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› [Policies](#) › Pickets, Protests, and Demonstrations

Pickets, Protests, and Demonstrations

Statement of Policy

Duke University respects the right of all members of the academic community to explore and to discuss questions that interest them, to express opinions publicly and privately, and to join together to demonstrate their concern by orderly means. It is the policy of the university to protect the right of voluntary assembly, to make its facilities available for peaceful assembly, to welcome guest speakers, to protect the exercise of these rights from disruption or interference.

The university also respects the right of each member of the academic community to be free from coercion and harassment. It recognizes that academic freedom is no less dependent on ordered liberty than any other freedom, and it understands that the harassment of others is especially reprehensible in a community of scholars. The substitution of noise for speech and force for reason is a rejection and not an application of academic freedom. A determination to discourage conduct which is disruptive and disorderly does not threaten academic freedom; it is, rather, a necessary condition of its very existence. Therefore, Duke University will not allow disruptive or disorderly conduct on its

premises to interrupt its proper operation. Persons engaging in disruptive action or disorderly conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion or separation, and also charges of violations of law.

A picket, protest, and/or demonstrations is an event and must comply with university event policies and processes. Students planning a picket, protests, or demonstration should use Duke Groups to register their event and can request Pickets, Protests, and Demonstration team support upon registering. Students can direct additional event registration questions to Event Services (eventservices@duke.edu).

Rule

Disruptive picketing, protesting, or demonstrating on Duke University property or at any place in use for an authorized university purpose is prohibited.

While Duke University recognizes the right to voluntary assembly, members of the university community must recognize that the Duke University Health System provides care for individuals needing uninterrupted medical services in tranquil surroundings. Accordingly, all pickets, demonstrations, mass assemblies, and protests shall be confined to campus areas and are strictly prohibited in or around any Duke University Health System building.

Hearing and Appeal

Cases arising out of violations of the Pickets and Protests Regulations will be heard by the University Judicial Board, in accordance with the procedures outlined herein. The University

Judicial Board shall have jurisdiction over members of the student body, members of the faculty, and administrative personnel of the university not subject to the personnel policy handbook. Hearings will be conducted with regard for academic due process. The decision of the University Judicial Board shall be final if the accused is exonerated or if there is no appeal. In other cases, students may appeal to the president, or, in their absence, the provost, in which case such appeal shall be solely on the record of the proceedings before the hearing committee of the University Judicial Board. Argument on appeal shall be written submission, but the president may, in addition, require oral argument.

A hearing committee will consist of two faculty members, one dean, and two students. These students will be selected from members of the judicial boards or governments in the undergraduate, graduate, or professional colleges or schools. The chair of the hearing committee will be designated by its members. The hearing committee will conduct its proceedings in accordance with academic due process.

Amendments

These regulations on pickets, protests, and demonstrations may be changed or amended by the university at any time but any such change or amendment shall be effective only after due notice or publication. These regulations supersede any regulations heretofore issued on the subject.

OWNER

Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards


LAST REVISED

September 4, 2024

LAST REVIEWED

September 4, 2024

Related Links

- [President Statement on Open Expression](#) 
- [Student Organizations Policies](#) 
- [Event and Activities](#) 

Duke Community Standard

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