

**Mohawk Valley Community College  
Camping and Use of Tents on Campus Policy**

<b>Policy Name:</b>	5016. Camping and Use of Tents on Campus
<b>Issued:</b>	5.19.25
<b>Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Responsible Office:</b>	Administrative Services

**Purpose**

To set forth the State University of New York (SUNY) Campus policy on camping and the use of tents/canopies on campus.

**Policy Statement**

Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) is committed to maintaining a clean, aesthetically pleasing, healthy, hygienic and safe work, educational, and living environment in order to effectively carry out its educational mission. MVCC is authorized to control its buildings and grounds consistent with the SUNY policies for use of facilities, which prohibit the use of college property or buildings for purposes unrelated to the regular programs and activities of the College.

**Definitions**

***Camping***

- In indoor or outdoor locations, the establishment of, evidence of an attempt to establish, or maintenance of temporary or permanent living quarters at any location on College property other than living quarters in residence halls - this includes the establishment of any indoor and/or outdoor encampment erected in connection with any lawful assembly of individuals pursuant to MVCC policies;
- Sleeping overnight in or under any parked vehicle; or
- Establishing or maintaining indoors or outdoors, or in or under, any structure not designated for human occupancy, at any time during the day or night, a temporary or permanent place for cooking, storing of personal belongings, or sleeping by setting up any bedding, sleeping bag, mattress, tent, hammock or other sleeping equipment, or by setting up any cooking equipment that has not been approved by the Environmental Health and Safety Officer

***Campus or Campuses*** - any College owned, leased, licensed or operated space, facility, property, grounds or building.

**Canopy** - a structure, enclosure or shelter constructed of fabric or pliable materials supported by any manner, except by air or the contents it protects, and is open without side walls or drops on 75 percent or more of the perimeter.

**Permit** - a written document prepared by the CEO issued to Campus Personnel to allow the set up and use of a tent or canopy for a specified amount of time. Permits may be revoked if permit conditions are not followed.

**Temporary Revocable Permit** - A written document issued by an appropriate MVCC official, expressly allowing the set up and use of a tent or canopy for a specified amount of time. Any such permits are temporary and may be revoked if permit conditions are not followed.

**Tailgating** - an informal gathering from the back of a parked vehicle, typically in the parking lot of a sports stadium or event venue. Tailgating is permitted in the designated parking lots. Tailgating space is limited to those patrons with an appropriate parking pass or permit. Access to the tailgating area may be limited to those patrons who have a valid game ticket for the contest being held that day.

**Tent** - any and all structures, enclosure or shelter constructed of any material, including but not limited to fabric or pliable materials supported by any manner.

**Third Party or Parties** - any person, organization, group or entity not affiliated with the College including, but not limited to, the general public, contractors, vendors, guests and visitors to the College, those using College facilities or property under a College revocable permit, and volunteers not enrolled as such on College systems.

A. Camping is prohibited on campus.

B. Exceptions

- Actions that constitute “camping” as defined above may be allowed with prior, written permission in the following limited circumstances:
  - With the advance written approval of the appropriate College official following the appropriate procedures:
    - [5006 – Use of College Facilities](#)
  - As approved as part of a revocable permit for Campus use pursuant to SUNY Policy No. 5603 (Use of Facilities by Non-Commercial Organizations).
  - Tailgating and tailgate parties are excluded from this policy. Any Tent or Canopy erected for the purpose of Tailgating shall not use stakes and shall not exceed 10’ x 10’ without a Temporary Revocable Permit.
  - In extraordinary circumstances, such as times of natural disaster, when approved in writing in advance by the President of the College or their designee.

### C. Enforcement and Compliance

- MVCC's Division of Student Affairs is responsible for addressing non-compliance with this Policy by all students, and students may be referred to the conduct process for alleged violation of this Policy.
- MVCC's Office of Human Resources is responsible for addressing non-compliance with this Policy by employees.
- The Department of Public Safety is responsible for addressing violations of this Policy that constitute alleged criminal trespass or any other violation of law by all persons on MVCC campuses.

### Related Documents

Administrative Procedure:

[5016. Camping and Use of Tents Procedure](#)

Regulations:

8 NYCRR Part 535

Fire Code of New York State, 2015

SUNY Policies:

3653 – Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order

5607 – Commercial Use Policy

5603 – Use of Facilities by Non-Commercial Organizations

### Revision History

Date	Revision Description	Revisions Made by:
	Creation of Policy – SUNY General Counsel recommended each campus implement policy to ensure a safe, organized, and compliant campus environment. Policy language created utilizing SUNY General Counsel's policy template	Anne Nolan, Director of Compliance
4.22.25 5.19.25	Board of Trustees First Reading College Adoption	

