

Chatham University  
Public Demonstration Guidelines  
May 2014

In that the rights of free speech and lawful assembly are fundamental to the democratic process, the University supports the rights of Chatham faculty, staff, students and alumni members to protest against actions and opinion with which they disagree on. The University also recognizes a concurrent obligation to maintain upon the University campus an atmosphere conducive to academic work and freedom, to preservation of the dignity of University ceremonies and public exercises, and to respect the rights of all individuals.

Upon approval, an orderly demonstration may be planned and executed on private Chatham University premises. A demonstration is approved by the administration under the auspices that the activity does not interfere materially with the educational processes or endangers the safety of the academic community. Said demonstration must not limit, interfere with or infringe upon the equal rights of others to express their conviction, to safe counter-demonstrations or to participate in the activities or programs being demonstrated against.

The University expects all members of the community to comply with the following guidelines. Participants in the demonstration shall:

- Maintain the group protest within the area established for the demonstration on Chatham's quad in the grassy area between Café Rachel and the Jennie King Mellon Library.
- Assure and maintain reasonable and free access to and exit from any University office, building, or other premise.
- Avoid disruption of or interference with classes, educational activities, or any events sponsored by any University office or official, faculty group or student group.
- Not utilize or threaten physical force, physical harassment or physical obstruction.
- Not utilize or throw materials, particularly rocks, sharp stakes, projectiles, etc. which could be used to intimidate or harm.
- Avoid language or actions likely to provoke or encourage physical violence by demonstrators, those demonstrating against or spectators.
- Avoid the public use of language, which is unreasonable and persistently abusive or obscene.

At any demonstration, the appropriate administrator shall make judgment as to whether the guidelines are being observed at the scene. If the administrator at the scene of any demonstration judges that one or more of the guidelines are being breached, he/she will request the participants to modify their conduct so as to comply with the guidelines, indicating the nature of the adjusted breach of the guidelines and the requested corrective action. All demonstrators, those demonstrated against, and spectators shall comply immediately.

All Chatham University activities occur under a covenant of Good Faith. Administrators may find it necessary to terminate an activity due to forces of nature, medical necessities, or problems in the group; and /or refuse or terminate the participation of any person you judge to be incapable of meeting the rigors or requirements of participating in the activity. Participants accept administrators' right to take such actions for the safety of participants. Participants acknowledge that no guarantees have been made with respect to activity objectives.

*Parts of this policy were adapted with permission from Alfred University Public Demonstration Policy.*