

AURORA UNIVERSITY

Campus Demonstration Policy

Effective: August 27, 2026

Approval: August 7, 2026

A. POLICY STATEMENT

Freedom of inquiry and expression are central to Aurora's educational mission as an inclusive community dedicated to the transformative power of learning. The University has incorporated these central Mission commitments into the following Policy regarding demonstrations, as further defined below.

It is the policy of Aurora University that campus community members, including University representatives, faculty, staff, Registered Student Organizations ("RSOs"), alumni, and affiliates of the University, may express positions and viewpoints through peaceful demonstration, subject to the following standards and to other relevant University statements such as the *Statement on Free Expression and Civil Discourse* and *Invited Speaker Policy*. Approval of an application to demonstrate on campus or to use University electronic meeting capabilities for purposes of demonstrating does not constitute approval or endorsement by the University of the positions or viewpoint(s) expressed during the demonstration or by participants.

Individuals participating in or observing a demonstration share a responsibility to welcome and promote the freedoms of inquiry and expression underlying peaceful demonstrations and must maintain an atmosphere conducive to scholarly, creative, and educational pursuit. This includes respecting the rights of other community members to hold and articulate opinions different from one's own. To balance and promote these interests while also ensuring the safe and effective operation of the University, this Policy establishes below the parameters of peaceful demonstration at Aurora University, including reasonable time, place, and manner limitations. These limitations seek to prevent interference with the normal functions of the University, disruption of the student learning experience, and risks to the health and safety of the campus community. With defined exceptions, individuals seeking permission to demonstrate must therefore seek and obtain prior approval.

The University serves as the final decision-maker regarding approval of demonstration requests subject to this Policy (as further set forth in Sections B-F below). Decisions will be made in a manner consistent with applicable federal, state, and local law and with the University's *Mission Vision, and Values*.

B. SCOPE, EXCEPTIONS, AND RELATED POLICIES

This Policy applies to requests by all members of the Aurora University community, including all University representatives such as Trustees; University officials and staff; faculty; and volunteers. It also applies to students; alumni; invited guests and visitors; and anyone else affiliated in any respect with Aurora University. Defined provisions of this Policy also apply to

members of the public who enter campus or seek to access University electronic meeting capabilities for purposes of participating in or observing demonstrations.

Other Relevant Definitions and Terms:

1. **Demonstration:** For purposes of this Policy, “demonstration” is a broad term that includes any public speech or communication or expression of views or grievances, engaged in by one or more persons, the conduct of which has the effect, intent, or propensity to draw a crowd of onlookers, occurring (a) on or adjacent to University property; (b) through any modality using University electronic meeting capabilities; or (b) at University-sponsored events off campus. All references below to “demonstration” or “counter-demonstration” include not only in-person demonstrations but also demonstrations conducted through any modality using University electronic meeting capabilities.

Examples of demonstrations subject to this Policy include but are not limited to picketing, protests, counter-protests, rallies, parades, marches, teach-ins, or sit-ins, including both activities limited to Aurora community members and also activities that are open to the general public. Demonstrations that occur at recognized locations of the University other than the main campus will also be subject to any applicable policies of the recognized location.

2. **Events that are Exempt Under this Policy:** Demonstrations that are exempted from this Policy include:
 - a. Academic, scholarly, or research events that meet the following criteria: (i) classroom or course-related academic events, including those in which an external invited speaker or guest might be invited, which are instead subject to the *Faculty Handbook*; (ii) small-scale academic events such as research seminars or academic talks for scholars in related fields; or (iii) any other activities authorized by Academic Affairs. Classroom or course-related academic events that are intended or have the potential to become campus-wide events should be brought to the attention of Academic Affairs prior to the event, as set forth in the *Faculty Handbook*.
 - b. Private or by-invitation programs, meetings, or events that are not open to the general public and are authorized or convened by University leadership.
 - c. Meetings, rallies, or events organized for the benefit of students, employees, or invited guests by University officials acting within the scope of their duties, including events organized by residence life, athletics, student life, or administrative staff. This exception includes, but is not limited to, admissions events, student orientation events, public performances sponsored by the University on or off campus, pep rallies, and officially sanctioned athletics events. Invitations or events, regardless of modality, that are organized by Registered Student Organizations do not fall within this exemption and, depending upon the nature of the event, may be subject to this Policy and/or the *Invited Speaker Policy*.

- d. Speaker events involving currently-serving elected or appointed public government officials or candidates for office, including events in which government officials or candidates speak or lead a demonstration on campus or through any modality using University electronic meeting capabilities, are subject to the approval requirements set forth in the *Invited Speaker Policy* as well as enhanced notification and approval requirement as set forth in Section D below.
3. **University Officials:** Individuals employed by the University in an administrative and supervisory capacity with authority to implement and enforce this University policy. This includes members of the President's Cabinet; Deans, Associate Deans, and Program Directors; personnel within Campus Public Safety; personnel within the Office of People and Culture; and any others designated by the President or other leadership to exercise responsibility under this Policy.
4. **Direction to Cease Assembling/Demonstrating:** Community members must immediately cease assembling, including demonstrating, on University property or through any modality using University electronic meeting capabilities, when directed by a University Official or by law enforcement.

The scope and provisions of this Policy will be interpreted and applied consistent with the provisions of other related policies and procedures of the University. Related Policies and Statements, with links to the versions of those materials currently in effect, are set forth in Section G below.

C. TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER REGULATIONS

The goals of the time, place, and manner regulations governing approval under this Policy are to:

- Ensure the physical safety of community members, as well as comply with applicable policies and other rules governing the use of University facilities;
- Protect the rights of demonstrators, speakers, all members of the University community, and the public;
- Continue the normal functioning of University operations;
- Affirm that community members and third parties must comply with direction from Campus Public Safety, University officials, and law enforcement during demonstrations.

Specifics about timing and location requirements for demonstrations, as well as timelines for application and approval, will be provided by the Office of the Dean of Students upon receipt of a demonstration approval request; please contact the Dean of Students office at dos@aurora.edu to initiate the process. These requirements must be strictly observed by all individuals seeking approval for or participating in a demonstration.

In addition, all applicants for demonstration and all participants or observers must be prepared to honor the following fundamental requirements, which relate to the *manner* of demonstration on campus:

1. No aspect of demonstrations taking place on the University campus or through any modality using University electronic meeting capabilities may ever violate or conflict with University policies or the law, including prohibitions against discrimination, harassment, defamation, slander, or incitement to violence. A single individual or group of individuals does not have the right to prevent the public expressions of others (e.g., by preventing a speaker from being heard or by interrupting an admissions tour, athletics event, or other event through a “pop-up demonstration”), *provided that* University representatives may intervene appropriately to ensure compliance with this Policy, other University policies, or applicable law.
2. Demonstrations may never threaten or jeopardize anyone’s reasonable expectations of privacy or physical safety, including through use of concealed cameras, recording devices, weapons, flames, pyrotechnics, extremely large or heavy signs, or other items capable of causing or reasonably perceived as threatening injury or privacy violation to others.
3. Demonstrations may never prevent, disrupt, or interfere with the normal academic, administrative, or programmatic operations of the University. Prohibitions include without limitation:
 - a. Disrupting any University function, whether academic, administrative, athletic, medical, or otherwise;
 - b. Disrupting the functioning of any University residence, dining hall, eating establishment, campus store, or other ancillary operations;
 - c. Preventing any employee from carrying out their job duties or any student from accessing classes, programs, or services or participating in any University program, service, or activity;
 - d. Defacing or destroying University property, including through vandalism or posting of any material in violation of the University’s *Campus Postings Policy*;
 - e. Using amplification equipment, including microphones, bullhorns, or speakers, without prior approval of the University;
 - f. Disrupting pedestrian or vehicular traffic flow or impeding access to or from any University facilities.
4. Promotional materials and written materials associated with a demonstration also must not violate University policy or applicable law; raise a health & safety risk; or interfere with University functions or operations. The Aurora University logo may only be used in promotional materials or publicity for a demonstration, or in presentations or related handouts shared during a demonstration, with the prior written approval of the University and consistent with the provisions of the *Campus Postings Policy*.

The University reserves the right to impose additional time, place, and manner regulations, and implement security measures, that are appropriate under the circumstances to ensure adequate security and continuity of University operations. Applicants for demonstration approval should be prepared to work constructively with University representatives to ensure that approved demonstrations are promoted and conducted in a manner that is safe and not disruptive to the

campus community.

D. POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND DEMONSTRATIONS

IRS regulations relating to the University's not-for-profit status prohibit the University from engaging in partisan political activity or permitting its resources to be used for support of such activities. A proposed event or program, including a proposed demonstration, that includes partisan political activity or includes candidates for public office or elected or appointed government officials must be identified as such in the relevant application for approval, and approval may be denied, delayed, or limited in scope to comply with the University's obligations under federal law.

The Offices of the President, Academic Affairs, Philanthropy and Engagement, and Planning/Engagement must also be separately notified at the time Demonstration Approval is sought relating to any proposed appearance on campus (or through any modality using University electronic meeting capabilities) of a current or former elected or appointed government official or candidate, including for purposes of the individual's leading or speaking at a proposed demonstration.

The University strictly prohibits any fundraising or solicitation in the course of a speaking appearance or demonstration on the part of an elected or appointed government official or candidate for public office.

E. APPROVAL PROCESS; UNIVERSITY'S RESERVED DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY AND RIGHT OF REFUSAL

To facilitate advance planning (including appropriate security coverage), and to ensure that demonstrations proceed consistent with the time, place, and manner provisions of Section C above, campus community members or campus organizations (including student and alumni organizations) must obtain prior approval of any request to demonstrate by contacting the Office of the Dean of Students at dos@aurora.edu. Upon receipt of such request, the Office of the Dean of Students will provide important information about timelines for submission of requests and requirements for approval of demonstration requests.

All demonstration requests should be submitted by email to the Dean of Students' office, at dos@aurora.edu. Requests will be assessed consistent with the time, place, and manner provisions in Section C as well as any other factors appropriate to the specific request.

This Policy applies to proposed demonstrations and counter-demonstrations. Any community member or organization seeking to organize a counter-demonstration through any modality using University electronic meeting capabilities must also file a request for approval by contacting the Office of the Dean of Students at dos@aurora.edu. University officials may designate a separate area for counter-demonstrations to maximize considerations of physical safety and security for community members and for University property.

All requests for demonstration or counter-demonstration must be approved in writing by the University. No demonstration or counter-demonstration may proceed without prior, affirmative written approval from an authorized University representative.

The University has sole discretion in determining security measures and requirements for events taking place on Aurora's campus or through any modality using University meeting capabilities. Outside speakers and guests must inform the event sponsor if special circumstances and needs for security are known and should be considered when determining security measures.

The University reserves the right to deny approval to, relocate, reschedule, or cancel a proposed or approved demonstration. This includes where (i) the University finds that the event poses an imminent and credible threat to the community that cannot be mitigated by revisions to the demonstration plan; and/or (ii) the University finds that the proposed demonstration appears to be demonstrably inconsistent with the University's *Mission, Vision, and Values*, policies, or applicable law.

F. CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATING THIS POLICY

Faculty, staff, or students who violate this Policy, the related requirements pertaining to demonstration requests, or other policies in the course of a demonstration are subject to discipline consistent with employee or student conduct codes. Failure to obey the directives of Campus Public Safety, University officials, or law enforcement during a demonstration also constitutes a violation of policy and may subject an employee or student to discipline. Depending upon the nature of the offense, individuals violating this Policy may also be subject to legal action under applicable federal, state, or local law. Third parties (including alumni, University stakeholders other than current employees or students, or members of the public) may be banned, temporarily or permanently, from campus or referred to law enforcement if they violate the provisions of this or other University policies.

G. RELATED POLICIES

For further information or questions, please contact the following offices or reference the following Policies:

Links to Responsible Office E-mail Addresses:

- [Office of Student Success](#)
- [Office of the Dean of Students](#)
- [Office of Academic Affairs](#)
- [Campus Public Safety](#)

Links to Related Statements and Policies:

- [Acceptable Use Policy](#)
- [A-Book Student Handbook](#)
- [Campus Postings Policy](#)

- [Faculty Handbook](#) (password required)
- [Gift Acceptance Policy](#) (password required)
- [Invited Speaker Policy](#)
- [Mission, Vision, and Values](#)
- [Naming Recognition Policy](#) (password required)
- [Policy Prohibiting Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct, and Interpersonal Violence](#)
- [Social Media and News Media Guidelines](#)
- [Statement on Free Expression and Civil Discourse](#)
- [Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)
- [Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy](#)
- [University Notice of Non-Discrimination](#)