CONSTITUTION DAY

Approved by: Office of Student Affairs

History: Revised July 26, 2021 | Revised June 12, 2026

Related Policies:

Related Forms, Procedures and References: U.S. Department of Education link for Constitution Day resources (http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/constitutionday.html)

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Purpose: The legislation requires that all educational institutions that receive federal funds implement educational programs relating to the United States Constitution on September 17 of each year.

In December 2004, Senator Byrd offered an amendment that was passed by both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate in attempt to increase constitutional knowledge.

The legislation requires that all educational institutions that receive federal funds implement educational programs relating to the United States Constitution on September 17 of each year. September 17 was selected because it marks the date in 1787 when delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the United States Constitution and presented it to the public.

The United States Department of Education, charged with implementation of this legislative requirement, intentionally left the implementation language vague. With no specific curriculum or interpretation of the United States Constitution provided by The U.S. Department of Education or Senator Byrd, academic institutions are free to provide a wide array of programming for their students (from the National Student Personnel Administrators Constitution Day Implementation Guide).

We encourage all students, faculty and staff to learn more about our democracy and the Constitution of the United States by participating in the educational programs offered throughout the year. University community members are invited to participate in the annual Constitution Day, held on or near September 17. Programming includes education about the U.S. Constitution. Look for specific information on the Daily Update. Refer to the University's Civic Engagement Collective for information.