

Movie and Copyright Rules

Highlighted below are the pertinent areas from the Public Performance document from the Motion Picture Association of America. In consultation with University Legal Counsel the following guidelines have been developed to direct student organizations. Orgs need to check with the student organization program coordinator in the Student Engagement Center if the film they plan to show does not fall within the educational parameters set below.

Student organizations should follow these guidelines:

1. Films being used to illustrate an educational point that has relevance to the University's mission may be shown by student organizations on campus without obtaining a performance license. The film must be followed up with an educational activity. You may not advertise outside of your organization in this situation.
2. A showing of a popular movie such as "Harry Potter" is not an educational program and cannot be shown or advertised by organizations without obtaining a performance license.
3. If the showing is going to include more than just a group friends or members of a student organization, you should obtain a performance license. Sponsorship by multiple organizations may require a performance license; please check with John in Student Engagement Center for clarification.
4. If any film is being shown in an area where the public or large numbers of non invited people may join in the viewing (an outdoor showing), a performance license should be obtained.
5. If you are showing the film in your room or apartment after an organization meeting, you do not have to obtain a performance license.
6. If admission is charged, you must obtain a performance license.
7. Permission to show a film may sometimes be obtained without having to pay a licensing fee by contacting the person who holds the rights to the film.
8. The Cofrin Library has many film titles that you can check out from Media Services in the IS building. **Some** of these titles come with full Public Performance rights. You can show these films wherever and whenever you want. **Please check and see if the title has full rights associated with it.**