

Showing Films on Campus

Event sponsors wishing to show any portion of a film or video will be required to meet with the office of University Facilities. The organization representative must show a public performance license or proof of permission from the copyright owner to show the work publicly. Failure to show a public performance license or proof of permission will result in denial of the reservation request.

Please be reminded that ownership, rental, or borrowing a film/video from a library does not necessarily constitute public performance rights.

Any attempt to deceive the University Facilities office or members of the MUC staff to avoid obtaining a public performance license will result in event cancellation and may jeopardize the sponsoring organization's ability to reserve space.

License Information

Pre-recorded videocassettes, DVDs and videodiscs that are rented or sold by stores and suppliers throughout the United States are licensed by the copyright owner for home use only. *The U.S. Copyright Act states that the copyright owner has the right "to perform the copyrighted work publicly." U.S. Code, Title 17, Section 106. This right remains with the copyright owner and is not transferred to the purchaser or lessee of a cassette.*

Since many film/video titles are protected by the U.S. Copyright Act, permission from the copyright owner or a public performance license is required before the work can be performed (shown) publicly. To perform or display a work "publicly" means:

To perform or display it at a place open to the public or at any place where a substantial number of persons outside of a normal circle of a family and its social acquaintances is gathered...U.S. Code, Title 17, Section 101.

"Performances in places such as clubs, lodges, factories, summer camps and schools are public performances subject to copyright control." H.R. Rep. No. 94-1476, 94th Congress, 2nd Session (1976) pg. 64.

Anyone that violates the U.S. Copyright Act subjects him/herself to statutory damages, forfeiture of equipment and tapes, attorney's fees and costs of litigation. The penalties for copyright infringement also may include substantial fines and imprisonment. *

Commonly Asked Questions About Film/Video Showings

"Do we need a license if we are not charging admission?"

Yes, the copyright laws apply whether or not admission is charged.

"What about tapes I own?"

The purchase or rental of a video tape from a local video store or rental outlet is for home use only and does not carry with it the right to show the work in a public or semi-public place. Also, ownership of a videocassette that contains an unlawfully copied movie is a violation of copyright laws.

"Isn't my residence hall my home?"

An individual's room where he/she sleeps and studies can be considered "home." However, public and semi-public areas within a residence hall, such as a lounge or recreation room, are subject to copyright restrictions.

"Can I tape a television program at home and show it at my organization's meeting or event?"

Each station network has different procedures and policies. Check with the Reservations and Events Office.

*Borrowed from *Public Performance Videocassette Programming with Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#).