

NWOSU Professional Development
First Amendment, Expressive Speech, and 70 O.S. §2120

Part 1: State Law

- Passed in the 2019 Oklahoma Legislature, signed by the Governor, effective August 30, 2019. Available [online](#).
- In brief, the law requires that, on Oklahoma public colleges and universities campuses, the campus community and the public may use **unrestricted accessible outdoor space** for **non-commercial expressive activities** because this space is now designated by this statute a traditional public forum. As such, this space can be used unless it **materially and substantially disrupts** the functioning of the University subject to non-discriminatory **time, place, and manner restrictions**.
- This law is consistent with historical federal guidance regarding 1st Amendment protected events on this issue, but also requires:
 - New University policy
 - New training for faculty, staff, and students
 - Annual report to the Governor and Legislature
 - Posted on university webpage (<3 links)
 - Notification of lawsuits

Part 2: University Policy

- In accordance with the state law, NWOSU has developed a policy which addresses the bolded key terms above. The policy is available on the NWOSU website at www.nwosu.edu.
- Take time to review the time, place, and manner restrictions.

Part 3: Expectations

- Guide outdoor visitors to the correct resources on the NWOSU website www.nwosu.edu.
- Greet outdoor expressive speech visitors with a *Visitor Information Card* and introducing yourself.

Part 4: Additional Helpful Information

- The University designates the following indoor facilities as *unavailable* for Expressive Activity: administrative offices, laboratories, and (during instructional hours) classrooms.
- The public and NWOSU employees may reserve outdoor space by contacting the Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at 580-327-8415 or by emailing studentservices@nwosu.edu
- NWOSU students, employees, and guests may reserve both indoor space by completing the Facility and Event Registration Form online.
- The campus community and the public may use generally accessible outdoor areas for non-commercial expressive activities on a first come, first served basis *without giving prior notice* if the activity does not materially and substantially disrupt the function of the University, as defined by state law.
- Time, place and manner restrictions are in effect. Please read the policy in its entirety. Examples include:
 - No items may be attached in any manner to trees, bushes, benches, light poles, buildings, vehicles, or permanent signs.
 - Non-commercial pamphlets, handbills, fliers, and other written materials may be distributed on a person-to-person basis in open areas outside of building if done in a way to avoid substantial littering on the campus.