

Section 1. Preamble

This document outlines the rights of undergraduate students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). These are rights, not policies. For information regarding University policies, please refer to the Undergraduate Student Handbook, the Student Code of Conduct, and the UNL Ethics Statement.

Interpretation

Nothing in this Student Bill of Rights shall be interpreted to conflict with other University rules or applicable laws. If any portion of this document conflicts with University rules or laws, the relevant University rules or laws will take precedence, and the remaining provisions of this Bill of Rights shall remain in effect.

Section 2. Undergraduate Student Rights

2.1 Academic Rights

Academic freedom is fundamental to student success and the mission of the University. These rights include, but are not limited to:

- The right to academic freedom, which includes the Constitutional right to express ideas and opinions without fear of retaliation, censorship, or sanction. This encompasses the right to explore and critique knowledge, engage in critical discourse, and express opposing views respectfully. Speech that incites violence, defames, constitutes genuine threats, or promotes unlawful discrimination is not protected.
- The right to pursue academic and professional development opportunities, such as research, collaboration, and publications.
- The right to be treated with dignity, respect, and courtesy by faculty, staff, and peers, ensuring that discussions and interactions are constructive, even when disagreement exists.
- The right to appeal any decision concerning academic progress, grades, or conduct according to university guidelines

2.2 Rights Regarding Information and Privacy

The University recognizes the importance of student privacy and access to essential information. Undergraduate students have the following rights regarding information and privacy:

- The right to be informed of their rights, responsibilities, and any changes in University policies that may affect them.
- The right to have any accommodation plan for disabilities kept private, in line with the University Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office (<https://www.unl.edu/ssd/home>).

2.3 Rights Regarding Demonstrations

UNL is committed to fostering a welcoming community where ideas are shared freely, respect for each other is promoted, and students, faculty and staff feel valued and heard. This commitment is outlined in

the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska Policy on the Commitment to Free Expression, Guide for Facilities Use; and Education -

<https://nebraska.edu/-/media/projects/unca/docs/board-of-regents/misc/xic1-executive-committee-free-speech-policy-rp6410.pdf>.

Lawful protests and counter-protests are permissible in accordance with university policy and the university encourages all students participating in such expressive activity to do so in a peaceful manner. All community members are encouraged to practice civil discourse rooted in respect, deep listening, understanding, humility, and grace.

Rights include:

- The right to freedom of speech and expression without fear of government retaliation, censorship, or other sanction.
- The right to dignity and security of all members of the UNL community in their right to freedom of speech and freedom of expression.
- The right to demonstrate, protest, and assemble in areas on campus as outlined in the university's Use of University Facilities and Grounds policy.

<https://bf.unl.edu/policies/university-facilities-use/>

For more details on safe activism and expressive activities at UNL, please refer to:

<https://studentlife.unl.edu/safe-activism-expressive-activities>

2.4 Rights Regarding Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and safe environment. Undergraduate students are guaranteed the following rights in regard to discrimination:

[\(https://equity.unl.edu/discrimination-and-harassment/nondiscrimination-policy-and-procedures/\)](https://equity.unl.edu/discrimination-and-harassment/nondiscrimination-policy-and-procedures/)

- The right to pursue their education free from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, disability, or any other protected class as outlined in the University's nondiscrimination policy (<https://equity.unl.edu/notice-nondiscrimination/>).
- The right to report incidents of discrimination, harassment, or adverse conduct to the University's Institutional Equity and Compliance (IEC) office (<https://www.unl.edu/equity/>), the University Police Department (<https://police.unl.edu>), and anonymously at <https://unreport.unl.edu/> without fear of retaliation.
- The right to receive confidential support and advocacy for issues related to sexual violence, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual harassment. (<https://care.unl.edu/get-help/>)
- The right to access mental health resources and support services, including counseling and wellness programs, without facing discrimination or stigma. (<https://caps.unl.edu/>)
- The right to due process and an impartial investigation into claims of discrimination or harassment. (<https://equity.unl.edu/discrimination-and-harassment/>)
- The right to accommodations for documented disabilities, as coordinated with the University's SSD office (<https://www.unl.edu/ssd/home>).

- The right to participate in campus life without fear of discrimination and with access to appropriate support services if such incidents occur.

2.5 Rights Regarding Scholarships and Financial Aid

Scholarships and financial aid are essential for supporting student success at the University.

Undergraduate students have the following rights regarding scholarships and financial aid:

- The right to equal opportunity in scholarship eligibility, free from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, disability, or any other protected class.
- The right to timely and transparent communication from the University regarding financial aid disbursements, adjustments, and any changes to their scholarship or aid packages.
- The right to continue receiving scholarships and financial aid, as long as they meet the University's academic and other established requirements.
- The right to have their scholarships or financial aid remain unaffected by their participation in peaceful protests or demonstrations, as long as they adhere to University policies and applicable laws.