
**Allan Hancock Joint Community College District
Board Policy
Chapter 4 – Academic Affairs**

BP 3900 SPEECH; TIME, PLACE, MANNER

Students and members of the public shall be free to exercise their rights of free expression, subject to the requirements of this policy.

The college is a non-public forum, except for those areas that are designated public forums available for the exercise of expression by students and members of the public. The Superintendent/President shall enact such administrative procedures as are necessary to reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of the exercise of free expression in the designated public forums.

The administrative procedures promulgated by the Superintendent/President shall not prohibit the right of students to exercise free expression, including but not limited to the use of bulletin boards, the distribution of printed materials or petitions, and the wearing of buttons, badges, or other insignia.

Speech shall be prohibited that is defamatory, obscene according to current legal standards, or which so incites others as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on District property or the violation of District policies or procedures, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the District.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the regulation of hate violence directed at students in a manner that denies their full participation in the educational process so long as the regulation conforms to the requirements of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and of Section 2 of Article 1 of the California Constitution. Students may be disciplined for harassment, threats, or intimidation unless such speech is constitutionally protected.

References: Education Code Sections 76120 and 66301

**Adopted: 12/11/18
Reviewed: 3/18/25**

Allan Hancock Joint Community College District
Administrative Procedure
Chapter 4 – Academic Affairs

AP 3900 SPEECH: TIME, PLACE, MANNER

The District shall not restrict free expression in areas generally available to students and the community, defined as grassy areas, walkways or other similar common areas. These are ***designated public forums***. No restrictions shall be placed on the subject matter, topics or viewpoints expressed by students, or members of the public, as long as it is lawful and does not violate District policy. The District shall have no content-based nor viewpoint-based restrictions on speech.

The District reserves the right to designate areas as ***non-public forums*** as necessary to prevent the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the college. Areas of the district that are non-public forums specifically include campus offices, classrooms, labs, gym, theatres, auditoriums, warehouses, maintenance yards, and any other area not specified above. Areas not generally available to the public may be designated as a temporary public forum at the discretion of the Superintendent/President.

The use of these ***designated public forums*** for expressive activities is subject to the following:

- Persons using and/or distributing material in the areas shall not impede the progress of passersby, nor shall they force passersby to take material.
- No person using the areas shall touch, strike, or impede the progress of passersby, except for incidental or accidental contact or contact initiated by a passerby.
- Persons using areas shall not create a noise or diversion that disturbs or tends to disturb the orderly conduct of the campus or classes.

No advance approval process is required for ***student activities or events*** not utilizing sound amplification or that are not reasonably anticipated to involve 25 or more participants. Individuals or groups proposing to use sound amplification or whose gatherings are reasonably anticipated to involve 25 or more participants must check in with the Vice President, Students Services, or designee.

To facilitate planning and security, any ***non-student community group or individual*** wishing to engage in speech or expressive activities in the areas designated as public forums must check in with the Vice President, Student Services or designee.

If there is a conflict with the use of the specified area, an alternate site or date will be offered. To avoid such conflicts, students, outside organizations, and others are encouraged, but not required, to make reservations at least two days in advance with the Vice President, Student Services.

Students and others who wish to set up tables, chairs, or other nonpermanent structures such as booths must do so on the grassy area between Building K and the theatre on the Santa Maria campus and the south side of the quad in front of the oak trees at the Lompoc Valley Center. Such structures must not be left unattended or overnight and cannot extend onto pavement or concrete so as to interfere with pedestrian traffic. The District has no obligation to provide tables, chairs, electricity, or other resources.

In addition to the above, speakers, organizer, and participants must not:

- Block the ingress and egress to or from any building.
- Prevent a group that has reserved the space from using it. An individual or group with a reservation will have priority in the use of the location.
- Prevent a speaker or performer from being seen and heard by the audience.
- Create a noise level that interferes with classes, campus events or District operations. The use of sound amplification shall normally be allowed, except where such sound amplification creates noise or diversion that unreasonably disrupts District activities
- Conduct or solicit an expressive activity that is intended or likely to cause an imminent danger to the health and safety of people or property, or
- Conduct or solicit an activity that is prohibited by law.

Peaceful marches and picketing are permitted in the designated public forums of the District.

There shall not be restrictions on the right of students and members of the public to exercise free expression by the wearing of buttons, badges, and other insignia.

Signs, banners and other non-commercial literature may be distributed or displayed in areas designated as public forums. The manner of distribution or display shall not hinder safety or access to District grounds or facilities. Material distributed in the areas that is discarded or dropped in or around the areas other than in an appropriate receptacle must be retrieved and removed or properly discarded by those persons distributing or displaying the material prior to their departure from the areas that day.

Bulletin boards shall be provided for use in posting materials at campus locations convenient for use by students and members of the public. All materials displayed on a bulletin board shall clearly indicate the author or agency responsible for its production and the date of posting. Materials displayed may be removed after the passage of ten business days. See also BP 6700 Civic Center Facilities Use; BP 4030 Academic Freedom; BP and AP 5500 Standards of Student Conduct

References: Education Code Sections 76120 and 66301
California Code of Civil Procedure Section 527.3

Approved: 11/13/18
Reviewed: 2/18/25