



Office of Student Life

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Showing of Movies

The Basics:

Pre-recorded home videocassettes and DVDs (“Videos”) that are available for rental or purchase include the right to exhibit the movie for home use only. These motion pictures do not include a license for showing outside one’s home. If you wish to show movies for any other use or in any other place, you must have a SEPARATE license which specifically authorizes such use.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. We own the Video, do we still need a license to view or show it in public?

A. Yes. The location requires a license regardless of who owns the Video. While you may own the actual video, you are only granted the right to view it in your home, not to perform it in public.

Q. We do not charge admission. Do we still need a license?

A. Yes. Regardless of whether an admission fee is charged, a license is required.

Q. We are a non-profit organization. Do we still need a license?

A. Yes. Under the law, it does not matter if you are a non-profit or for-profit organization. You are required to have a public performance license to show Videos.

Q. We are not open to the general public. Do we still need a license?

A. Yes. Any location outside of the home is considered public for copyright purposes and requires a license.

How to obtain a license:

The easiest way to get a license for the movie you want to show is to work with one of the non-theatrical movie distributors:

- Swank.com/college
- Criterion.com
- Newyorkerfilms.com

Recognized Student Organizations should contact the Office of Student Life for assistance in purchasing a license. There is a fee for the license that will be the responsibility of the organization to pay. Distributors are able to sell you the license and rent you a copy of the movie. If you have your own copy of the movie, you may show that copy, but will also need to purchase the license.