

# COMMENCEMENT 2015

Commencement has been moved to the World Arena. More information.

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## COLORADO COLLEGE

### COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES

#### Freedom of Expression

As a private institution, Colorado College is a voluntary association of persons invited to membership with the understanding that they will respect the principles that govern the college. Freedom of thought and expression is essential to any institution of higher learning. Uncensored speech — which does not include a right to harass, injure, or silence others — is essential in an academic community and will be vigorously defended. Members of the college community should understand that standards of civility, consideration, and tolerance must shape our interactions with each other. Infringing on the expression of views, either by interfering with a speaker or by defacing or removing properly posted or distributed notices or materials, will not be tolerated. Reasoned dissent is welcome at Colorado College. Disruption of college activities is not, and such behavior will not be tolerated. Members of the community are free to support causes by orderly means that do not disrupt the regular operation of the college community.

#### RELATED EXHIBITS AND FORMS

- None

#### RELATED POLICIES

- None

#### Contact:

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[policies](#)

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#### IN THIS DOCUMENT:

**Responsible office:** Dean of the College  
**Responsible party:** Dean of the college; Vice president for student life/Dean of students  
**Last revision:** August 2013  
**Approved by:** The Cabinet  
**Approval date:** August 2013  
**Effective date:** August 2013  
**Additional references:** : Higher Education Opportunity Act Section 104 (Protection of Student Speech and Association Rights)

- **Scope**
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## SCOPE

All financial and administrative policies involving community members across campus are within the scope of this policy. If there is variance between departmental expectations and the common approach described through college policy, the college will look to the campus community to support the spirit and the objectives of college policy.

## POLICY

### Authorities delegated and retained/administrative responsibility [back to top](#)

The president of the college delegates administration of the college's Freedom of Expression Policy to the Dean of the College, the Vice President for Student Life/Dean of Students and the AVP of Institutional Planning & Effectiveness.

### Methods of expression [back to top](#)

Individual members of the college community speak only for themselves in their public expressions and/or demonstrations. The Office of Communications coordinates institutional responses to the media.

#### (a) Written materials:

Students, faculty, and staff are welcome to distribute literature where it will not interfere with classes or other college functions. Protesters may neither impede nor harass people wishing to attend an event, or to see or hear a speaker. Disruption, force, or threat of force are not acceptable forms of protest at Colorado College. The college may call on local law-enforcement agencies and may choose to impose the college's

disciplinary sanctions on members of the college community who violate college policy.

(b) Demonstrations:

Demonstrations by members of the campus community may occur on campus, but must not disrupt the regular operation of the college. Given that, the college reserves the right to control the time, place, and manner of events that occur on campus. The college does not seek to censor the expression of ideas, but rather to maintain campus safety and order. Protestors may be assigned to particular places on campus by campus safety officers.

## Guidelines for Freedom of Expression [back to top](#)

So that campus community members can exercise freedom of expression in a manner that does not disrupt our operations or distract from pursuit of our mission, the college establishes reasonable guidelines on the time, place and manner of speeches, demonstrations, distribution of written material (see definition below), marches, and other means of expression. These guidelines are not intended to minimize expression: rather, they are intended to provide an environment that:

- remains conducive to learning;
- is secure for individuals exercising freedom of expression;
- balances the freedom of some to express themselves with the rights of others.

<b>Pre-approval by student life required</b>	<b>Prohibited</b>
Events which may obstruct vehicular, pedestrian or other traffic must be approved at least 48 hours in advance. Time, place, and manner of the expression are considered during the approval process.	Obstruction of entrances or exits of buildings
Use of sound	Interference with college activities

amplification on campus	inside or outside of buildings.
Speeches, demonstrations, marches	Impediment of passersby or other disruptions of normal activities.
Camping and temporary structures (tents, etc.)	Interference with scheduled college ceremonies, events or activities.
	Affixing of items to any permanent structure (fences, trees, etc.)
	Malicious or unwarranted damage or destruction of property owned or operated by the college, or property belonging to students, faculty, staff or guests of the college.

## Controversial events and speakers

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The scheduling of a speaker or event known or considered to provoke public controversy requires adequate advance notice — usually four weeks. In addition, the sponsor must consult regarding the logistical arrangements with the dean of the college for a departmental- or employee-sponsored event, or with the vice president of student life for a student- or student-organization sponsored event.

### PROCEDURES

None

### DEFINITIONS

#### Written materials

Include but are not limited to non-commercial pamphlets, handbills, circulars, newspapers, and magazines.

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