

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

FIRST AMENDMENT -WHAT IS IT?

It is a constitutional right afforded to every citizen by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The First Amendment covers various forms of expression.

- Freedom of Religion
- **Freedom of Speech**
- Freedom of the Press
- **Freedom of Assembly**
- Freedom to petition the government

“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, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

HOW DOES IT APPLY TO (ODU) OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY?

- ODU is a public institution -bound to uphold freedom of speech.
- Virginia Law also protects students' freedom of speech.

As a public institution, ODU also places **time, place and manner parameters** on expression.

- This ensures the safety of students and that any and all view-points may be heard and not censored.
 - Example: reserving space (classroom and out-door space)
 - Rules in using ODU computers/internet
 - Posting/Solicitation Policies

WHAT TYPES OF COMMUNICATION IS PROTECTED UNDER FREEDOM OF SPEECH?

- Face to face
- Internet communication
- Art
- Music
- Clothing

WHAT SPEECH IS NOT PROTECTED?

Not all speech is protected by the First Amendment, some examples of speech that is NOT protected include:

- Poses a clear and present danger to safety
- Slander/libelous (false and damaging statements)
- Obscenity
- Discriminatory Harassment

HOW DO I EXERCISE MY FREEDOM OF SPEECH AT ODU?

Here are some ways you can exercise your freedom of speech:

- Classroom Participation
- Joining student organizations
- Peacefully assemble-(Demonstrations Policy) <http://cglink.me/s22989>
 - Individuals/Students can reserve Outdoor Space
 - Student Organizations can reserve that and other space on campus.
- Planning events and creating forums for expression

WHAT IF I HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE SPEECH OR THE SPEECH OFFENDS ME?

- Ignore the speech
- Peacefully express/share your viewpoint in the moment
- Plan forum(s) to address the offending speech
- Contact the Special Assistant to the Vice President of SEES at 757-683-6702 or tdaniels@odu.edu and describe the incident or concern.

WHAT IF I BELIEVE MY FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS BEING VIOLATED?

If you have related questions or concerns, please contact the Special Assistant to the Vice President of SEES at 757.683.6702, or tdaniels@odu.edu and describe the incident of concern.



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