

# BP 2-35: Public Forum

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BOARD POLICY: BP 2-35 Public Forum

APPROVED: April 22, 2024

EFFECTIVE: April 22, 2024

REVIEWED: March 12, 2024

NEXT REVIEW DATE: April 2027

REFERENCES: MCA 20-25-1503

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT: President's Office, Dean of Student Success

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## Introduction

Dawson Community College acknowledges freedom of expression and its necessity to rigorous academic debate. No Dawson Community College policy or procedure shall infringe on another's right to freedom of expression as outlined within state and federal law. Dawson Community College recognizes the institution is a public institution of higher education which constitutes certain protections of speech and expression within a public forum. The views expressed by individuals or organizations who utilize this policy to express free speech do not necessarily align with the values or views of the institution.

## Policy

Dawson Community College recognizes that differences of perspective and opinion are central to healthy discourse and discussion. The institution recognizes constitutional rights to freedom of speech and expression. These rights include, but are not limited to, public speaking, demonstrations, political campaigning, and assembling.

Free expression rights do not include:

- Obscenity;
- Use of weapons, improvised or not;
- Child pornography;
- Defamatory speech;
- False advertising;
- Harassment; and
- True threats, this includes speech and conduct that demonstrate an intent to commit an act of violence.

## Restrictions

Dawson Community College does not provide or enforce free speech zones. Outdoor areas of the Dawson Community College campus are designated as a Public Forum as outlined by MCA 20-15-1503. All Dawson Community College buildings, facilities, supplies, materials, and goods are property of Dawson Community College and are not considered Public Forum except on public boards designated as such.

The exterior of buildings may not have printed or written materials placed on their surfaces without prior written permission from the President of Dawson Community College or their designee.

No form of political campaigning material is allowed on main campus buildings except in residence halls.

**Responsibilities**

Cost of damages and/or cleanup resulting from expression, whether written or another format, shall be the responsibility of the individual or organization.

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SCOPE            This policy applies to Dawson Community College.

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PROCEDURES    The College President shall promulgate such procedures as may be needed to implement this policy.

HISTORY: 4/22/2024