

DEPAUW STUDENT GOVERNMENT

White Paper No. 7

A White Paper on Designated Silent Study Areas

Recognizing that all students have different study habits, we feel that it is important to respect the needs of other students to ensure a positive academic experience for everyone. For years, different spaces on campus were governed by “unofficial rules” about volume level and appropriate behavior that were understood and respected by the student body. However, many students have noticed an increasing disregard for the unofficial rules and fewer and fewer truly silent spaces to study. As a result, silent studiers and librarians are faced with the unenviable choice of “shushing” their peers or suppressing their frustration and hunting for a new quiet place. Since students should not have ever have to leave a study space because other students are creating excess noise, we feel that making these rules official is an important step to providing a fertile academic environment.

As the guiding principle of the “How We Live” discussion, mutual respect between students is crucial to forming a strong community. At DePauw, we expect students to respect each other, and excess noise in silent study spaces is disrespectful. There are plenty of places on campus for students to meet in study groups, socialize, or hold a conversation. Students should be able to enter a study space and know what kind of noise level to expect. If basic study manners are followed, it will have an overall positive impact on the academic experience. By formally establishing rules for noise, students will know what is expected of them and behave accordingly. For these reasons, we call for the following expectations to be respected.

Silent Study Spaces

Personal etiquette in areas like the Prevo Reading Room, Prevo Basement, and 3rd floor of the Roy O’ West are essential to keeping these areas extremely quiet for those students that need silence to work.

- Absolutely no noise
- Music on headphones
- No talking
- Eating kept to a minimum
- Cell phones set to silent, no phone calls
- No group projects

Slightly Social Study Spaces

In other common study areas, like the Julian Atrium, the 2nd floor of Roy O. West, and the GCPA library, noise expectations are more relaxed but should still result in a quiet study environment.

- Minimal whispering in short conversations

- 42 ● Music on headphones
- 43 ● Eating and drinking are permitted
- 44 ● Cell phones on vibrate, take phone calls elsewhere
- 45 ● No noisy group projects

46

47 Social Group Study Spaces

48 Because some students need a working environment that provides room for group work,
49 study areas like the 1st floor of Roy O and Julian create a more social working environment, in
50 which students should still be respectful of their peers, but a reasonable level of noise is
51 permitted.

- 52 ● Be respectful of your neighbors
- 53 ● Social study spaces permitted
- 54 ● Meeting Areas

55

56 Publicizing Expectations

- 57 1. White Paper: Passing this White Paper is an important first step to informing the DePauw
58 community that we have expectations for noise levels in study spaces
- 59 2. Signage: We will create a clever marketing campaign to inform students what the expectations
60 are for the silent spaces.
- 61 3. The DePauw: We will write an editorial/Letter to the Editor in The DePauw that will outline
62 the expectations of each study area.
- 63 4. Campus Media: Utilize the library website, e-services, and DePauw Weekly to remind
64 students of noise level expectations

65

66 Aye 37

67 Nay 2

68 Abstain 2

69

70 This 6th day of **March, 2011**

71

72 SIGNED COPY ON FILE IN DSG OFFICE

73 Christine Walker, President

74

75 Attest:

76 SIGNED COPY ON FILE IN DSG OFFICE

77 Tyler Hess, Secretary