



DEMONSTRATIONS AND USE OF OUTDOOR SPACE POLICY

Effective:	September 23, 2021
Prior Versions:	None
Responsible Office:	Office of the Provost
Review By:	September 2026

I. OVERVIEW AND SCOPE

This policy governs the use of outdoor spaces on the campus of Auburn University at Montgomery, including for demonstrations, literature distribution, and similar activities involving public expression.

AUM's outdoor spaces are dedicated primarily for use by the AUM community for purposes consistent with its mission and related teaching, learning, studying, research, academic, extracurricular, student life, administrative, and other supporting activities.

AUM also recognizes that because free expression is essential to its mission, the AUM community may use most outdoor campus spaces for expressive activities in a manner consistent with this policy. Such activities are subject to other policies and rules, including policies regarding the posting of signs and flyers and temporary rules applying to particular locations and/or during certain times (*e.g.*, construction areas).

Use of indoor spaces is not governed by this policy and is subject to other policies, rules, and facility reservation procedures. Demonstrations and similar activities generally are not permitted indoors except when part of an approved reservation.

AUM's use of its own facilities for official institutional functions is not subject to this policy.

II. RULES FOR USE OF OUTDOOR SPACES

A. Demonstrations and Other Expressive Activities

1. AUM community uses of outdoor space

AUM students, employees, and invited guests of employees and recognized student organizations and employees may use generally accessible outdoor campus spaces for demonstrations, protests, literature distribution, speech-making, and similar public expressive activities, without prior notice or reservation, according to the rules and restrictions described in this policy and other applicable policies.

To ensure availability of the space and avoid conflicting uses, prior reservations are encouraged.

The following outdoor spaces may not be used at any time for public expressive activities, including demonstrations, protests, literature distribution, and speech-making: areas within any traffic circle on campus, areas between AUM Road and Taylor Road, intramural fields, Athletics facilities, or the grounds of any other property owned or controlled by AUM that is not part of the main campus.

2. Time restrictions

Demonstrations, protests, literature distribution, speech-making, and similar public expressive activities may not occur in any outdoor AUM spaces after 11:00pm, unless prior permission has been granted by the Associate Provost for Enrollment Management and Student Services.

AUM may impose other time restrictions based on campus conditions and circumstances, such as additional time restrictions near residence halls during study or exam periods.

3. Disruption and interference with AUM functions prohibited

Demonstrations and other public expressive activities must not substantially disrupt or interfere with AUM's academic, research, student life, administrative, and other institutional functions and events. Events and activities that are substantially disruptive may be cancelled or directed to cease, and individuals who violate this policy will be subject to the enforcement actions described in Section IV.

4. Individuals may not block pedestrian or vehicular traffic

Individuals participating in demonstrations and similar activities must not block or materially hinder pedestrian traffic along and through building entrances and doorways, sidewalks, trails, patios, and other paths.

Demonstrations and similar activities may not occur in parking lots or roadways and may not otherwise block or hinder vehicular traffic in any way.

5. Threats and harassment prohibited

Threats of harm or violence, false defamatory statements, incitement, and harassment (as defined in AUM's Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment) are prohibited and may not occur in connection with demonstrations or similar activities.

Individuals may not pursue, intimidate or act aggressively toward passersby while communicating their messages.

6. Large events

Demonstrations, protests, marches, and similar gatherings that are expected to involve 100 or more people must be approved in advance by the Associate Provost for Enrollment Management and Student Services. Event organizers must provide supporting information regarding logistics and other details on request so that AUM can evaluate the event request.

7. Visitors' use of outdoor spaces

Visitors to AUM's campus may engage in demonstrations, protests, literature distribution, speech-making and similar expressive activities only in the Grove Amphitheater from Monday to Friday between 8:00am and 8:00pm.

Prior notice or reservation is not required. However, visitors are encouraged to check-in at the AUM Police Department to obtain parking passes.

Demonstrations and similar activities by visitors must comply with other applicable terms of this policy and other AUM policies.

B. Amplified Sound

AUM students and employees may use amplified sound devices, such as microphones, speakers, and bullhorns, in outdoor spaces between the hours of 8:00am to 8:00pm, as long as such use is not substantially disruptive to AUM functions and events and otherwise complies with AUM policies. Use of amplified sound adjacent to academic, administrative, and residential buildings may be disruptive, and users may be required to relocate, adjust volume, or discontinue use of sound equipment.

Visitors may not use amplified sound on campus.

Use of amplified sound indoors is prohibited unless approved in advance by an appropriate AUM official.

C. Reservations

Outdoor campus spaces may be reserved by other users, and many spaces are not suitable for two or more sizable competing events at the same time. If an outdoor space has been reserved, AUM may require that an unreserved conflicting use be rescheduled, moved, or cancelled.

D. Camping and Overnight Uses

Camping, overnight sleeping, and similar overnight uses of outdoor spaces are prohibited.

Absent prior approval from an appropriate AUM official, no person may erect tents or other structures requiring stakes, poles, or similar attachments in outdoor spaces.

III. EXCEPTIONS

In extraordinary circumstances, the Chancellor may grant exceptions to any provisions of this policy. Decisions to grant or deny an exception will not be based on the expressive content, message, or viewpoints of the proposed activity.

IV. ENFORCEMENT

Any person who violates this policy may be subject to an order to leave the property or area, institutional discipline (for employees and students), and/or arrest in circumstances when the violation constitutes a crime.