



Registered Student Organizations who want to have an event in which they show a movie can only do so through obtaining public showing rights through a college distributor. Regardless of whether your event has an admission charge or is free; regardless if the event is open or just for invited guests; and regardless of whether or not you own the movie on DVD or VHS, it is a violation of federal copyright law to show a movie on campus without securing these rights.

Rental/Ownership of Film

Many RSOs assume that if someone in the group owns a DVD then they are allowed to play it on campus as an event—this is not the case; nor is renting a film from a place like Blockbuster and playing it on campus. Privately owned or rented are for personal and home use only.

Educational Use Policy

Section 110 of the 1984 Copyright Act does provide specific exemptions to licensing for “Face to Face teaching.” To qualify for the exemption, the showing must occur in a face-to-face teaching situation at a non-profit educational institution and meet all of the following six criteria.

1. The film must be made from legitimate copies, including pre-recorded videocassettes; not copies of legitimate copies or broadcasts.
2. The film must be part of a systematic course of instruction and not for entertainment, recreation, or cultural value of any part of the audience;
 - Instructor should be able to show how the use of the motion picture contributes to the overall course study and syllabus.
 - Course does not have to be a credit course but must be one recognized by the university and for which people must register.
3. The film must be shown in classrooms and other places devoted to instructional; library screening rooms, residence hall lounges, and cafeterias do not qualify.
4. Attendance is limited to the instructors, pupils and guest lecturers.
 - Only people registered for the class may attend the screening. No fee specific to the showing may be charged.

Copyright Infringers Can be Prosecuted

The Motion Picture Association of America and its member companies are dedicated to stopping film and video piracy in all its forms, including unauthorized public performances, illegal downloading, etc. The motion picture companies can go to court to ensure their copyrights are not violated. To avoid embarrassing publicity and fines, it is important to comply with U.S. Copyright Law when showing movies publicly. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities under copyright law, consult your legal copyright compliance advisor or attorney.

Companies

Prices for film rights can range from \$200-\$1200 depending on the film. There are several companies that handle license rentals for colleges. Swank is one of the most widely known. www.swank.com