

# First Amendment of the Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.



# FREEDOM OF SPEECH, EXPRESSION AND ASSEMBLY ON CAMPUS



Public colleges and universities are often places where people exercise their free speech rights guaranteed by the 1st Amendment. Some might express opinions that you find hurtful or offensive. Even though the content of speech may contradict DSC values, the college must hold the guarantees of freedom of speech, expression, and the right to assemble peaceably.

Here are some suggestions for responding to objectionable speech:

## Hands Off

Do not physically engage speakers even if they try to provoke you. Touching/Pushing/Striking can lead to criminal charges and/or charges under the Student Code of Conduct.



## Keep Walking

Speakers have the right to speak, but you do not have to listen.



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## Inclusive Engagement



If you choose to engage with the speaker, counter hateful speech with inclusive and positive speech. Avoid arguing and shouting. The Dean of Students Office can help with information about opportunities for counter speech.



## Connect with Others



If you are concerned or upset by the views expressed by the speakers on campus, get involved with student organizations and others to share your values and interests.

