

Policy 602: Policy on Assembly and Demonstrations

Policy Owner	Dean of Students
Policy Steward(s)	Title IX & Compliance Officer, Executive Director of Campus Safety, Chief Diversity Officer
Approving Body	PEC
Internal/External Viewing	Internal & External

I. PURPOSE

As an educational institution, the University of La Verne promotes the academic experience of its students, including by encouraging and supporting informed discussion, debate, and protest of issues, in keeping with University values and policies promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as respectful and safe conduct.

The University of La Verne is absolute in the belief that expressive conduct, including assembly for the purpose of protest or demonstration, is an essential component of the intellectual development and self-definition of students, faculty, and staff. This policy is intended to define protections for University of La Verne community members that engage in such expressive conduct and establish associated requirements to protect the safety of students, faculty, staff, and local community members. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the academic, research, and administrative activities of the University can be carried out in an environment that facilitates the participation of its community members in its educational programs and activities, and is safe and free from intimidation or harassment.

The University is committed to applying this policy in a fair, consistent, and viewpoint-neutral manner, ensuring that all individuals and groups are treated equally regardless of the content of their expression in accordance with law.

This policy complies with local laws and ordinances governing expressive conduct in the towns where ULV properties are located.

II. SCOPE

This policy sets out the rights and responsibilities of all members of the University of La Verne community and external groups and persons related to expressive conduct on University of La Verne property, including assembly for the purposes of protest and demonstration, whether directed at national, local, University-specific, or other concerns.

The time, place and manner of exercising constitutionally protected rights of free expression, speech, assembly and worship are subject to the procedures below that provide for noninterference with university functions, and provide reasonable protection to persons from practices that would make them involuntary audiences, or place them in reasonable fear, as determined by the university, for their personal safety.

This policy supersedes the Demonstration Policy in the Student Catalog. It does not supersede other University policies concerning event reservations as well as corrective and disciplinary procedures for students, faculty, and staff.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Assembly*: A group of people gathered for a common purpose, including the expression of a message, viewpoint or protest.
- B. *Protest*: An assembly event for the purpose of expressive conduct taking the form of a public demonstration of opinion undertaken to attract attention to a viewpoint, concern or cause. Such events may include verbal expression, signs, written materials, images, and the occupation of physical space, people or objects.
- C. *Counter protest*: An assembly held simultaneous to an existing assembly and intended to present a contrary message or viewpoint.
- D. *Organizers*: Individuals and/or organizations recognized as members of University of La Verne community member that are coordinating an assembly or are facilitating or hosting an assembly by an external group.
- E. *University of La Verne community member*: Students, faculty, staff, authorized volunteers, or recognized campus organization and other officially recognized representatives of the University. Former students, former employees, alumni, emeriti, parents of current and former students, and other similar individuals are not considered University of La Verne community members for the purposes of this policy.
- F. *External group*: A formal or informal organization of individuals who are not recognized as University of La Verne community members.
- G. *Hybrid group*: A formal or informal organization of individuals which is composed of both individuals recognized as University of La Verne community members and individuals not recognized as University of La Verne community members.
- H. *Substantially disrupt*: Assemblies or other expressive conduct that significantly obstructs or effectively prevents teaching, learning, administration, research, residential, or other essential University activities by any means, including but not limited to threats or intimidation, or physical obstruction by body or object or other violent acts.

IV. POLICY

- A. Members of the University of La Verne community, including students, faculty, and staff are free to support causes and gather to the extent that any protest or demonstration:
 - 1. Is peaceful, safe, and does not involve, advocate or incite violence;
 - 2. Complies with safety rules and procedures in existing policies or as otherwise required by the University;
 - 3. Complies with conduct requirements set out in the Student Code of Conduct, Employee Handbook, and any other University policies, as applicable;
 - 4. Does not incite, threaten, result in damage to or destruction of property, or physical harm to individuals;
 - 5. Does not constitute a violation of the law or other applicable legal requirements;
 - 6. Does not interfere with or obstruct the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or the entry or exit from University buildings or offices;
 - 7. Does not substantially disrupt the operations or educational activities of the University;
 - 8. Does not create excessive noise or otherwise substantially disrupt the quiet enjoyment of residents in private residential spaces;
 - 9. Does not result in discrimination against, retaliation, bullying or harassment of individuals as described in University Policies or infringe on the rights of other members of the University of La Verne community relating to privacy, access, safety, and any other rights described in other University policies.
 - 10. Individuals or groups failing to abide by University policies will be referred to Student Conduct, Human Resources and/or Campus Safety, accordingly.

11. University properties shall be used in accordance with federal, state and local laws and shall not be used for the purpose of organizing or carrying out unlawful activity. All persons on University property are required to abide by University policies and procedures.
- B. In engaging in protests or demonstrations, University of La Verne community members must respect the right of other community members to decline to participate in expressive conduct or to participate in free expression supporting contrary viewpoints. As such, individuals may not:
1. Force materials, including fliers and leaflets, upon unwilling individuals or otherwise distribute materials in a manner that does not allow others to refuse;
 2. Counter protest in a manner that effectively denies another person the ability to exercise any right under this policy or other University policy.

V. PROCEDURES

The purpose of these procedures is to establish clear and consistent steps that are aligned with this policy. Additionally, they aim to foster open, active and respectful communication between the University of La Verne and individuals organizing or leading a protest or assembly. Such collaboration and communication helps to ensure that such events remain safe, peaceful, and productive – and that organizers take an active role in preventing violence and working with the University to de-escalate situations, as needed.

A. Safety Procedures

1. University of La Verne community members wishing to hold a protest or demonstration assembly or other event must obtain authorization in accordance with the Office of University Scheduling & Events policies and procedures, which may be accessed at this link: [Events | University of La Verne](#).
2. The Director of Scheduling and Events will notify the Director of Campus Safety of any such events.
3. All protest or demonstration events must adhere to the following safety requirements, in addition to any specific conditions established prior to the event or any directives given by Campus Safety during the event:
 - a. Event organizers of record must provide Campus Safety their names and contact information during the event, must attend the event, and be present at all times during the event.
 - b. Events may not take place within parking lots, roadways, or inside any University buildings and facilities.
 - c. Events may only take place daily from 8 am to 8 pm. Camping, overnight protests or demonstrations events, or overnight loitering, are prohibited.
 - d. Participants may not wear masking for the purpose of concealing identities.
 - e. No unapproved sound amplification may be used indoors and any sound amplification used outdoors must be reasonable and not violate any laws or University policies (i.e. [University Reservation Policy](#), [Code of Student Conduct](#))
 - f. Any signs or placards may only be made of poster board, cardboard, or other similarly soft and lightweight material and may not be attached to a pole or other object that could be used to inflict harm;
 - g. Signs or placards may be carried, worn on the person, or temporarily affixed by tape or string, but may not be tacked, nailed, or affixed to any structure, including trees, buildings, lamp posts, sculptures, and other campus property in a way that may cause damage;
 - h. Encampments and unauthorized permanent or temporary structures are prohibited;

- i. Following the event, all event material must be removed, including collecting any trash, and the area must be restored to its original state.

B. Role of Campus Safety

1. Campus Safety's primary responsibility during an assembly event is to observe and monitor the event, provide a safe environment and protect campus property from damage and ensure compliance with this policy and any other applicable University policies. Unless there is a clear safety concern, significant disruption, or a pervasive issue requiring immediate attention, Campus Safety will not lead the initial intervention. In such cases, initial outreach will be led by designated University personnel—typically from the Division of Student Affairs—to promote de-escalation and maintain open lines of communication.
2. To promote safety and accountability, campus safety may record video during protests or demonstrations held on campus. This measure is intended to protect all participants and ensure the security of the campus community.
3. The Director of Campus Safety will coordinate pre-event planning with the event organizers and appropriate campus partners including developing an Incident Action Plan (IAP) and outlining communications.
4. As required by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with La Verne Police Department (LVPD), Campus Safety will notify LVPD of any assembly events for purpose of situational awareness.
5. In the event that Campus Safety observes or is made aware of violations of University policy during an assembly or demonstration, Campus Safety will work in coordination with designated University personnel to contact the event organizers or identified leaders. The purpose of this outreach is to provide notice of the concern and work collaboratively to resolve the issue in a manner that supports safety, University values, and continued expressive conduct when possible.
6. If, in the University's reasonable discretion—based on direct observation, credible reports, or consultation with appropriate personnel—a concern cannot be corrected or if participants are unwilling to cooperate in remedying the concern, the University may determine that continued activity is **substantially disrupting**, as defined in this policy. In such cases, the organizers may be instructed to end the event and/or individual participants may be asked to leave the event or area. The University's discretion will be guided by the **nature and impact** of the conduct—such as obstruction of essential activities, threats, or intimidation—not merely by whether the conduct is loud, unpopular, or inconvenient.
7. If, in the University's reasonable discretion—based on direct observation, credible reports, or consultation with appropriate personnel—it is determined that an event poses an immediate or imminent threat to the health or safety of individuals or the destruction of property, the University may instruct participants to leave the area. In such cases, the University may notify law enforcement **only as a last resort—after all other reasonable efforts have been exhausted and safety concerns remain unresolved**. This approach is intended to protect the rights of participants while prioritizing campus safety. Please note that the University does not direct or control how law enforcement may respond.

C. External and Hybrid Group Protest Events

1. External individuals and groups that are not University of La Verne community members may not reserve campus space for the purpose of holding protests or demonstrations on campus.
2. External individuals and groups that are not University of La Verne community members holding protest or demonstration on University of La Verne property will be asked to leave premises. Individuals or groups failing to do so will be issued a trespass notice and will be subject to arrest.

Campus Safety will notify the La Verne Police Department (LVPD) of external individuals or groups holding protests or demonstration on University of La Verne property.

3. Hybrid groups holding protests or demonstration on campus and not abiding by safety procedures under this policy will be viewed as an external individual or group. As such they will be asked to leave the premises. Individuals or groups failing to do so will be issued a trespass notice and will be subject to arrest and as appropriate University administrative action under Code of Student Conduct or Employee Handbook. Campus Safety will notify the La Verne Police Department (LVPD) of external individuals or groups holding protests or demonstration on University of La Verne property.
4. External individuals, as well as the audience at speaker events, are expected to comply with all University policies and procedures, and applicable laws.
5. The University may hold external and hybrid individuals and groups liable for any damage to property, reputation or community members.

History

Approved Aug. 28, 2025