

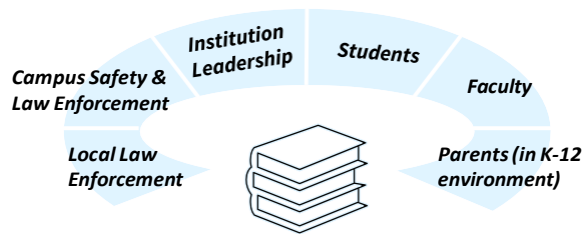


Best Practices for Safe Conduct at Academic Institutions

To ensure peaceful protests and safe conduct on educational campuses during First Amendment-protected activities, DHS recommends institution leadership take proactive steps to prepare the campus ecosystem, communicate policies and procedures, and respond by taking both a whole-of-community, human centric approach and enforcing campus policies, as necessary. Recommendations include:

DEFINE THE CAMPUS ECOSYSTEM

Understand who the core stakeholders are and how policies and procedures will apply. This may include:



PROTESTING “DOs and DON’Ts”

- ✓ Student protesters should **avoid violence, intimidation, and harassment.**
- ✓ Law enforcement should **secure protests from external actors** in accordance with campus policies.
- ✓ Student protesters **should stay within the bounds** of provided escorts.
- ✓ The whole campus ecosystem should **report actors engaging in suspicious activity or in violation of campus policy.**
- ✓ Campus public safety and/or law enforcement are encouraged to **follow the National Incident Management System and Incident Command System** to incident response.
- ✓ Law enforcement should **ensure personnel are trained in public order policing**, including protection of First Amendment-protected activities.

1

PREPARE

- **Review** campus policies frequently to ensure stakeholders are aware of applicable policies, understand institutional and individual responsibilities to protect privacy, civil rights and civil liberties of persons and groups participating in First Amendment-protected activities, and to promote adherence. Institution leaders should seek regular input from the campus ecosystem on policies and procedures.
- **Discuss** potential areas of vulnerability on campuses. Law enforcement should be prepared for activity from actors outside of the campus ecosystem and coordinate with institution leadership on the response to their actions.
- **Align** with institution leaders and campus law enforcement on what the campus safety plan is in response to protests and who has authority to change those plans.
- **Exercise and stress** test plans with all relevant parties, to include campus law enforcement, local law enforcement, emergency managers, school administration, etc., to walk through scenarios and ensure roles and responsibilities are understood. Regular training and exercises help ensure policies are relevant and understood.

2

COMMUNICATE

- **Deploy** a simplified incident reporting system equipped with a 24/7 command center to support students, in collaboration with law enforcement and/or public safety, to report incidents of hate and violence on campus.
- **Educate** students and staff early and often on current incident reporting measures on their campus.
- **Connect** appropriate campus officials with student protest leaders to communicate their role in protecting First Amendment rights.
- **Communicate** the risk of external actors engaging in, and potentially taking over, on-campus demonstrations.

3

RESPOND

- **Distribute** unified messaging to the campus ecosystem and public on updates to campus policies in light of First Amendment activity taking place, especially if activities become violent and warrant law enforcement response.
- **Define, understand, and align** on criteria for administrative responses for campus policy violations compared to criminal justice responses for legal violations. To the extent possible, articulate within campus policies.
- **Assist** in facilitating peaceful protests by reaching out to student constituents to understand the protest landscape and securing the area (i.e., blocking off streets and providing traffic control), and level-set on additional support that can be provided.