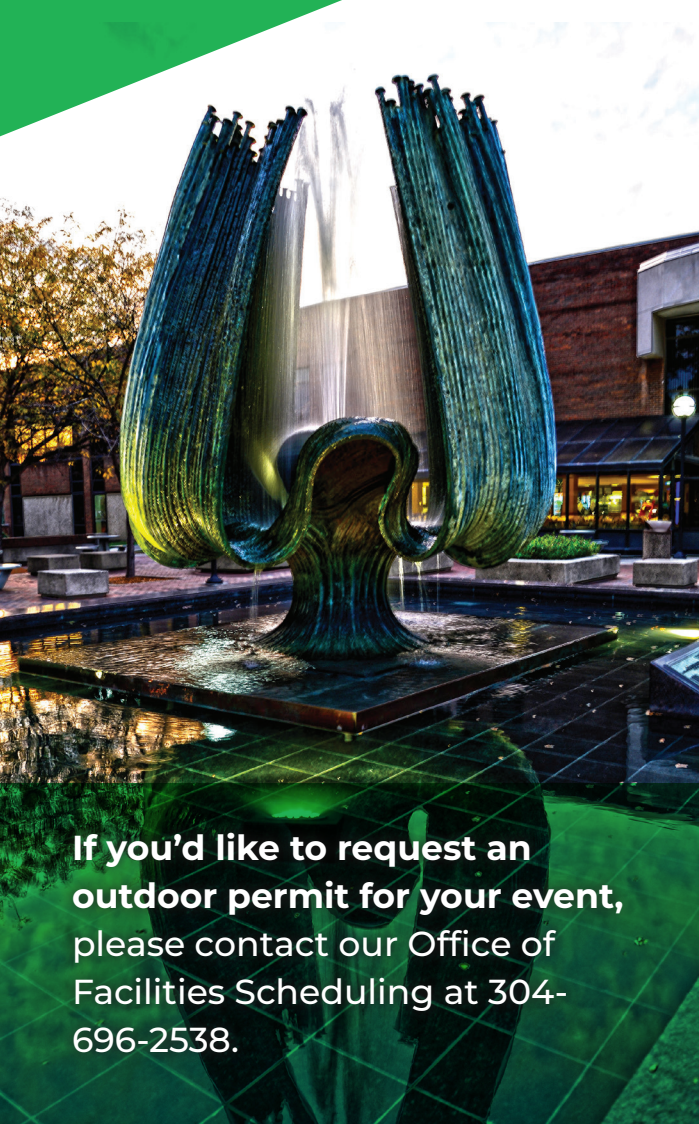


# WE ARE... OPEN TO ALL.



If you'd like to request an outdoor permit for your event, please contact our Office of Facilities Scheduling at 304-696-2538.

## CAMPUS RESOURCES

Autism Training Center | 304-696-2332

Intercultural & Student Affairs | 304-696-6422

HELP Program | 304-696-6256

Office of Student Advocacy & Accountability  
304-696-2495

Violence Prevention & Response Program  
304-696-5701

Office of Accessibility and Accommodations  
304-696-2467

Office of Military and Veteran Affairs | 304-696-5278

The Counseling Center | 304-696-3111

Student Health Services | 304-696-1100

The Wellness Center | 304-696-4103

Women's & Gender Center | 304-696-3338

LGBTQ+ Office | 304-696-6623

Center for African American Students | 304-696-2298

Title IX Office | 304-696-2934

Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy  
304-696-2801



Marshall University

**Division of Intercultural & Student Affairs  
Student Advocacy & Accountability**

One John Marshall Drive  
Huntington, WV 25755  
304-696-6422  
studentaffairs@marshall.edu  
marshall.edu



# YOUR SPEECH, YOUR CAMPUS.

A COMMUNITY GUIDE FOR  
FREEDOM OF SPEECH



**STUDENT ADVOCACY  
& ACCOUNTABILITY**

When you first arrived on campus, there was quite a bit of emphasis on learning and expanding your worldview. Yet, what good is all that knowledge if you don't put it into action to change the world?

Two of the most immediate steps you can take towards that end are to educate others on important issues and to request action from decision makers.

The right to free speech makes these pursuits possible and offers countless vehicles for this exchange of ideas. But what exactly is "free speech" and how can we leverage it to achieve these goals? What are the restrictions on speech? When and how can we gather with others who share our message?

## FREE SPEECH 101

We hear about "free speech" quite frequently, so here are a few basic principles to know:

- Generally, "free speech" refers to one of the liberties afforded by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The First Amendment prohibits the government from infringing upon:
  - Freedom of religion
  - Freedom of speech
  - Freedom of the press
  - The right to peacefully assemble
  - The right to petition the government
- Protected speech generally includes the oral or written exchange of ideas, and particularly those that have some type of political, scientific, literary or artistic value.
- Some types of conduct are also protected where the conduct sends a message. For example, the government cannot create a law that prohibits burning the flag as a form of protest (but might be able to limit this conduct in other ways).
- Freedom of speech also includes the right not to speak (e.g. declining to recite the Pledge of Allegiance).

**Marshall University values the free exchange of ideas and the right of its students to speak out on important issues. We want to do our best to offer students the necessary space to express their views and assemble with others to promote a worthy cause, while also maintaining a safe environment that respects the dignity of all people.**

## WHAT IS PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY?

Peaceful assembly is defined as any purposeful gathering on campus, in or outside of a University building/facility whose manner is peaceful and in accordance with the law.

**Peaceful assembly includes:**

- Debates
- Demonstrations
- Marches
- Meetings
- Protests
- Rallies
- Sit-ins
- Speeches
- Vigils

## PLANNING AHEAD

- The person/organization initiating assemblies on Marshall University campus are recommended to identify their group affiliation and state their purposes to the appropriate personnel in advance for safety and security of all University community members;
- Areas may be reserved, if available, to accommodate the desired assembly;
- Staff assistance is available for the planning of any of the events mentioned in this publication;
- The person/organization sponsoring the assembly is responsible for maintaining the University policies on peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

## PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS SHOULD NOT

- Threaten or violate University policies;
- Interfere with University business, schedules or events;
- Infringe on the rights of others;
- Endanger the health/safety of others;
- Damage or destroy property.



**If you suspect a particular event is not meeting these guidelines, we ask that you notify Marshall University Police Department by calling 304-696-4357 (HELP).**

## YOUR STUDENT RIGHTS

- Be informed of academic and community standards as well expectations and requirements;
- Participate in free and open discussion, both in and outside of the classroom, while also keeping in mind the communal impact of such discussions;
- Assemble and select speakers/guests to discuss topics of their choice with forum and demeanor that provides educational opportunities for dialogue;
- Peacefully protest, assemble, rally, sit-in and engage in demonstrations in diverse manners including collective action, symbolism and online demonstrations.

