



# COLLEGE POLICY

<b>Policy Title</b>	<b>Public Assembly Policy</b>
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<b>Policy number</b>	2504
<b>Date issued</b>	
<b>Responsible office(s)</b>	Finance and Administration
<b>Keywords</b>	Expressive activity; Public assembly area; True threats

## Policy purpose

Madison College recognizes the rights set forth in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. The property and facilities of Madison College are dedicated primarily to the academic, co-curricular and administrative functions necessarily involved with Madison College’s mission, vision, and values statements. In order to accomplish this, while also recognizing First Amendment rights, Madison College will place reasonable, content-neutral limitations on the time, place and manner in which individuals can express ideas and assemble on Madison College’s owned or controlled property.

## Scope

This policy applies to any members of the public, students, employees, and the college community at large as defined in this policy. Student information may be found in the student handbook and student code of conduct. Employee information may be found in the employee handbook.

This policy is considered an addendum to the Madison College Facility Use Guidelines policy and the Madison College Facility Use - Political Events policy.

## Definitions

1. “Assembly” – a gathering of persons for the purpose of expressing, promoting, pursuing or defending ideas.
2. “Campus” – all property and facilities owned or controlled by Madison College.
3. “Employees” – all individuals currently employed by Madison College.
4. “Expressive Activity” – demonstrations, picketing, vigils, rallies, or performances. For purposes of this policy, Expressive Activity does not include social, random, or other everyday communications.
5. “Fighting Words” – Communication which, when addressed to a reasonable person, is inherently likely to provoke a violent reaction.
6. “Public Assembly Area(s)” – the specific indoor and outdoor portion(s) of Campus designated by Madison College for Assembly and Expressive Activity.
7. No-public assembly area – secured areas considered off-limits to the general public.
8. “Student” – all persons currently enrolled in at least one (1) course at Madison College.
9. “True Threats” – statements where the speaker communicates a serious expression of an intent to commit an act of unlawful violence to a particular individual or group of individuals, regardless of whether the speaker has the ability to carry out the threat. True Threats do not include political hyperbole, jest, innocuous talk, expressions of political views, or other similar expressions.

## Policy

Madison College hereby designates the locations identified in Attachment A as Public Assembly Areas. These areas provide increased visibility to those using the Public Assembly Areas for Assembly and/or Expressive Activity without probable disruption of Madison College's academic, co-curricular, and administrative responsibilities.

The Public Assembly Areas will be available for use during normal Madison College business hours (each campus may differ). Persons may request other areas if the designated Public Assembly Areas are already occupied. Madison College will consider any such requests on a case-by-case basis to determine whether another area is available and appropriate in light of all relevant considerations, including safety and security, educational activities, etc. Madison College reserves the right to be the sole decision-maker on this matter.

Students, Employees, or external third parties must reserve Public Assembly Areas prior to anticipated use (see [Madison College Facility Use Guidelines](#)). Questions can be directed to 608-246-6338.

Priority for the use of all Public Assembly Areas will be given to individuals or groups who reserved the Public Assembly Areas with Madison College.

The following restrictions apply to the manner of use of any Public Assembly Area:

1. Interference with the free flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic within Campus or the entrances or exits of any buildings on Campus is not permitted.
2. Interference with the orderly conduct of classes or other Madison College-approved activities, including ceremonies or events, is not permitted.
3. Use of Fighting Words, True Threats, other unprotected expression or activity, discriminatory harassment, sexual harassment, or violation of state or federal law while using or occupying any Public Assembly Area is not permitted.
4. Use of amplified sound within any Public Assembly Area must be intended to be heard only in the immediate vicinity of the Public Assembly Area in order to minimize any disruption to the central academic mission of Madison College. Volume at lower levels may be restricted when necessary to prevent interference with any academic or other program taking place in Campus areas nearby the applicable Public Assembly Area.
5. Damage or destruction of property owned or operated by Madison College or property belonging to Students, Employees or Guests of Madison College is prohibited. Persons or organizations causing any such damage may be held financially and/or criminally responsible.
6. All Public Assembly Areas must be left clean and in good repair after use. Persons or organizations failing to comply may be held financially responsible for any resultant cleanup or repair costs.

### **Bulletin Boards**

1. Internal events, recognized clubs, and other sponsored activities can post flyers, signage, and other physical communications on bulletin boards located throughout Madison College-owned and leased properties.
2. College-sponsored clubs need to go through student life.
3. Other events and activities go through the program or department.

### **Tables**

1. Internal events, recognized clubs, and other sponsored activities can only use tables in Public Assembly Areas and common areas. The process is included in the Facilities Use Guidelines.
2. Recognized clubs need to go through Student Life.
3. Other events and activities go through the program or department with oversight by Event Services.

## **Enforcement**

Please refer to the Madison College Facility Use Guidelines for information on how to reserve space. Non-compliance with this policy may result in denial of access to assemble on properties owned or controlled by Madison College, or immediate termination of Expressive Activity and removal from Madison College's owned or controlled property.

## **Sidewalks**

Sidewalks surrounding any property, adjacent to a public road, and owned or controlled by Madison College are considered property of the city in which the campus presides. Expressive Activities can be held on the sidewalk without abiding by this policy; however, the Expressive Activity cannot obstruct sidewalk usage by members of the Madison College community or the general public.

## **Links to state/federal regulations**

## **Supporting documents**

### **ATTACHMENT A - Internal and External Public Assembly Areas**

<b>Truax Main Building</b>		
	Mitby Theater	Redsten Gym
	Gateway	Cafeteria Atrium
	Rooms D1630 A-C	Wolfpack Den
<b>External Spaces:</b>		
	South Patio	Lussier Plaza
	Parking Lot	
<b>Health Education &amp; BioTech Building</b>		
	Grand Stairwell Lobby	
<b>Human &amp; Protective Services</b>		
	Main Stairwell Lobby	
	Student Lounge	
<b>Commercial Avenue</b>		
	Student Lounge (Building A)	
<b>Goodman South</b>		
	Main Lobby	Community Rooms (201, 203, 205, 207)
	West Patio	
<b>EVOC</b>		
	Skid Pad	
<b>Fort Atkinson</b>		
	Main Lobby	
<b>Portage</b>		
	Main Lobby	
<b>Reedsburg</b>		
	Main Lobby	
<b>Watertown</b>		
	Main Lobby	Rooms 142, 144

## **Related policies**

- [Madison College Facility Use Guidelines](#)