time, Place, and Manner restrictions serve a university interest when they address public safety concerns, the ability to conduct the work of the university, the interference with or infringement upon the equal rights and freedoms of others, or other university policies. Costs associated with

the planned speech or expression may be considered but it shall apply equally to all forms of Protected Speech.

- v. Promotion of a Secure Environment: Campus Safety and Nazareth University's ability to provide a secure environment are of paramount concern. Campus Safety is authorized to shut down an event that immediately threatens public safety without consultation with the event organizers. Additionally, for planned events, event organizers are strongly encouraged or may be required to consult with Campus Safety to complete a security plan for ensuring a secure environment during the event.
- vi. Trigger Warnings: Trigger Warnings are voluntary. Nazareth encourages its faculty, staff, and students to use their professional judgment when determining if Trigger Warnings are appropriate.

Time Restrictions:

To maintain a respectful and productive campus environment, Nazareth University has established time-based restrictions for assemblies. These restrictions ensure that demonstrations do not interfere with students' rest, academic success, or campus operations. All assemblies must occur within the approved timeframes and avoid exam periods to support the academic mission of the University.

- Assemblies are prohibited between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in accordance with Residence Life quiet hours.
- Demonstrations are not permitted during university exam periods, consistent with the 24-hour quiet hours in place during those times.

Place Restrictions:

To ensure safety, accessibility, and the continued function of university operations, certain outdoor locations have been designated as *preferred spaces* for gatherings, protests, and expressive activities. These sites are generally accessible, visible, and better equipped to accommodate events without significant disruption to campus life. Other outdoor spaces not listed below may be considered for use as part of an event planning process, and should be discussed with the appropriate university offices. Indoor spaces may also be used, but their availability will depend on whether the event can occur without interfering with regular academic and administrative functions. Requests to use other outdoor or indoor campus spaces beyond those listed below will be reviewed and may be permitted on a case-by-case basis as part of the event coordination process.

Preferred Locations for Outdoor Assemblies:

- Natapow Quad (Clocktower Commons / O'Connor Complex / Shults Center area)
- East Lawn
- Pavilion
- George Lawn
- South Campus Drive adjacent to the Spanish House
- Public Sidewalk along East Avenue

Indoor and Other Spaces (Use Subject to Non-Disruption Agreement and Scheduling):

- Sorelle's
- Hall of Fame
- Shults Center: Forum and Khedira Gymnasium
- Golisano Training Center

Spaces Not Permitted for Assemblies:

- Millie's Café (inside the Library)
- Dining Commons
- First Floor of Smyth Hall
- Callahan Theatre & Beston Hall

- During an active game, performance, or university event (anywhere large crowds are gathered)
- All indoor spaces not explicitly listed above

Assemblies shall not be permitted in any place that restricts the business operations of the University, violates fire or building codes, or restricts/limits the normal use or access to any building, room, ground or roadway. Restrictions seeking to ensure ingress and egress of the campus, its buildings and the areas within its buildings shall take into account any alternative entrances and exits to the campus and its buildings, the number of individuals preventing the ingress and egress, the nature of the building at issue, and the time of day.

The following restrictions apply to all assemblies:

- Entry into private offices, residence halls, or restricted University areas without explicit permission is not permitted.
- Occupation of University buildings after normal operating hours is prohibited.

C. Manner Restrictions

To protect the rights of all community members and ensure university operations are not disrupted, specific guidelines are in place regarding how assemblies may be conducted. These restrictions are designed to minimize disruption, reduce safety risks, and promote constructive engagement. Restrictions seeking to control excessive sound or to prevent disruption or violence shall be broadly applied and take into consideration the impact that the disruption or violence is having, or will have, on the Nazareth community.

- A. An action is considered to be disruptive if it interferes with the quiet enjoyment of a particular university space or prevents participation by another in a university activity. For purposes of these procedures, quiet enjoyment of a particular university space means the ability to utilize the space for its intended purpose.
- B. An action is considered to be violent if it is more likely than not to cause physical harm to another. The likelihood of harm shall be based on a reasonable person standard.

- Amplification equipment including speakers, megaphones, or drums requires explicit University approval in advance. To avoid disruption to academic and administrative activities, in the event approval is granted the University will provide the equipment to be used.
- No dangerous items or equipment may be used. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Poles, flag poles, bats, clubs, or sticks are prohibited — including any used to hold flags or signs if they resemble or function as weapons (e.g., hockey sticks, metal rods, or heavy wooden dowels). Handheld signs made of lightweight, non-rigid materials are permitted.
 - Open flames or torches of any kind
 - Any item considered a dangerous instrument under New York State Penal Law
- No construction of shelters or camping is allowed on campus grounds in University buildings, or under or upon University structures unless explicitly approved by the University in advance.

IV. University Response to Violations

Violations of this policy shall be handled through established university disciplinary processes and/or applicable laws. Any individual who fails or refuses to comply with this policy may be issued a criminal trespass violation by Campus Safety and removed from University property. Campus Safety in collaboration with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office maintains the authority to address violations of this policy that constitute criminal trespass or any other violation of law.

Campus Safety is authorized to undertake or direct removal and permanent disposal of any tent, tarp, fencing, or other structure, as well as personal property, including but not limited to bedding, cooking equipment, and fencing, barricade, and housing materials, present on University-owned, leased, or controlled property in violation of this policy.

V. Retaliation

The University prohibits retaliation against any member of the Nazareth Community because they have filed a complaint alleging a violation of this policy, have participated in the processes described in this policy, or opposed any practice in violation of this policy or applicable federal, state, or local laws. Any such retaliation should be reported promptly and may result in disciplinary action independent of the sanction or interim measures imposed in response to the underlying allegations. Complaints alleging retaliation shall utilize standard reporting procedures.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- a. Nazareth University - Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order:
https://www2.naz.edu/files/6417/1958/2892/Rules_for_the_Maintenance_of_Public_Order_06282024.pdf
- b. Nazareth University - Student Code of Conduct:
https://www2.naz.edu/files/9817/4042/7691/Naz_Student_Conduct_Code.pdf
- c. Nazareth University - Staff Handbook:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mXbsuvW5klUJ-tzQNw-AqXiLQULsffc/edit?tab=t.0>
- d. Nazareth University – Faculty Manual:
<https://www2.naz.edu/academic-affairs/academic-information-faculty>
- e. Nazareth University - Title IX:
<https://www2.naz.edu/culture-community-belonging/title-ix-sexual-harassment-assault-discrimination/>
- f. Nazareth University – Residence Life:
https://www2.naz.edu/files/4316/6069/2646/2022-2023_Res_Life_Policies.pdf
- g. Nazareth Bias Response:
<https://www2.naz.edu/culture-community-belonging/bias-reporting-response-prevention>
- h. 25Live – Campus Event Planning:
<https://www2.naz.edu/campus-event-planning/>
- i. Nazareth University Statement on Free Expression
<https://www2.naz.edu/about/mission-and-vision/statement-free-expression>

REVISION HISTORY

This policy has been revised on the following dates:

Date of Revision

Type of Revision (Substantive/Minor/Name Change)