



Demonstrations that disrupt essential Institute activities are not permitted on MIT's campus.

Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions

To ensure our continuous and smooth operation, MIT has viewpoint-neutral rules about when, where, and how community members can protest and demonstrate. Establishing these “time, place, and manner” rules is fully consistent with a commitment to free expression. These rules include details about who can organize demonstrations, when space must be reserved, and which demonstrations must be registered. In most cases, those who are planning a demonstration are required to contact demonstration-planning@mit.edu at least three working days in advance of the demonstration.

Learn More

MIT's campus policies and guidelines



Freedom of Expression at MIT

For Academic Year 2026-2027



Freedom of Expression at MIT

An Introduction

With a tradition of celebrating provocative thinking, controversial views, and nonconformity, MIT unequivocally endorses the principles of freedom of expression and academic freedom.

MIT Statement on Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom
December 2022



MIT's Commitment to Freedom of Expression

MIT is famous for big thinking and bold ideas. Sharing and listening to ideas – even controversial ones – is critical to learning and discovery. In that spirit, MIT's faculty adopted the Statement on Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom.

This brochure is meant to serve as an introduction to issues of freedom of speech on MIT's campus, but we can't possibly cover everything here. To learn more about MIT's campus policies and guidelines, use the QR code on the back of this brochure. In recent years, the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Freedom and Campus Expression created free-expression.mit.edu to explore these issues in greater detail.

MIT is committed to community members' rights – including yours – to express their perspectives freely. During your MIT career, you may see and hear language and ideas you find disagreeable, troubling, or offensive. Likewise, your opinions may upset or offend others. While this may be uncomfortable, it is necessary to protect free expression. To again quote the MIT Statement, “We cannot prohibit speech that some experience as offensive or injurious.”

Limitations on Freedom of Expression

Even in the context of an environment that embraces free expression, expression must occur within established parameters as outlined in the *Mind and Hand Book* and MIT's *Policies & Procedures*. MIT does not tolerate harassment. This includes unwelcome speech so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from MIT programs or activities. Also, MIT does not permit speech that directly threatens others or incites violence or other unlawful activities. However, identifying harassing speech is not easy, and defining when speech becomes harassment depends on many factors. For example, speech at a public protest may be viewed differently than speech directed at an individual.

In addition to sharing your beliefs, please listen to others who disagree with you. You can help ensure that we treat each other with respect and dignity, remembering that speech that does not violate MIT policies can still erode our sense of community.

If you wish to report potentially harassing speech by MIT community members, please contact the Institute Discrimination and Harassment Response Office (IDHR). The IDHR website also includes a list of other support resources that you may find useful: idhr.mit.edu/supportive-measures/resources/students.