



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Implementation of Section 51.9315, Texas Education Code

Protected Expression on Campus

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) is committed to protecting the expressive rights of persons guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and of this state by (1) recognizing freedom of speech and assembly as central to the mission of institutions of higher education; and (2) ensuring that all persons may assemble peaceably on the campuses of institutions of higher education for expressive activities, including to listen to or observe the expressive activities of others.

The University of Texas System Board of Regents updated Regents' *Rules and Regulations* 40501, 80101, and 80103 to ensure that the common outdoor areas of UTEP are traditional public forums.

UTEP has updated its policy detailing students' rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities. The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved the policy on May 6, 2020. The policy complies with the requirements of Section 51.9315, Texas Education Code, and is posted on UTEP's website at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students-office/free-speech/index.html>. The policy is made available to students during freshman and transfer student orientations, and included in the UTEP Student Handbook. The policy is also included within the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

UTEP has developed procedures to train employees responsible for educating or disciplining students to ensure they understand the requirements of Section 51.9315, Texas Education Code and UTEP's internal policies.