



**Murray State College Staff and Student Development**  
**on**  
**First Amendment Free/Expressive Speech**

Murray State College is committed to fostering a campus environment where freedom of speech, academic inquiry, and expression are respected and encouraged.

**Principles of Free Speech**

Pursuant to Oklahoma law, all outdoor areas of the Murray State campuses that are generally accessible by the public are areas where speech may occur. The college cannot restrict speech based on viewpoint, including in demonstrations or social media posts. Murray State is a public institution, and while the institution protects everyone's right to freedom of speech, it does have the ability and the obligation to reasonably restrict speech in certain areas of campus based on time, place, and manner considerations.

**Oklahoma State Law §70-2120**

Enacted by the Oklahoma Legislature in 2019 and signed into law by the Governor, this statute became effective on August 30, 2019.

The law designates unrestricted, accessible outdoor green spaces on public college and university campuses in Oklahoma as traditional public forums. This means members of the campus community and the public may use these areas for non-commercial expressive activities as long as their actions do not cause material and substantial disruptions to the institution. Such use may be subject to reasonable restrictions on time, place, and manner.

Additionally, the [Oklahoma Free Speech Committee](#) is tasked with reviewing policies at colleges and universities to ensure compliance with free speech protections.

**College Policy**

In accordance with the state law, MSC developed a policy regarding free speech. The policy is available at <https://open.ocolearnok.org/mscpolicies/chapter/expressive-activity/>

Take some time to review the time, place, and manner restrictions. Restrictions will occur when speech interferes with the college's educational mission or when activities violate other college policies, including those related to harassment, discrimination, and safety.

**Complaint Form**

Members of the public, as well as students, can report complaints about free speech violations using the campus complaint [form](#) or to the Free Speech Committee website [form](#).