

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY BY STUDENTS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS POLICY

Saint Mary's College, by its very nature, provides an academic community where students are free to express and exchange ideas through thoughtful discourse, including discourse via peaceful assembly. This Policy sets forth the guidelines, procedures, and responsibilities of all students and student organizations who wish to peaceably assemble on Saint Mary's campus.

Guidelines for Planning a Peaceful Assembly

Only Saint Mary's College students or student organizations may organize peaceful assemblies on campus. Requests for assembly by outside groups or employees will not be approved. Students and student organizations may peaceably gather for the purpose of expressing their ideas and opinions, including but not limited to objections to or support for events, situations, political or social causes, or policies, or to commemorate an activity or event meant to demonstrate unity and/or to promote peace and non-violence. Examples of peaceful assembly include, but are not limited to, demonstrations, marches, picket lines, protests, and/or vigils. Students and student organizations must adhere to all other College policies, including the Policy on Political Activity.

Procedure for Planning a Peaceful Assembly

Prior to sponsoring a peaceful assembly, a student or student organization must submit an online application to the Student Involvement Office at least 72 hours in advance of the planned activity [here](#). The application must include the location on campus where the event will be held, proposed date and time of the event, the purpose of the event, and estimated number of participants. If the event is a march, the supporting group will be required to submit a proposed route. Students and student organizations may request an expedited approval through this form where circumstances dictate that an activity occurs quickly. More advanced notice may be required based on the scale of the event.

The Vice President for Student Enrollment and Engagement or designee will review the application within one working day of its submission or as soon as reasonably practicable, and will meet with the individual(s) requesting the permit prior to its approval. The meeting will cover logistics including safety and security issues, use of amplified sound, and the potential for disruption to the College. If the proposed activity is approved, the Vice President for Student Enrollment and Engagement will inform the Executive Leadership. This notification will include a clear description of the event.

Based on the scope of the assembly, specific security requirements may be imposed by Campus Safety. The cost for this security will be paid for by the student or student group organizing the event .

Any group or individual who engages in peaceful assembly without having first obtained approval through this process may be subject to sanctions in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Requirements for a Peaceful Assembly

Sponsoring students, organizations and their representatives are responsible for ensuring there is no disruption to College activities, business, events, programs or services. To that end, students and student organizations must comply with the following rules and requirements:

- Pedestrian and vehicular traffic must have free passageway at all points around campus.
- Ingress and egress to any building may not be blocked at any time.
- Use of amplified sound may not disrupt the conduct of College business.
- Activities that might disrupt the campus environment may not be allowed or encouraged, such as the disruption of the living environment in residence halls.
- No encampments are permitted.
- Activities must be consistent with the mission of the College.
- All participants must respect and adhere to all policies and procedures regulating on-campus events.
- Organizing students and student organizations must obtain all necessary permits in the event the demonstration will move outside the confines of campus.
- Media must have permission to be on campus with the exception of The Observer. Such permission may only be granted by the College's marketing and communication staff.
- Excessive noise, which interferes with classes, College offices, residence halls, community neighbors, or other campus and community activities is prohibited.
- Unauthorized entry into or occupation of a private work area is prohibited.
- Participating students and student organizations may not engage in conduct that restricts or prevents faculty or staff members or student employees from performing their duties, including interruption of meetings, classes, or events.
- Participants must disperse when a building, office, or campus space is closed.
- Vandalism including graffiti or destruction of College property will not be tolerated.
- Threats or actual harm to the physical safety or security of any person is prohibited.

All events will be monitored by the Vice President for Student Enrollment and Engagement or designee. The Vice President reserves the right to remove individuals from an assembly who violate any of the above rules and/or to end an assembly altogether. Failure to comply with the rules or requirements set forth in this Policy or with the directions of College officials acting in accordance with the performance of their duties is a violation of the Code of Conduct and may be grounds for sanctions.