

*University of California
campuses ban encampments and
masks when classes open*

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Stanford students and peaceful anti-war protesters gather at Stanford University to protest Israeli attacks on Gaza, in Stanford, California, on April 22, 2024. [Tayfun Co?kun – Anadolu Agency]

Los Angeles, August 20 (RHC)-- Ten University of California campuses were the scene of massive pro-Palestine demonstrations earlier this year.

On Monday, Michael V. Drake, the president of the University of California (UC), announced that his institution will enforce rules to ban encampments, face masks and other activities related to protests.

This decision comes as students return for the new school year to all 10 of its campuses, which were the scene of massive pro-Palestine protests earlier this year.

In a letter to the university system's community, Drake said the University of California will take several steps to facilitate more consistency across its campuses. These include establishing policies that prohibit camping or encampments, unauthorized structures, restrictions on free movement, masking to conceal identity, and refusing to reveal one's identity when asked to do so by university personnel.

The letter said that the University of California is also developing a framework for consistent implementation of its policies and consistent responses to policy violations.

Pro-Palestinian demonstrations spread at colleges and universities across the United States amid the Israeli offensive against Gaza. The University of California has faced backlash for its handling of campus protests, especially after hundreds were arrested in crackdowns on pro-Palestinian protests and encampments on its campuses across California last school year.

Academic workers at the University of California voiced readiness for "a long fight" in June after a judge ordered their union to halt its strike over the university's handling of pro-Palestinian protests.

The strike by United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 4811, representing 48,000 academic workers across the UC system, expanded to six of UC's 10 campuses.

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