

Student Speech & Demonstration at Carleton

The ability of all faculty, staff, and students to share differing views and opinions on a wide variety of topics is a critical component of a robust liberal arts education. Carleton supports every community member's right to share their opinions through speech, protest, and advocacy, as long as they do so lawfully and in a manner consistent with college policies and direction. Below is an overview of key expectations for Carleton students engaging in demonstration.

Freedom of Expression Policy

Support of any cause by demonstration or other orderly means, including picketing and other forms of peaceful protest, is permitted on College premises so long as it does not disrupt the operation of the College, jeopardize its legal status, interfere with entrances to and exits from College facilities, interrupt classes, interfere with other normal day-to-day activities of the College, or cause damage to property. The College may call upon local law enforcement bodies to remedy violations covered by this paragraph. In addition, the College may choose to impose its own disciplinary sanctions.

Protest and Encampment Protocols

All existing college policies outlined in our [Community Standards](#)—including but not limited to those prohibiting disruption of College activities; breach of peace on College-owned property; refusal to comply with the directions of a College official; harassment, intimidation, or other conduct that threatens or endangers the health, well being, or safety of oneself or any person on College property; unauthorized access to facilities; and damage to College property—apply to students taking part in protests or encampments.

Participants in protests and encampments should not be masked as a group, as it is important for college staff to know whether protestors are Carleton students. On some college campuses, the presence of masked protestors has heightened concerns about safety, which has in turn contributed to more confrontational responses from officials. Individuals can mask for health reasons, but for the safety of all in our community, groups engaged in protest are expected to be generally unmasked.

Indoor Gatherings

Indoor gatherings are subject to restrictions including fire code provisions, [building hours](#), and the need to avoid disrupting campus events or activities. Staying overnight in a non-residential building is considered an unauthorized use

of college facilities, per the College's [Community Standards](#), and is not allowed without prior approval from the College.

Outdoor Encampments

Outdoor encampments may be allowed to remain for a period of time at the College's discretion in some locations, but can be moved or disbanded at any time. All existing college policies—including those for [Slacklines and Hammocks](#)—must be followed during encampments, and participants and materials must not damage trees or other property. Students who do not disperse when requested to do so by College officials will be [subject to college discipline](#).

Students remaining at an encampment may be asked to show Carleton College ID to verify their status. Visitors who are not currently enrolled Carleton students will not be permitted to remain at encampments overnight (10 p.m. to 5 a.m.), and may be subject to trespass orders.

Local, State, and Federal Laws

Carleton community members are expected to comply with all local, state, and federal laws. City streets and sidewalks are under the jurisdiction of the city of Northfield and should be avoided during demonstrations, as should state highways.

Support & Resources for Students

[Campus Handbook](#) | [Community Standards Policy](#)
[Student Conduct Process](#) | [Community Concern Form](#)

Dean of Students Office: dosoffice@carleton.edu

Carleton Security: (507) 222-4444