



NO. 1018 FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUS

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT.

Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) is committed to protecting free speech rights on campus. OCCC encourages the free exchange of ideas and opinions so long as such exchange does not disrupt OCCC's educational mission or infringe upon the free speech rights of others. OCCC has created policies for the use of OCCC facilities by current OCCC students and OCCC registered student organizations in good standing as well as the use of OCCC facilities for non-OCCC purposes.

- 1.1 Use of OCCC grounds or facilities shall only be allowed when such use does not violate any applicable federal law, state law, local law, or OCCC policies, such as, but are not limited to OCCC Policy 1011 (Diversity and Civility), OCCC Policy 1012 (Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination), OCCC Policy 1016 (Weapon-Free Environment), and OCCC Policy 5076 (Student Conduct Code).
- 1.2 The use shall not disrupt OCCC's educational mission, interfere with previously scheduled OCCC events or programs, or infringe upon the free speech rights of others.
- 1.3 The use shall not disrupt vehicular or pedestrian traffic, and the use shall not block the entrances to any OCCC facility.
- 1.4 The use of OCCC grounds and facilities is subject to OCCC Policy No. 3062 Facilities and Equipment Use and Rental, as applicable.
- 1.5 OCCC Policy No. 5005 Display and Distribution of Information stands as a separate policy from OCCC Policy No. 1018. Neither policy supersedes the other.
- 1.6 Any individual and/or group/organization who damages or destroys OCCC properties (indoor or outdoor), including, building amenities and/or equipment, campus lawns, or shrubs and trees, shall be held responsible for such damage or destruction and may be restricted from future use.
- 1.7 OCCC may reject any request for the use of OCCC grounds or facilities, in whole or in part, for any lawful reason or offer relocation to an area with comparable student visibility and foot traffic.

2.0 USE OF OCCC FACILITIES BY OCCC STUDENTS AND OCCC REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

2.1 Outdoor Facilities

Certain outdoor areas of the OCCC campus may be used by current OCCC students or OCCC registered student organizations in good standing at no charge for free speech, protests, leafleting, etc. on a first-come, first-served and content neutral basis. These outdoor areas may only be used during Operational Hours and Special Event Hours. For purposes of this policy, "Operational Hours" means the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, excluding state holidays and OCCC closures.¹ For purposes of this policy, "Special Event Hours" means thirty (30) minutes before an On-campus Special Event begins until thirty (30) minutes after the On-campus Special Event ends. For purposes of this policy, "On-campus Special Event" means an event sponsored or hosted by OCCC on the main campus outside of Operational Hours.



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- 2.1.1 The following outdoor areas may be used by current OCCC students or OCCC registered student organizations in good standing:
- 2.1.1.1 The Courtyard between the Main Building and the Library; The Courtyard between the Main Building and the Visual Performing Arts Center;
 - 2.1.1.2 The Park, located north and west of the Visual Performing Arts Center, on the opposite side of Faculty Circle; and
 - 2.1.1.3 Other generally accessible outside areas of campus where members of the campus community are commonly allowed, such as grassy areas, walkways or other similar common areas (does not include outdoor areas where access is restricted from a majority of the campus community). “Campus Community” means OCCC students, administrators, faculty, staff, stakeholders, and their invited guests.

- 2.1.2 Current OCCC students are not required to notify OCCC prior to using the outdoor areas specified in 2.1.1. However, such notification is preferred and requested for the following reasons:

- 2.1.2.1 To ensure the event is not in a time, place, or manner conflict with other requests,
- 2.1.2.2 To ensure the space capacity can accommodate the request, and
- 2.1.2.3 To ensure that the event will not disrupt the pursuit of achieving OCCC’s educational mission.

Current OCCC students must request permission from OCCC at least three (3) business days prior to setting up structures and/or sound systems or amplification. For purposes of this policy, “Business Day” means Monday through Friday excluding state holidays and OCCC closures. Notifications of use by and set up requests by current OCCC students should be directed to <http://www.occc.edu/requests>.

- 2.1.3 OCCC registered student organizations, in good standing, must request the use of these outdoor areas by contacting the Office of Student Life at 405-682-7523. OCCC registered student organizations in good standing must request permission from the Office of Student Life at least five (5) business days, as defined in 2.1.2, prior to setting up structures, signage, tables, and/or sound systems or amplification. Notifications of use by and set up requests by OCCC registered student organizations in good standing should be directed to the Office of Student Life at 405-682-7523.

2.2 Indoor Facilities

Certain indoor facilities are available for current OCCC students or registered OCCC registered student organizations in good standing to use at no charge with an approved reservation.

- 2.2.1 These indoor facilities include, but are not limited to:
- 2.2.1.1 Bruce Owen Theater and/or Bruce Owen Theater Lobby;
 - 2.2.1.2 Classrooms (various, as available);
 - 2.2.1.3 General Dining Area Walkway (between Coffee Shop and General Dining Area);
 - 2.2.1.4 General Dining Area (adjacent to cafeteria);
Library, Room 407;



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- 2.2.1.5 Main Building Lobby area (Between Admissions, Records, and Graduation Counter and Bookstore);
- 2.2.1.6 Main Building Lobby area (near Coffee Shop);
- 2.2.1.7 Visual and Performing Arts Center Atrium;
- 2.2.1.8 Visual and Performing Arts Center, room 124; and
- 2.2.1.9 Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater.
- 2.2.2 Reservations of the indoor facilities for use by current OCCC students should be directed to <http://www.occc.edu/requests>.
- 2.2.3 Reservations of the indoor facilities for use by registered OCCC registered student organizations in good standing should be directed to the Office of Student Life at 405-682-7523.
- 2.3 Fronting Prohibited

“Fronting” is defined as permitting an outside entity to use OCCC space or facilities under the guise that the activity is an OCCC student or OCCC registered student organization activity in order to avoid rental fees. OCCC students and OCCC registered student organizations shall not front outside entities. Violation of this policy may result in student misconduct allegations for the individuals involved and the specific student organization as well.

3.0 **USE OF OCCC FACILITIES BY THE PUBLIC.**

OCCC has developed procedures to allow the appropriate use of its facilities when not needed for its educational mission. OCCC expressly disclaims any intention of opening any of its facilities or property as a public forum except as otherwise provided by law.

- 3.1 The outdoor areas listed in Paragraph 2.1 are available for use by the public at no charge for free speech, protests, leafleting, etc. on a first-come, first-served content neutral basis. Notification to OCCC is not required, however, such notification is preferred and requested for the following reasons:
 - 3.1.1 To ensure the event is not in a time, place, or manner conflict with other requests,
 - 3.1.2 To ensure the space capacity can accommodate the request, and
 - 3.1.3 To ensure that the event will not disrupt the pursuit of achieving OCCC’s educational mission.

Members of the public shall provide OCCC with at least five (5) Business Days (defined above in 2.1.2) notice in advance prior to setting up structures and/or sound systems or amplification. Reservations for use of these outdoor areas by the public should be directed to <http://www.occc.edu/requests>. All other restrictions outlined in Paragraph 2.1 apply to such uses of these outdoor areas by the public. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served and content neutral basis.

- 3.2 The use by the public of indoor facilities listed in Paragraph 2.2 may be subject to rental fees. Reservations of indoor facilities by the public should be made with as much advance notice as possible to OCCC to allow for execution of contracts, provision of insurance requirements, and other steps prior to the event; reservations may be rejected if insufficient time exists to complete these steps.



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Reservations of indoor facilities for use by the public should be directed to <http://www.occc.edu/requests> . After a request is made, OCCC will contact the requestor with pricing, contracts, and other requirements for the use of OCCC facilities.

4.0 **OCCC POLICE AUTHORITY.**

OCCC is committed to providing a safe environment for its community. The OCCC Police Department may, at its discretion, provide security at any event on campus.

4.1 The OCCC Police Department is authorized to immediately cancel any campus event if, in its judgement, an unacceptable level or risk of harm or disturbance, damage, or injury to any facilities, property, participants, or spectators exists.

4.2 The OCCC Police Department is authorized to remove any individual(s) from an event who is disrupting OCCC's educational mission, interfering with previously scheduled OCCC events or programs, or is otherwise infringing upon the free speech rights of others.

Related Policy: No. 3062, Facilities and Equipment Use and Rental

Effective: February 6, 2019

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