



## **EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS**

### *FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS*

#### **1. What is the First Amendment?**

Part of the US Constitution, the first amendment protects your rights to freedom of speech as follows:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble..”

#### **2. How does the First Amendment apply to Shoreline Community College?**

Shoreline Community College is a public educational institution, and as such, College facilities are reserved primarily for educational use. The public character of the College does not grant to individuals the right to an unlimited range to engage in activities which limits, interferes with, or otherwise disrupts normal college educational activities. Accordingly, the College designates the common grounds and outdoor areas of the College as a limited public forum subject to the time, place, and manner limitations and restrictions set forth in [Chapter 132G-142 WAC](#).

The purpose of the time, place, and manner regulations set forth in this policy is to establish procedures and reasonable controls for the use of College facilities for both College and non-College groups. It is intended to balance the College's responsibility to fulfill its mission as a state educational institution of Washington with the interests of College groups and non-College groups who are seeking to use the campus for purposes of expressive activity. The College recognizes that College groups should be accorded the opportunity to utilize the facilities and grounds of the College to the fullest extent possible. The College campus is open to non-College groups to the extent that the usage does not conflict with the rights of College groups or substantially disrupt the educational process. The College has designated certain facilities as public use areas to noncollege groups as set forth herein.

#### **3. What requirements does Shoreline Community College have related to time, place, and manner of free speech on campus?**

Subject to the regulations and requirements of [Chapter 132G-142 WAC](#), groups may use the College's outdoor common grounds for expressive activities between the hours of 7:00am and 10:00pm. To comply with College requirements, expressive activities must not substantially or materially interfere with educational activities inside or outside any College building or otherwise prevent the College from fulfilling its mission and achieving its primary purpose of providing an education to its students. The activity must not substantially infringe on the rights and privileges of College students, employees, or invitees to the College.

Groups are encouraged to notify the safety and security department no later than twenty-four hours in advance of an activity. However, unscheduled activities are permitted so long as the activity does not materially disrupt any other function occurring at the College, create safety hazards or pose unreasonable safety risks to College students, employees, or invitees to the college. Activities cannot obstruct traffic or interfere with ingress or egress to college buildings, facilities, or activities.

Camping is not permitted on college facilities or grounds between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. without express permission of the president or designee. Camping includes sleeping, cooking activities, storing personal belongings, or erecting tents, shelters, or structures used for purposes of personal habitation.

#### **4. What type of information can be distributed by groups exercising their right to expressive activities?**

Information may be distributed by groups as long as it is not obscene and does not promote the imminent prospect of actual violence or harm.

**5. Does the College have the ability to limit which groups may exercise their expressive activities/free speech rights on campus?**

Both College and non-College groups may use areas designated as limited public forum, subject to the time, place, and manner requirements of [Chapter 132G-142 WAC](#).

**6. Does a group's presence on campus imply the College's endorsement of their expressive activities?**

All persons in areas open to the public may exercise the rights of free speech consistent with [Chapter 132G-142 WAC](#), and state and federal law. This includes individuals and groups not affiliated with the College. Views expressed by individuals and groups that make use of the College's limited public forum do not necessarily represent the views endorsed by Shoreline Community College.

**7. Do College employees have the ability to respond to views expressed by groups exercising their rights to free speech on campus?**

Government employees have a First Amendment right to speak out on important issues; however, the College also has an interest in promoting an effective and efficient workplace. As a general matter, if you are speaking as a private citizen, about a matter of public concern, and your speech does not interfere with your job, it is likely protected speech. On the other hand, employee speech as part of official duties, while on-duty or during working hours, and while wearing College apparel may not necessarily be protected speech. Employees must abide by College policies, including Community Standards, Ethics, and Communications policies. Employees are encouraged to seek guidance from their respective unions or supervisors before participating in protests or political speech on campus.

**8. What resources are available for students or employees impacted by a group's expressive activities?**

**Employees** may access services and support at any time through the [Employee Assistance Program](#) (EAP) at 877-313-4455. Their service is confidential and free. We urge you to keep this number readily available in the event you or a colleague need to lean into this level of support. The EAP is available and here for you, should you or a family member want or need support.

**Students** may access the following services:

- If you are experiencing distress related to this, please reach out to the [Counseling Center](#) for support.
- In addition, for emergency counseling, referral, or assistance 24-hours/day and 7-days/week, please call:
  - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline | [800-273-8255](tel:800-273-8255) or 988
  - King County: Crisis Connections (Crisis Line) | [866-427-4747](tel:866-427-4747)
  - Snohomish County: Volunteers of America Care Crisis Response Services (Crisis Line) | [800-584-3578](tel:800-584-3578)
  - Lifeline Crisis Chat: Go to [suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/)
  - Crisis Text Line: Text 741741 [911](https://www.crisistextline.org/) (for immediate health-related emergencies)
- International students who need support are also encouraged to reach out to [International Education](#).

**9. Can employees call in sick/take leave if they don't wish to be on campus during an expressive activity?**

While there is no change in leave options available to employees as a result of expressive activities on campus, employees continue to have the option to request and take leave in alignment with the leave categories available to them.

**10. I still have questions that are not answered in the info above. Who can I go to?**

Students are encouraged to connect with the Vice President for Student Services, Derek Levy by email at [dlevy@shoreline.edu](mailto:dlevy@shoreline.edu). Employees are encouraged to connect with Human Resources at [hr@shoreline.edu](mailto:hr@shoreline.edu).