

# Important Contact Information

**Department of Student Life**----- 355-8286  
101 Student Services Building  
<<http://studentlife.msu.edu>>

**Department of Police and Public Safety**----- 355-2221  
DPPS Building - Red Cedar Road  
<<http://www.dpps.msu.edu/>>

**University Housing** ----- 355-7457  
185 W. Holmes Hall  
<<http://www.hfs.msu.edu/>>

## Policies & Ordinances in *Spartan Life*

<<http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/index.htm>>

<b>Name of Policy</b>	<b>Where in <i>Spartan Life</i></b>
General Student Regulations -----	p. 77
Disorderly Assemblages or Conduct -----	p. 96
Signs and Structures -----	p. 117
Student Disorderly Conduct Policy -----	p. 120
Free Speech and Individual Responsibility -----	p. 120

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity institution.



# Student Activism at Michigan State University

## Department of Student Life

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# Activism and Education

“The basic purposes of the University are the advancement, dissemination, and application of knowledge.”<sup>1</sup>

- ✓ **Freedom** of expression is fundamental to education; however, **absolute freedom** leads to **anarchy**.
- ✓ **Order** is also fundamental to education; however, **absolute order** leads to **tyranny**.

“Therefore, the University must seek to strike a **balance** between **maximum freedom** and **necessary order**...”<sup>2</sup>

## What Should I Know About Activism On Campus?

- ✓ Protests, rallies, etc., may not disrupt normal University operations.<sup>3</sup> For example, activities may not:
  - ☞ create excessive noise within or in close proximity to campus buildings.
  - ☞ obstruct the free movement of persons about the campus.
  - ☞ block access to and from University buildings.
  - ☞ enter or remain in another individual's place of residence or work without permission.<sup>4</sup>
- ✓ While in dialogue, we should:
  - ☞ listen to the ideas and beliefs of others.
  - ☞ reflect critically on our own ideas and beliefs.
  - ☞ accept responsibility for our actions and words.
  - ☞ contribute positively to the richness of the intellectual dialogue.

# Action Steps

- ✓ **Contact Student Life**, to get your activities approved (see back page for contact information).
- ✓ **Use other valuable resources, such as:**
  - ☞ The *Student Organization Handbook*
  - ☞ Your student organization adviser
- ✓ **Be aware of relevant institutional policies:**
  - ☞ The *Student Disorderly Conduct Policy*<sup>5</sup>
  - ☞ *General Student Regulations*<sup>6</sup>
  - ☞ *Disorderly Assemblages or Conduct*<sup>7</sup>
- ✓ **Be knowledgeable about the issue(s) at hand.** Critical judgment is important in the search for truth.
- ✓ **Seek and be open to different perspectives.** All good teachers must also be learners.
- ✓ **Consider the impact your actions** will have on yourself and others.

<sup>1</sup> Academic Freedom for Students at Michigan State University, *Spartan Life*, 2003-04 Student Handbook and Resource Guide, p. 44.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Disorderly Assemblages or Conduct ordinance, *Spartan Life*, 2003-04 Student Handbook and Resource Guide, p. 96.

<sup>4</sup> General Student Regulation 2.05, *Spartan Life*, 2003-04 Student Handbook and Resource Guide, p. 77.

<sup>5</sup> *Spartan Life*, 2003-04 Student Handbook and Resource Guide, p. 120.

<sup>6</sup> *Spartan Life*, 2003-04 Student Handbook and Resource Guide, p. 77.

<sup>7</sup> *Spartan Life*, 2003-04 Student Handbook and Resource Guide, p. 96.

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