

Six Year Plan Due July 11, 2022

I. **Mason's Current Free Speech Efforts Planned for Fall Opening and AY22/23:**

Mason is committed to and proudly recognized for fostering an environment that welcomes free speech for all. Mason consistently earns a top national ranking ([green light rating](#)) for its campus climate from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education ([FIRE](#)). In 2021 Mason ranked No. 12 nationally for encouraging free speech when FIRE assessed tolerance for conservative and liberal speakers, students' comfort in expressing ideas and having difficult conversations, administrative support for free speech, and student tolerance of disruptive conduct. This commitment is evident in the following venues:

- **Mason's Affirmation of the Principles outlined in the Chicago Statement:** As articulated by a 2014 [report from the University of Chicago](#) we must hold a fundamental commitment to "the principle that debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed."
- **University Life's fall programming for students:** Rights and Responsibilities (occurring during New Student Orientation), Self, Others, and Community (occurring during Preamble/Welcome Week), Dialogue and Difference (occurring during the academic year), Mason V.O.I.C.E.S. - Values, Opportunities, Issues, & Challenge through Engagement and Sharing (occurring during the academic year).
- **Schar School of Policy and Government:** Civil Rights Law (POGO 750), Social Media Privacy and Innovation (POGO 750), Constitutional Law, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (Govt 423.001), and the Democracy Lab Undergraduate Learning Community.
- **Antonin Scalia Law School:** Foundational courses in Constitutional Law, Free Speech Clinic (Law 136), Freedom of Speech and First Amendment Law (Law 164), training on respectful discuss and debate s during orientation;
 - [Statement of Faculty Principle entitled "Commitment to Open Dialogue and Debate"](#): Affirms the faculty's commitment to "respectful debate and the full and open exchange of ideas." The full statement is published [here](#).
 - [Liberty & Law Center's Public Discourse Project](#): Brings together students of different ideological and partisan political perspectives for one-on-one or small group conversations about their beliefs, issues of importance, and other substantive topics, as well as issue-specific roundtable discussions.

Mason's online resources to guide legal and safe First Amendment expressions, can be found on Mason's [Mason Climate](#) and [Free Speech at Mason](#) web pages. In addition, [University Life's Student Media](#) team encourages students and the Mason community to exercise their First Amendment right to free speech in a variety of ways, including hands-on training, co-curricular learning experiences, campus-wide events, publishing opportunities to elevate student voices, and connections to practicing media professionals and national organizations that protect free speech.

II. **University Life's Plans to Expand Free Speech Efforts:**

Freedom & Learning Presidential Speaker Series; tentatively scheduled to start during the Fall semester.