

Student Dissent/Disruption of College Functions

Ramapo College provides a number of channels through which students may raise issues or question College policies or procedures. Among them are the Student Government, public statements at Board of Trustees meetings, meetings with individual administrators or faculty members, and through recognized or registered student organizations. Ramapo prides itself on the degree of access to the governance process afforded its students.

Ramapo College also acknowledges the right of students to peacefully protest College policies or indicate dissent from governmental policies or private citizens' actions through lawful speech, protests, and demonstrations, or the display of symbolic attire. The College, in turn, has the right to enforce reasonable regulations with respect to the time, manner, and place in which these activities may occur to ensure normal College functions and activities continue unimpeded. With only a few exceptions related mostly to the creation of imminent danger through speech (untruthfully yelling fire in a crowded theater, for example), the content of speech by dissenting students may not be regulated.

At Ramapo College, lawful dissent changes to disruption when students interfere with the rights of others to teach and learn. These disruptions may include, but are not limited to:

1. Interference with the freedom enjoyed by members of the Ramapo College community or its invited guests to speak or hear one another during in-class or out-of-class educational programs or activities.
2. Interference with the normal administrative, advisement, or ceremonial functions of the College (e.g., meetings, orientation, counseling, graduation, athletic contests, etc.).
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A. Applicable State Laws

1. Entry into Educational Premises to Commit Indictable Offense (2A.149A-1) — Any person who enters any building, structure, or place used for any educational purpose with intent of committing therein any indictable offense shall be guilty of a high misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than five (5) years, or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

3. Interference with Students, Faculty, Others (2A.149A-3) — Any person who obstructs, interferes with, assaults, or threatens bodily harm to any student, faculty, administrator, school employee, parent or legal guardian of any student, or any other person lawfully seeking to enter a school building or any other building, structure, or place used for any educational purpose shall be guilty of a high misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than five (5) years, or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.