

# **Heidelberg University Campus Peaceful Protest Policy**

8/14/2024

Heidelberg University recognizes and supports the rights of its students, faculty, and staff to engage in peaceful protest to express their viewpoints and advocate for change. This policy outlines guidelines and procedures for organizing peaceful protests on campus, to ensure the safety, well-being, and academic environment of all University community members. By its very nature, the University is a place where diversity of thought is embraced, civility is cultivated, and freedom of speech is protected through ideas and opinions being formulated and exchanged. Members of the University have a right to freely express their position and to engage in constructive dialogue with others whether they assent to or dissent from existing situations in the University or society. To ensure that freedom is maintained, expressions of assent or dissent cannot be permitted to infringe on the rights of the University community members or the community itself.

## **GUIDELINES:**

Participants are encouraged to engage in respectful discourse, respect the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, respect the Ohio Constitution, and adhere to the guidelines outlined in this policy. Heidelberg University reserves the right to revise the policy at any time.

Nothing in this policy will be interpreted as preventing or prohibiting the University from imposing lawful measures that do not violate the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, [Sections 3](#) and [11](#) of the Ohio Constitution, such as:

- Constitutional time, place, and manner restrictions.
- Reasonable and viewpoint-neutral restrictions in nonpublic forums.
- Restricting the use of University property to protect the free speech rights of students, faculty, and staff and preserve the use of the property for the advancement of the University's mission.
- Prohibiting or limiting speech, expression, or assemblies that are not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, Sections 3 and 11 of the Ohio Constitution.
- Content restrictions on speech that are reasonably related to a legitimate pedagogical purpose, such as classroom rules enacted by teachers.
- Nothing in this section shall be construed to grant students the right to disrupt previously scheduled or reserved activities occurring in a traditional public forum.

1. Definition of Peaceful Protest:
  - Peaceful protest is defined as any demonstration, gathering, or expression of opinion that is nonviolent, respectful of others' rights and does not disrupt the normal operations of the University.
2. Location and Time:
  - Protests can only occur during the hours of sunrise to sunset.
  - Protests can only be conducted in designated outdoor areas of the campus as approved by the University administration.
  - No protests or assemblies can occur inside campus-owned buildings in order to preserve the normal function of the University.
  - Heidelberg expects that all groups or individuals that assemble to gather in such a fashion as to refrain from physically hindering entrances to, exits from any University building or other structure, or hinder the normal flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on or through the campus.
3. Due to the proximity of offices, residence halls, and classrooms, amplified sound and other loud noise is restricted (i.e., not permitted). Restricted noise is defined as noise disrupting the function of the University.
4. Respect for University Policies:
  - Participants in protests must adhere to all University policies, including those related to conduct, use of facilities, and noise levels.
  - Any signage or materials used during protests must comply with the University's guidelines for content and placement.
  - No tents or other temporary structures requiring staking may be set up without prior approval from the Director of Campus Security and Compliance.
5. Safety and Security:
  - Participants are responsible for ensuring their own safety and the safety of others during protests.
  - The University reserves the right to take necessary measures to ensure the security of all individuals and property on campus during protests.
6. Communication with University Administration:
  - Organizers of protests must inform the University in advance about their intention to hold a protest, including the date, time, duration, location, and purpose. University administration may provide guidance or conditions for the protest to ensure it remains peaceful and does not disrupt the educational environment.

7. Consequences of Non-Compliance:

- Failure to adhere to this policy may result in disciplinary action under the University's established Student Code of Conduct, Employee Policies Handbook, and Faculty Manual. Disciplinary measures may encompass a range of responses, including but not limited to warnings up to and including expulsion or termination.
- Any actions committed by faculty, staff, students, or campus visitors that contravene local, state, or federal laws during protests will result in intervention by the Tiffin Police Department, which will pursue charges against individuals found in violation.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Notification:

- To organize a peaceful protest or assembly, individuals or groups must submit an email request to the Director of Campus Security and Compliance. The request should include the details outlined in the guidelines above. Any short-notice requests can still be made by sending an email but must receive approval from the individuals listed below.

2. Approval:

- The Dean of Student Affairs and Director of Campus Security and Compliance, in collaboration with the Director of Conferences and Events, will assess the request and may grant approval, deny it, or propose adjustments based on the submitted information and factors such as safety and the impact on the University community. The approval committee may consult with other members of the campus community depending on the protest's purpose.
- The approval committee will endeavor to review event requests promptly, aiming to complete the process within two business days.

3. Implementation:

- Once approved, organizers must comply with any conditions set forth by the University administration and ensure that participants follow all guidelines during the protest.

4. Monitoring:

- University officials may monitor protests to ensure compliance with this policy and to address any issues that may arise during the demonstration.

5. Post-Protest Evaluation:

- After the protest, University officials may evaluate the event to identify any lessons learned or areas for improvement in future protests.

**Reporting Policy Violations:**

The University encourages all students, student groups, and faculty to report any alleged violations of this policy. Those filing a complaint about a suspected violation must do so in good faith and have reasonable grounds to believe the information indicates a policy breach. This report can be made to the Director of Campus Security and Compliance.