



Policy # 53032.1

CANVASSING ON CAMPUS POLICY

Effective Date: October 27, 2024

Responsible Office: Student Affairs & Chief Operating Office

Division: Operations and Administration

I. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

This policy outlines the guidelines and restrictions for canvassing activities on the campus of Grambling State University, ensuring compliance with civil service rules while protecting the rights of individuals to exercise their freedom of speech. Grambling State University is committed to the preservation of the lawful, free expression of ideas, subject only to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions. Grambling State University will allow and protect expressive activities by students, administrators, faculty members, staff members, and invited guests in accordance with all applicable laws and this Policy.

Grambling State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctorate degrees. GSU also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of GSU may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org)

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Definitions:

1. **Canvassing:** The act of soliciting opinions, support, or signatures from individuals for political, social, or other causes.
2. **Free Speech Laws:** The Constitutional and statutory requirements addressed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Louisiana, as well as other applicable laws, which protect the freedom of speech.
3. **Louisiana Campus Free Expression Law:** The statutory requirements addressed in Act 666 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, codified at La. R.S. 17:3399.31 through 3399.37, together with the requirements of this Policy, which protects the freedom of expression on college campuses in Louisiana.

B. Guidelines and Restrictions:

1) **Permitted Areas:**

- a) Canvassing is permitted in designated public areas of the campus of Grambling State University, including outdoor common areas of the campus, which are considered traditional public forums, (e.g., common areas, sidewalks, walkways, etc.) as long as it does not obstruct pathways or access to university buildings.
- b) Canvassing shall not interfere with university operations, disrupt classes or block access.
- c) Canvassing in residential areas inside of the dorms is strictly prohibited.

2) **Time Restrictions:**

- a) Canvassing activities are allowed during regular campus hours (e.g., 7:30 AM to 5 PM Mon thru Thursdays and 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM on Fridays), excluding holidays. Special permission may be granted for events outside these hours by the Chief Operating Officer.

3) **Registration:**

- a) Individuals or organizations wishing to canvass must notify the Office of Student Affairs at least 48 hours in advance. Notification should include the purpose of the canvassing, the date and time, and the names of participants.
- b) Individuals or organizations while on campus must show visible identification at all times.
- c) Special permission is required to set up booths or plan to distribute literature on campus.

4) **Compliance with Civil Service Rules:**

- a) All canvassing activities must comply with relevant civil service rules and regulations.
- b) University employees engaged in canvassing must do so outside of their official duties and cannot solicit during work hours.

5) **Respect for Community Members:**

- a) Canvassing must be conducted respectfully, without coercion or harassment. Individuals have the right to decline participation.

6) **Prohibited Activities:**

- a. Canvassing that involves the distribution of materials that are obscene, defamatory, or violate university policies will not be permitted.

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- b) No solicitation for funds or sales of goods or services is allowed during canvassing activities unless specifically authorized.
- 7) **Safety and Security:**
 - a) Canvassers must adhere to all university safety protocols and be mindful of the safety and security of all campus community members.
 - 8) **Freedom of Speech:**
 - a) This policy supports the university's commitment to freedom of speech, allowing individuals to express their views and engage in discussions relevant to the university community.
 - 9) **Nonpartisan Use of Resources:**
 - a) Grambling State University, as a state entity, must remain politically neutral and cannot endorse or promote specific candidates or parties.
 - b) The use of university resources for partisan activities is prohibited under state laws and policies, such as those aligned with PPM49, which restricts the use of public funds and resources for political purposes.

III. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and external individuals or organizations wishing to engage in canvassing activities on the university campus.

IV. ENFORCEMENT

Violations of this policy may result in the revocation of canvassing privileges, potential disciplinary action in accordance with university policies, including but not limited to future restrictions.

V. REVISION/REVIEWED

N/A