

EXERCISING FREE SPEECH AT TU

Remember the 5 **BEs**



TU TOWSON UNIVERSITY | Tiger Advocacy Advisory Team



FAQ

What is TU's position on free speech?

TU values freedom of expression and the open exchange of ideas. With certain exceptions, such as threats of physical violence or imminent lawless action, free speech is protected by the First Amendment. As a public institution, TU may not limit speech, however offensive or disagreeable, based solely on the content or the views being expressed. It is important to understand that observation of another's rights does not mean TU agrees with or supports the speaker's message.

Why are outside groups permitted to be on campus?

TU generally allows unaffiliated groups to be on campus so long as they reserve available space in advance consistent with TU's time, place, and manner policy. Unaffiliated groups not sponsored by a TU organization reserve space directly through Events & Conference Services, which allocates space in a content neutral manner based on space availability.

What is the role of the TU Police Department?

TUPD's role is to uphold the rights and to protect the safety of the members of the TU Community and the speakers. Individuals may peacefully protest another's expressive activity, but any such protest cannot infringe upon the rights of the speaker and must be in compliance with the law.

What can I do to exercise my First Amendment rights?

You may get involved in student organizations that have varying view points and peacefully counter-protest speech with which you disagree so long as it doesn't infringe on others' right to hear the speaker. Counter-protesters also may not: engage in physically threatening conduct or violence, disrupt University operations, destroy property, interfere with the flow of traffic, use amplification devices greater than 95 decibels, or carry signs or similar items attached to rigid sticks or poles, or other potentially dangerous materials. If you carry a sign or similar item, please make sure they are made of soft material such as cardboard or cloth.



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