



Policy Title **Freedom of Expression & Assembly Student Policy & Procedures**

Policy Number	4010
Category	Student
Applicability	College-wide
Responsible Office	Division of Student Affairs
Effective Date	September 19, 2024

I. Policy Statement

The State University of New York (SUNY) and Suffolk County Community College respect and fully support the rights of free speech guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and the State of New York. The College values the free expression of ideas and supports individuals’ right to assemble.

Suffolk County Community College students are guaranteed the rights of free inquiry and expression. Subject to applicable content-neutral policy, students are guaranteed the right to hold public meetings and engage in peaceful and orderly assemblies—including, but not limited to, protests, demonstrations, rallies, vigils, marches, and picketing—in and upon designated public areas of campus grounds and buildings.

II. Rationale

The purpose of this Policy is to provide meaningful opportunities for members of the College community to express their views and to ensure that the time, place, and manner of such expression does not interfere with the safety and security of our campus communities or disrupt the regular operations of the campuses.

III. Scope and Applicability

This content-neutral Policy is applicable to all Suffolk County Community College students. This Policy supersedes the College’s Public Demonstration and Mass Gatherings Policy insofar as that policy refers to student demonstrations and mass gatherings.

IV. Responsible Office/Executive

The Division of Student Affairs has responsibility for the implementation and review of this Policy. Individuals with questions about this Policy should contact the Division of Student Affairs or the Office of Campus Activities and Student Leadership Development on each campus for more information.

V. Definitions

None

VI. Policy Elaboration

The College has designated the following as public areas for the purpose of peaceful and orderly assemblies:

- Ammerman Campus: Campus quad: area in front of Huntington Library
- Michael J. Grant Campus: southwest of SCUA
- Eastern Campus: field adjacent to Montaukett Learning Center

The College will not interfere with orderly assemblies in designated public areas of grounds and buildings unless participants engage in any of the following:

- A. Conduct that prevents the orderly administration of college classes, lectures, meetings, interviews, ceremonies, and other campus events or College operations;
- B. Conduct that obstructs the free movement of vehicles or of persons, including, but not limited to in any building or facility, inclusive of blocking hallways and doors;
- C. Engage in conduct that could foreseeably cause injury or damage to persons or property;
- D. Operation of audio amplification equipment in a manner that conflicts with normal College operations or that is deemed injurious to health and safety, or that is in violation of applicable local ordinances;
- E. Constructing or erecting structures, whether or not they are anchored, inclusive of screens and/or objects requiring penetration in concrete or grass, or camp on College grounds without authorization from the Office of Campus Activities and Student Leadership Development, and indoor and outdoor encampment is prohibited.
- F. Possession and/or ignition of an open flame of any type, including, but not limited to, torches;
- G. Assemblies lasting more than one day, duration not to exceed 12 hours in a one-day period, and assemblies between the hours of 8:00PM and 8:00AM are prohibited;
- H. Activities that violate the College's policies for maintenance of public order and security;
- I. Activities that violate the provisions of any other applicable College policy, including but not limited to policies regarding posters/flyers, weapons, prohibited items, chalking, etc.

In addition, the following activities are strictly prohibited:

- A. Entry into any private office of an administrative officer, member of faculty, or staff member, or entry into any other college area that is not authorized, without permission;

- B. Occupation of a building after it is normally closed;
- C. Obstruction of any roadways running through or adjoining the campus grounds.

All individuals participating in protests and demonstrations are required to provide a form of College issued or government issued identification upon request from a College official.

The College takes compliance with this policy very seriously. Students should expect that violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action under the College's [Student Code of Conduct](#), up to and including interim suspension, suspension, and expulsion.

VII. Related Administrative Procedures

Suffolk County Community College respects and supports students' efforts to exercise their rights to free speech and assembly. The Division of Student Affairs has designated the Office of Campus Activities and Student Leadership Development on each campus to provide the appropriate support for the successful implementation of these events. Following College procedure will ensure a safe and effective assembly activity. The College will make every effort to respond affirmatively to all requests to engage in assembly activity. However, content-neutral consideration must be given to the time, place, and manner of the assembly activity to ensure the health and safety of the participants and the noninterference with authorized College business, activities, or events.

Services: To help ensure the safety of participants and the protection of the rights of all members of the campus community, the College can provide services to registered student organizations/student requests such as location, safety, crowd control, sound equipment (unless prohibited in certain areas as per College policy or College/campus rules), site preparation/cleanup, and/or other such facilities or services it deems necessary ("Services").

Request for Services

- A. For assemblies where the need for Services is reasonably foreseeable, event organizers shall, within two (2) business days prior to the planned event, submit a written Request for Services, as follows:
 - 1. The written request should contain the name of the sponsor/organizer, the proposed location and any other Services sought, the date and time of the planned assembly, and the number of persons expected to participate;
 - 2. The request should be submitted to: the Office of Campus Activities and Student Leadership Development on the campus.
 - 3. A professional staff member from the Office of Campus Activities and Student Leadership Development will promptly respond to the request for Services after receipt of the written request but no later than three (3) business days prior to the proposed date of the planned event.
 - 4. A professional staff member will review the request and work with the sponsor/organizer to accommodate requests and determine a reasonable time, place, and manner for the assembly activity.

5. While every attempt will be made to accommodate all requests, some modifications to the assembly activity request may be required due to the availability of the proposed time and place of the activity. A Campus Activities professional staff member will inform the sponsor/organizer of these modifications and provide guidance as the assembly activity is planned.
 6. In the event that the proposed assembly activity is planned in direct response to a current event, the Office of Campus Activities and Student Leadership Development realizes that it may not be possible to submit a request in advance. In such cases, the event organizer should contact the Office of Campus Activities and Student Leadership Development as soon as possible in order to promptly coordinate the assembly activity, where reasonably possible.
- B. No Services Required: Assemblies requiring no Services, or for which the need for Services is not reasonably foreseeable or necessary as described above, may take place without any prior notification by the sponsors and/or organizers. However, conformity with the specific College rules noted above is required. Organizers who are unsure of whether their planned assembly requires Services are encouraged to contact the appropriate office designated in sub-paragraph (A)(3) above for guidance. Event organizers who do not request necessary services that were reasonably foreseeable as being needed may be subject to discipline.

VIII. Cross-References

- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Public Demonstration and Mass Gatherings Policy](#) (superseded by this Policy with respect to students and student organizations)

IX. References

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) [Standard II](#), [Standard IV](#)
- Suffolk County Code [Section 383-6](#)

X. History / Revision Dates

Adoption Date: September 19, 2024 (Board of Trustees)