

**FREEDOM OF  
EXPRESSION**



**IT'S YOUR RIGHT.  
VOICE IT.**



**CAL POLY**  
Student Affairs

# CAL POLY'S COMMITMENT

## At Cal Poly, freedom of expression is a deeply held value.

As a university committed to intellectual exploration and civic engagement, Cal Poly recognizes that peaceful protest has long played a vital role in shaping dialogue and progress on campus, in the community and throughout the country. And as a public university, Cal Poly has an obligation to uphold everyone's free speech rights.

The university also believes in maintaining a learning and working environment where all members of our community—students, faculty and staff—can thrive. To that end, it's important that demonstrations are conducted in ways that honor both the right to speak out and the university's need to provide a safe, inclusive and uninterrupted educational, residential and workplace experience.

The campus's goal is to work together—proactively and constructively—so that everyone's message is heard and all demonstrations are both impactful and safe.

“There are times when the things we value most will be challenged. There will be occasions when others may hurt, offend or seek to undermine us and what we believe in and represent. The measure of strength and character is in how one responds. Stand up to hateful and divisive language by strengthening your resolve and commitment to a campus culture built upon mutual care, concern and respect.”

– PRESIDENT JEFFREY D. ARMSTRONG

# PLANNING A DEMONSTRATION

So, you're ready to speak up and express yourself.

Cal Poly and the CSU support your freedom of expression and encourage you to use your voice to advocate, organize and create change. Cal Poly also has an obligation to maintain an environment in which the campus community can study, work and live without disruption. Let's do this right and do it well. Here is how to get started.

1

Get to know the CSU's systemwide policies on Time, Place and Manner. Take notes and prepare clarifying questions to ask the Dean of Students – 805-756-0327 – to ensure you know your rights.

2

Know your rights and use them well.

3

Prepare your message. Make it clear and easy to understand.

4

**Develop a plan:** Meet with the Dean of Students to discuss the demonstration logistics such as format, location, speakers and any other pertinent issues to assure a safe and successful event.

5

**Check in with CPPD.** They are here to support and ensure everything goes safely.

6

**Inform your participants of the CSU policies,** and share this information so everyone is on the same page.

7

**Hydrate** and be ready to go.



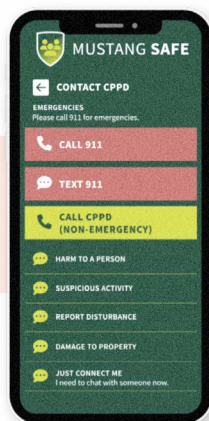
# HOW TO PROTEST SAFELY



**Express yourself, respectfully.** You have the right to express your ideas through signs, protests, art and more. Just do it in a way that respects the rights of others and doesn't block or prevent community members' ability to move throughout campus or access any facilities.

**Disagree respectfully and peacefully.** Acts of violence such as pushing, kicking or spitting on others will only take away from your message and could lead to discipline and criminal charges.

**Use the Mustang Safe app.** Whether you're organizing, attending, or just nearby, this safety app connects you instantly to campus and community resources.



**Make informed decisions.** If you choose to engage in unlawful activity such as civil disobedience, you may get arrested. Know the potential consequences. Contact the Cal Poly Police Department for more information and understand what could happen if you cross that line.

**Listen to and follow the instructions** of police officers or public officials, such as being asked to stay behind barricades and dispersing from an area declared an unlawful assembly. It is against the law to disobey an order given by a police officer.



**Leave the area if others are engaging in illegal activities and/or acts of violence.** Your presence may be interpreted as participating in a riot or illegal group action.

**Camping on campus is prohibited.**



If you believe your rights have been violated, you may report to CPPD to pursue criminal charges or to the Office of the Dean of Students or the Civil Rights and Compliance Office to file a formal complaint. As well, the Student Ombuds Services Office is available to provide advice and guidance.

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. USE THEM WELL.

Freedom of speech is the right of a person to articulate opinions and ideas without interference or retaliation from the government.

The term “speech” constitutes expression that includes far more than just words but also what a person wears, reads, performs, protests and more. In the United States, freedom of speech is strongly protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, as well as many state and federal laws.

On campus, students have the right to engage in protected speech as long as it is done in compliance with the CSU Time, Place and Manner policy.

It is important to understand that not all speech is protected under the law. The government can take action against certain types of unprotected speech, including:

- Speech that would be deemed a “true threat.” These are statements meant to communicate a serious intent to commit violence or harm.
- Incitement of violence. These are statements likely to provoke imminent unlawful action.
- Harassment in an educational institution aimed at an individual on the basis of a protected characteristic (race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, etc.).



# UNDERSTAND THE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

We're all here to be educated.

Studying the [CSU Standards for Student Conduct](#), Title 5.2 §41301, will help you understand expectations.

Here are some things you want to avoid doing during a demonstration.

- Unauthorized entry into, presence in, use of, or misuse of University property (5 CCR § 41301(b)(2)).
- Willful, material and substantial disruption or obstruction of a University-related activity, or any on-campus activity (5 CCR § 41301(b)(3)).
- Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University, or infringes on the rights of members of the university community (5 CCR § 41301(b)(4)).
- Willful, material and substantial obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or other traffic, on or leading to campus property or an off-campus University related activity (5 CCR § 41301(b)(5)).
- Disorderly, lewd, indecent or obscene behavior at a University related activity, or directed toward a member of the University community (5 CCR § 41301(b)(6)).
- Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person within or related to the University community, including physical abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, or sexual misconduct (5 CCR § 41301(b)(7)).
- Theft of property or services from the University community, or misappropriation of University resources (5 CCR § 41301(b)(11)).
- Violation of any published University policy, rule, regulation or presidential order (5 CCR § 41301(b)(15)(i)).
- Failure to comply with directions of, or interference with, any University official or any public safety officer while acting in the performance of his/her duties (5 CCR § 41301(b)(16)).

Students should also educate themselves of the interim [CSU Time, Place and Manner Policy](#).

If you have questions or need clarification, please reach out to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities at 805-756-2794

# WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

## Dean of Students

Website: [deanofstudents.calpoly.edu](http://deanofstudents.calpoly.edu)

Email: [deanofstudents@calpoly.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@calpoly.edu)

Phone: 805.756.0327

## Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities

Website: [osrr.calpoly.edu](http://osrr.calpoly.edu)

Email: [osrr@calpoly.edu](mailto:osrr@calpoly.edu)

Phone: 805.756.2794

## Cal Poly Police Department

Website: [calpoly.edu/public-safety](http://calpoly.edu/public-safety)

Email: [police@calpoly.edu](mailto:police@calpoly.edu)

Phone: 805.756.2281

## Office of University Diversity and Inclusion

Website: [diversity.calpoly.edu](http://diversity.calpoly.edu)

Email: [diversity@calpoly.edu](mailto:diversity@calpoly.edu)

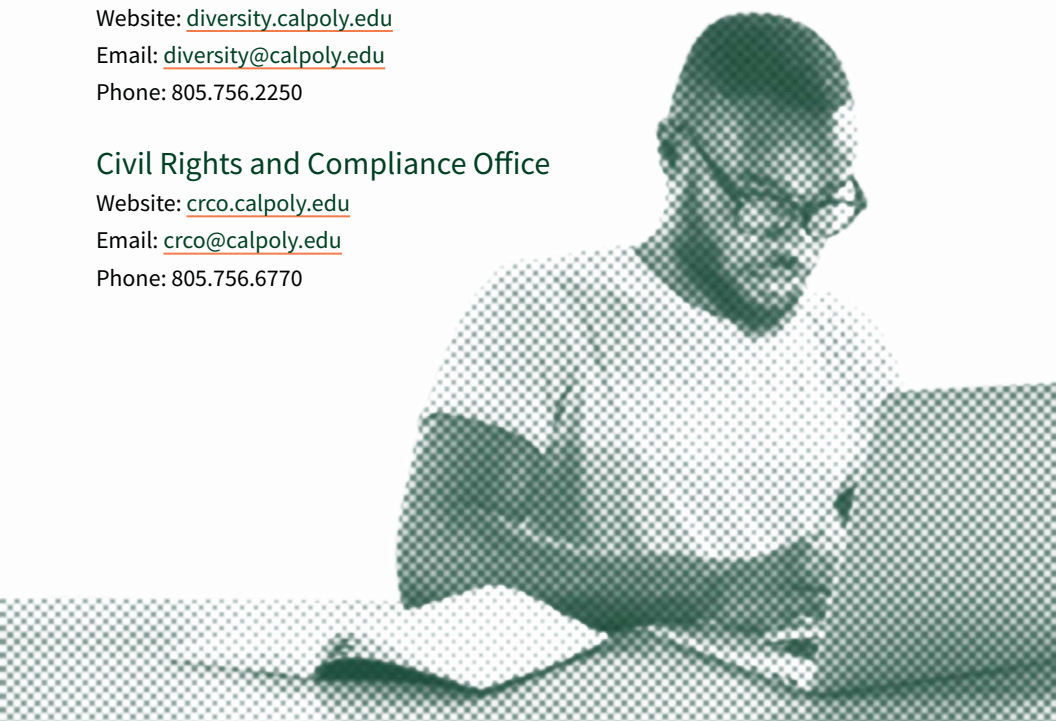
Phone: 805.756.2250

## Civil Rights and Compliance Office

Website: [crco.calpoly.edu](http://crco.calpoly.edu)

Email: [crco@calpoly.edu](mailto:crco@calpoly.edu)

Phone: 805.756.6770







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