

Policies of the UNT Dallas College of Law	Chapter 7.000
7.308 Freedom of Expression	Student Affairs, Education & Funding

Policy Statement. The UNT Dallas College of Law (COL) recognizes that the freedom to exchange ideas is an essential component of the educational process. Expressive activities promote debate and the sharing of ideas and substantially contribute to the marketplace of ideas that are the foundation of an educational institution. The COL Freedom of Expression Policy is intended to protect the rights of students to engage in the free exchange of ideas while promoting a safe COL learning environment and preventing interference with and material and substantial disruption of COL functions and activities.

Application of Policy. All COL students engaged in expression in COL facilities.

This policy does not apply to areas within the University of North Texas System (UNTS) building at 1901 Main Street that are not specifically reserved for use by the COL and that are nonpublic forums subject to regulation by UNTS facilities guidelines.

This policy does not apply to outdoor public areas adjacent to 1901 Main Street including sidewalks or the Main Street Garden. The adjacent outdoor space is subject to regulation by the City of Dallas.

Definitions.

1. **Expressive activity.** “Expressive activity” means the verbal or symbolic expression of an idea, thought or opinion. Expressive activity does not include speech that is likely to incite or produce imminent lawless action, expression that consists of fighting words or threats of physical harm or expression that is defamatory, obscene or commercial in nature.
2. **Literature.** “Literature” means any printed material that is produced in multiple copies for distribution or publication to an audience, including but not limited to flyers, handbills, leaflets, placards, bulletins, newspapers and magazines. Literature does not include materials sponsored by the COL.
3. **College of Law Facilities.** “College of Law facilities” or “COL facilities” include those areas within the UNTS building (1901 Main Street) that have been specifically provided for use primarily by the COL administration, faculty, staff and students. COL facilities do not include common areas within the UNTS building that are not reserved primarily for use by the COL including the entrance lobby area, elevators and offices and meeting spaces designated for use by the UNTS and the UNTS Board of Regents.

4. **Signs.** "Signs" includes posters, banners, announcements, notices and any similar written material designed to communicate information to the COL community in a timely manner.

Procedures and Responsibilities.

- A. **General Principle.** The COL is a public institution of higher education, with its primary purpose to provide an environment for education and scholarship. COL facilities are reserved primarily to support the educational objectives and mission of the COL.
 1. Except as specifically designated, the COL facility is a non-public forum for purposes of expressive activity.
 2. The COL facility may not be used in ways that would substantially disrupt or materially interfere with COL teaching, administration or programs.
 3. Use of the COL facility by students and/or student organizations will be granted on a non-discriminatory basis ensuring equal opportunity for all members of the COL community.
 2. Unless sponsored by a student organization, COL facilities are not available for use by individuals or groups not affiliated with the COL. Students or student organizations may sponsor expressive activities involving unaffiliated groups or individuals by providing notice of sponsorship to the Dean of Students no fewer than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the date of the planned activity.
- B. **Administration of Freedom of Expression Policy.** The Office of the Dean of Students will be directly responsible for administering this policy. The Dean of Students or a designee will be specifically responsible for:
 1. Designating areas within the COL facility that can be accessed by students and student organizations for the purpose of expressive activity, and for distribution of literature and unattended literature.
 2. Managing requests to schedule COL facilities in accordance with Section D.
 3. Designating general use bulletin boards in accordance with Section G.
 4. All authority to make decisions on behalf of the COL regarding compliance or noncompliance with this policy rests with the Dean of Students. Decisions of the Dean of Students may be appealed as described in Section I of this policy.

Responsible Party: Dean of Students

- C. **Expressive activity in COL facilities.** Expressive activity in COL facilities will not be limited based on content or based on the political, religious or other affiliation of the speaker. Expressive activities are subject to the following time, place and manner restrictions. Expressive activity may not:
1. Materially or substantially interfere with classes in session, other scheduled academic or educational activities, the use of the COL library or with the conduct of COL business;
 2. Obstruct ingress or egress of classrooms, offices or other spaces within the COL;
 3. Use unauthorized sound amplification or create unreasonable noise disruptive of normal COL activities;
 4. Harass, stalk or intimidate individuals within the COL facility;
 5. Violate any federal or state law, including regulations of the State Fire Marshall.

Responsible Party: Dean of Students

- D. **Meetings and Demonstrations.** Students and student organizations may use COL facilities for meetings, demonstrations and other group events in accordance with the time, place and manner restrictions set forth below and as described in Section C.
1. Students and student organizations must schedule the use of facility space for meetings and demonstrations through the Dean of Students at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the planned event.
 2. Meetings and demonstrations will not be scheduled in classrooms when classes are scheduled, in offices, or in reception areas. Facility space will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis in accordance with the following priority:
 - a. Academic classes,
 - b. Academic related activities,
 - c. Activities sponsored by the COL,
 - d. Activities sponsored by a student or a COL student organization.

Responsible Party: Dean of Students

E. **Distribution of literature or any form of written student expression.** Students and student organizations may distribute non-commercial literature or any other form of written expression in areas designated by the Dean of Students in accordance with the limitations described in Section C. Distribution of literature is subject to the following additional time, place and manner restrictions:

1. Physical contact with individuals without their consent is prohibited.
2. Prolonged or repeated contact with an individual who has declined literature is prohibited.
3. Harassment of any kind is prohibited.
4. The name, insignia, seal or logo of the COL, UNT Dallas or the University of North Texas System may not be used on any literature except with written permission from the holder of the specific marks.

Responsible Party: Dean of Students

F. **Unattended Literature.** Unattended literature for general distribution may only be placed in areas designated by the Dean of Students. Students or student groups must notify the Dean of Students prior to placing unattended literature in approved areas. The Dean of Students may dispose of unattended literature placed without advance notice.

Responsible Party: Dean of Students

G. **Posting.** Signs may be posted in COL facilities subject to the following requirements:

1. Bulletin Boards:
 - a. Students may post signs on general use bulletin boards designated for such purposes by the Dean of Students.
 - b. Student organizations may post signs on general use bulletin boards designated for use by student organizations by the Dean of Students.
 - c. Signs posted on bulletin boards may not exceed 8 ½ by 11 inches and must be adhered in a manner that will not damage the bulletin board. Multiple copies of the same posting on the same space are not permitted and postings may not overlap content from previous postings.
 - d. Signs for dated events must be removed within one week after the event or expiration date.
 - e. The Office of the Dean of Students may periodically clear the general use bulletin boards without notice to the posters.

2. Signs may not be posted on any building walls, windows, glass surfaces, elevators, doors or furniture except in those areas where it is customary for faculty and staff to post materials, such as on office doors.
3. Signs on easels may be posted on the day of an event.

Responsible Party: Dean of Students

- H. **Political Programs and Activities.** Subject to the requirements of Section C of this policy, student organizations may sponsor a political candidate for speaking engagements only, and not for purposes of political fundraising activities or solicitation of funds. COL facilities may not be used for purposes of partisan political programs, receptions, fundraising events or similar activities.

Responsible Party: Dean of Students

- I. **Appeals.** Any COL decision related to the implementation of this policy may be appealed to the Dean of the College of Law by filing a notice of appeal within three (3) days of the decision. Appeals must be in writing and must include all relevant information and documentation relating to the appeal. The Dean of the College of Law will review the appeal and issue a decision in writing with in five (5) business days. The Dean's decision will be final.

Responsible Party: Dean of the College of Law

References and Cross-references.

None.

Approved: 07/07/14

Effective: 07/07/14

Revised: