



FLETCHER TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Policy # 2.001

CAMPUS FREE EXPRESSION POLICY

Authority: LCTCS Policy 2.018

Effective Date: 09/07/2018

Last Revision: 03/10/2022

PURPOSE:

Fletcher Technical Community College deems the free and open inquiry into all matters fundamental to the mission of higher education and is committed to the preservation of the lawful, free expression of ideas at all of its campuses, subject only to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions. All campuses of Fletcher Technical Community College shall allow and protect non-commercial expressive activities by students, administrators, faculty members, staff members, and invited guests in accordance with all applicable laws and this policy.

POLICY STATEMENT:

In accordance with Act 666 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, codified at R.S. 17:3399.31 through 3399.37 ("Louisiana Campus Free Expression Law"), LCTCS hereby adopts this policy on Campus Free Expression ("Policy"). This Policy applies to all campuses under the management of Fletcher Technical Community College. For the purposes of this Policy, the definition of key terms and other mandatory provisions shall remain consistent with those in Act 666 of 2018, codified at R.S. 17:3399:31 through 3399.37. Fletcher Technical Community College will amend this policy to reflect any subsequent changes to these statutes. In cases of any inconsistency, the statutory provisions shall supersede any such inconsistent provision in this policy.

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 17:3399.31 through 3399.37, relative to free expression on college campuses, Fletcher Technical Community College will uphold the following provisions:

1. Fletcher Technical Community College will strive to ensure the fullest degree of intellectual freedom and free expression, allowing for all forms of expression, which are protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Article I, Section 7, of the Constitution of Louisiana.
2. It is not the proper role of Fletcher Technical Community College to shield individuals from speech protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Louisiana, and other applicable laws, including, without limitation, ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive.

3. Students and faculty have the freedom to discuss any topic that presents itself, as provided under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Louisiana and other applicable laws within the limits on time, place, and manner of expression. It must be made very clear, however, that in any and every public expression or demonstration, students, faculty, and staff, as well as any organization, speak only for themselves and not for the College. Institutional control should not be used as a means of censorship.
4. Any limitations on time, place, and manner shall be those that are necessary to achieve a significant institutional interest only, and that provide ample alternative means of expression. Any form of activity or behavior that interferes with the rights and freedoms of others must be considered a serious breach of these responsibilities and obligations. The academic community cannot accept coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, or violence as a viable means of dialogue or conflict resolution. Expressive activities must not:
 1. Attract a crowd larger than the requested location or location of spontaneous expressive activity can safely contain;
 2. Significantly disrupt college activities inside or outside of buildings (including classes);
 3. Significantly disrupt previously scheduled campus events;
 4. Obstruct entrances or exits to buildings;
 5. Obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic;
 6. Represent a threat to public safety, according to the discretion of administration or security;
 7. Include camping or the use of temporary shelters (e.g., tents) as such activities are prohibited on college property;
 8. Affix items to any permanent structure (walls, building structure, trees, etc.);
 9. Light any material on fire provided that hand held candles may be utilized with special permission of the Director of Student Affairs or the Dean of Student Services; other open flame devices and bonfires are strictly prohibited.
5. Students and faculty may assemble and engage in spontaneous and contemporaneous expressive activity as long as such activity is not unlawful and does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the institution.
6. Any person lawfully present on a campus may protest or demonstrate there.
7. Protests and demonstrations that infringe upon the constitutional rights of others to engage in or listen to expressive activity by creating a substantial and material disruption to the functioning of the institution or to someone's expressive activity shall not be permitted.
8. The public areas of all locations of Fletcher Technical Community College are traditional public forums that are open on the same terms to any speaker. *Please see restrictions on item #4.*
9. The policy supersedes and nullifies any provision in the policies and regulations of Fletcher Technical Community College that restricts speech on Fletcher locations and that any such provision is therefore inconsistent with this policy on free expression.
10. A person aggrieved by a violation of the Fletcher policy on free expression may seek relief through the student grievance procedure located here.

Reference:

Publication and Dissemination

Fletcher Technical Community College's policy on campus free expression will be made public in the institution's handbook, on its website, and through student orientation programs. They will be incorporated in the materials, programs, and procedures provided to all employees and students. Students aggrieved by a violation of the institutional Policy on Free Expression may seek relief by filing a grievance in the manner outlined in the Fletcher Student Handbook.

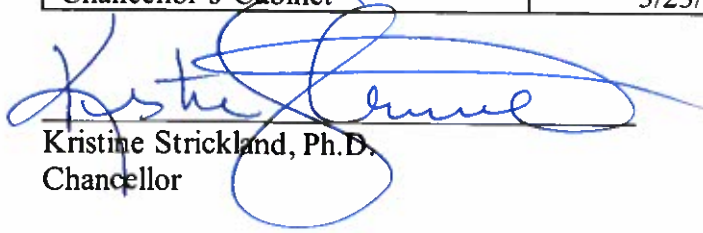
Compliance

Failure to comply with any applicable laws and regulations, including those listed above, shall constitute a failure to comply with this policy. Fletcher Technical Community College shall make all due diligence efforts to comply with applicable laws and regulations, including those listed above.

Distribution: Distributed Electronically via College's Internet.

APPROVAL:

Reviewing Council/Entity	Approval Date
Other (if applicable)	09/07/2018
Governance Council	3/15/2022
Chancellor's Cabinet	3/23/22



Kristine Strickland, Ph.D.
Chancellor

3/23/22
Date