



August 2026

NYLS Freedom of Expression Policy

Adopted February 2026

Related policies: Anti-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination Policies (Employee and Student), Rules for Maintenance of Public Order, Student Code of Conduct, Employee Handbook, Faculty Academic Freedom Policy, Student Organization Communications Policy.

Background and Scope

New York Law School ("NYLS" or the "Law School") is committed to a learning environment where diverse viewpoints are encouraged, academic freedom is protected, and all community members feel welcomed, included, valued, and a sense of belonging. Effective legal education requires the free and robust sharing of ideas. Therefore, the Law School provides venues for dialogue across a range of perspectives.

New York Law School protects the rights of faculty, students, and staff to communicate ideas that may be controversial or unpopular.

New York Law School's campus and other resources exist to: (1) fulfill the law school's educational objectives, including its primary educational mission; (2) promote a robust exchange of diverse viewpoints; and (3) foster community involvement in the advancement of the legal profession. The use of New York Law School's facilities or its association with any of its faculty, student organizations, or staff does not imply acceptance or endorsement by New York Law School of the views expressed as part of any faculty or staff member's, or student or student organization's, free expression activity.

Expressing Dissent or Disagreement

New York Law School teaches students to engage in candid and civil discourse in respectful disagreement with others while advancing reasoned and evidence-based arguments. Concerns about civility and mutual respect do not justify barring discussion of ideas because they are controversial, offensive, or disagreeable to some. New York Law School faculty, staff, students, and invited guests may engage in robust debate, peacefully demonstrate or protest, or express disagreement but must not interfere with the operation of the school's daily activities, and, in the case of events, with a speaker's ability to communicate or attendees' ability to participate in the event.

Conduct that disrupts campus operations, routines, or scheduled events is not permissible regardless of whether the disruption occurs inside or outside the space or location of the scheduled event or whether the scheduled event occurs on campus, off campus, or online. For a description of prohibited disruptive conduct and consequences for such conduct, please see the Law School's Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order Policy.

Content Neutral Restrictions

New York Law School may restrict expression that violates the law, defames a specific individual, constitutes a genuine threat or harassment, or constitutes substantial invasion of privacy or confidentiality interests. Nothing in this policy precludes the Law School from enforcing its Anti-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination policy and/or other Law School policies or meeting its obligations under federal, state, and local laws.

Neither scheduled events nor dissenting speech may compromise the physical safety of any person or group, regardless of whether that person or group is attending the event. Using or threatening force or violence, such as assaulting a speaker or audience member, is strictly prohibited, and may be subject to enforcement under federal, state, and/or local laws, or Law School policy.

New York Law School may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression for reasons unrelated to its content, including to ensure that it does not disrupt the normal activities of the Law School. Events or communications must comply with any content-neutral procedures or restrictions instituted for the event or communication, including, but not limited to, the Law School's Student Organization Communications Policy. New York Law School retains the discretion to limit events at or sponsored by New York Law School to members of the Law School community.

Policy Violations

Students who are alleged to have violated this policy may be subject to discipline under the NYLS Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy or the NYLS Student Code of Conduct and Academic Responsibility. Allegations relating to staff and other employees shall be addressed through the appropriate human resources or collective bargaining processes. Allegations against visitors will be investigated by the Law School administration, and visitors, including alumni, deemed in violation of the policy may be subject to immediate removal from campus and persona non grata status going forward, at the sole discretion of the Law School's administration. When faculty, including visiting faculty, are involved in expressive activity that may violate the Law School's policies, the Law School will follow the process outlined in Annex A (Academic Freedom) of the Faculty Rules.

Course Offerings

This policy does not preclude New York Law School from identifying the courses that will be taught, or from requiring that courses adequately prepare students to meet specific learning outcomes. Additionally, the Law School may require faculty, students, or staff to declare or clarify in appropriate circumstances that their views are not statements by or on behalf of the Law School.

Policy Revisions

New York Law School expressly reserves the right to change or modify any aspect of this policy at any time. It also reserves the right to implement safety and security measures with or without notice.