

Victoria College Student Expression Policy

Victoria College welcomes student's freedom of expression. The student expression policy provides all guidelines, rules, and regulations that students will need to ensure compliance with all approved rules and procedures set forth by the Victoria College administration. Students are expected to follow the guidance listed in this policy.

Distribution of Literature

Written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials not sponsored by Victoria College shall not be sold, circulated, distributed, or posted on any property owned or operated by Victoria College by any Victoria College student or registered student organization [see FKC], except in accordance with this policy.

Victoria College shall not be responsible for, nor shall Victoria College endorse, the contents of any materials distributed by students or registered student organizations that is not sponsored by the Victoria College.

Materials distributed under the supervision of instructional personnel as a part of instruction or other authorized classroom activities shall not be governed by this policy.

Limitations on Content

Materials shall not be distributed by students or registered student organizations on Victoria College property if:

1. The materials are obscene, as defined by the Texas Penal Code.
2. The materials contain defamatory statements, as defined by state law, about others.
3. The materials advocate imminent lawless or disruptive action and are likely to incite or produce such action.
4. The materials are considered prohibited harassment. [See DIAA, DIAB, FFDA, and FFDB]
5. The materials constitute non-permissible solicitation or commercial speech. [See FI]
6. The materials infringe upon intellectual property rights of the College District. [See CT]

Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions

Distribution of the materials shall be conducted in a manner that:

1. Is not disruptive; [See FLB]
2. Does not impede reasonable access to College District facilities;
3. Does not result in damage to College District property;
4. Does not coerce, badger, or intimidate a person;
5. Does not interfere with the rights of others; and
6. Does not violate local, state, or federal laws or College District policies and procedures.

The distributor of materials shall clean the area around which the literature was distributed of any materials that were discarded or leftover.

The Director of Student Life shall designate times, locations, and means by which materials that are appropriate for distribution, as provided in this policy, may be made available or distributed by students

or registered student organizations to students or others in Victoria College facilities and in areas that are not considered common outdoor areas.

Posting of Signs

For the purposes of this policy, “sign” shall be defined as a bill-board, decal, notice, placard, poster, banner, or any kind of hand- held sign; and “posting” shall be defined as any means used for displaying a sign.

Except for signs that violate the restrictions in this policy and administrative procedures, a student or registered student organization may publicly post a sign on Victoria College property in common outdoor areas and in areas or locations designated by the Director of Student Life. No object other than a sign may be posted on Victoria College property.

Restrictions

A sign shall not be larger than 11 inches by 17 inches, unless authorized by the Director of Student Life. The Office of Student Life will stamp and post all approved signs on campus bulletin boards. A sign shall not be attached or posted:

1. To a shrub or plant;
2. To a tree, except by string to its trunk;
3. To a permanent sign installed for another purpose;
4. To a fence or chain or its supporting structure;
5. To a brick, concrete, or masonry structure;
6. To a statue, monument, or similar structure;
7. On or adjacent to a fire hydrant; or
8. In a College District building, except on a bulletin board designated for that purpose.

Removal

A student or registered student organization shall remove each sign not later than 14 days after posting or, if it relates to an event, not longer than 24 hours after the event to which it relates has ended. A sign posted in accordance with this section shall not be removed without permission from the Director of Student Life, the student, or the registered student organization.

Disclaimer

Materials distributed by a registered student organization must include a disclaimer indicating that the materials are not sponsored by Victoria College and do not represent the views of the college or College District officials, faculty, or staff.

Use of Facilities and Grounds

Requests

The facilities and grounds of Victoria College shall be made available to students or registered student organizations [see FKC] when such use does not conflict with use by, or any of the policies and procedures of Victoria College. The requesting students or student organization shall pay all expenses incurred by their use of facilities in accordance with a fee schedule developed by the Board.

Approval for Guest Speaker

To request permission to meet or host a speaker in Victoria College facilities, interested students or registered student organizations shall file a written request with the Director of Student Life in accordance with administrative procedures.

The students or the registered student organization making the request shall indicate that they have read and understand the policies and rules governing use of Victoria College facilities and that they will abide by those rules.

The Director of Student Life shall approve or reject the request in accordance with provisions and deadlines set out in this policy and administrative procedures, without regard to the religious, political, philosophical, ideological, academic viewpoint, or other content of the speech likely to be associated with the student's or registered student organization's use of the facility.

Approval shall not be granted when the official has reasonable grounds to believe that:

1. The requested Victoria College facility is unavailable, inadequate, or inappropriate to accommodate the proposed use at the time requested;
2. The applicant is under a disciplinary penalty or sanction prohibiting the use of the facility;
3. The proposed use includes non-permissible solicitation [see FI];
4. The proposed use would constitute an immediate and actual danger to the peace or security of Victoria College to the extent that available law enforcement officials could not control with reasonable efforts;
5. The applicant owes a monetary debt to Victoria College and the debt is considered delinquent;
6. The proposed activity would disrupt or disturb the regular academic program;
7. The proposed use would result in damage to or defacement of property or the applicant has previously damaged Victoria College property; or
8. The proposed activity would constitute an unauthorized joint sponsorship with an outside group.

The Director of Student Life shall provide the applicant with a written statement of the grounds for rejection if a request is denied.

Guest Speakers may only distribute literature in the facility in which the event is occurring and immediately before, during, or immediately after the normal course of the event. Any advertisements related to the presentation of guest speakers must state the organization, not the College, invited the speaker, the views expressed are those of the speaker only, and the members of general public may not be invited, unless otherwise approved by the Director of Student Life.

Common Outdoor Area Exception

Common outdoor areas are traditional public forums and are not subject to the approval procedures. Students and student organizations may engage in expressive activities in common outdoor areas, unless:

1. The person's conduct is unlawful;
2. The use would constitute an immediate and actual danger to the peace or security of Victoria College to the extent that available law enforcement officials could not control with reasonable efforts;
3. The use would materially or substantially disrupt or disturb the regular academic program; or

4. The use would result in damage to or defacement of property.
This exception does not prohibit faculty members from maintain order in the classroom.

Announcements and Publicity

In accordance with administrative procedures, all students and registered student organizations shall be given access on the same basis for making announcements and publicizing their meetings and activities.**Identification**

Students or registered student organizations distributing materials on campus or using Victoria College facilities shall provide identification when requested to do so by a Victoria College representative.

Violations of Policy

Failure to comply with this policy and associated procedures shall result in appropriate administrative action, including but not limited to, confiscation of nonconforming materials, suspension of a student's or registered student organization's use of Victoria College facilities, and/or other disciplinary action in accordance with Victoria College's discipline policies and procedures [see FM and FMA].

Interference with Expression

Faculty members, students, or student organizations that interfere with the expressive activities permitted by this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Victoria College's discipline policies and procedures [see DH, FM, and FMA].

Appeals

Decisions made by the administration in accordance with this policy may be appealed in accordance with DGBA(LOCAL) or FLD(LOCAL), as applicable.

Publications

This policy and associated procedures must be posted on Victoria College's website and distributed in the student and employee handbooks and other appropriate publications. They must also be distributed to students at orientation.