
How do we schedule a video?

To schedule one of the Library's videos, please send an e-mail to taclibav@u.washington.edu. We will need:

- Your name
- The title and call number of the movie
- Date and location of the showing

In addition, if you intend to show a movie limited to home use, we require that you provide documentation of permission from the copyright holder for a public showing.

So why are we allowed to watch movies in class?

Section 110 of copyright law permits professors and students to show copyrighted material during instruction without obtaining permission. To qualify for the teaching exemption the showing must meet very specific criteria. Most importantly, the showing must be "in the course of face-to-face teaching activities of a nonprofit educational institution, in a classroom or similar place devoted to instruction." **Copyright law permits videos to be shown only in college courses as part of the teaching—any other movie showing on campus requires permission.**

Contact Information

For more information about planning movie showings on campus please contact:

Student Life at 253-692-4481

Media Collection at 253-692-4643



TACOMA

GUIDE FOR
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:

Showing films at UW Tacoma





Can we show a movie on campus?

Movies are a great way to reach out to other students, but student groups are often unclear about copyright restrictions. **Most movies are copyrighted and cannot be legally shown in a public setting without permission from the copyright holder. It doesn't matter whether you charge admission or not.** This guide, created by the Library Media Collection and Student Life, explains the copyright restrictions associated with movies and gives suggestions on how to plan a movie showing.

What's up with the FBI warning on videos?

You may have never read the FBI Warning at the beginning of a video. It says, "Federal law provides severe civil and criminal penalties for unauthorized reproduction, distribution or exhibition of copyrighted motion pictures." This text appears on movies released for home use and is based in copyright law. **In essence, the FBI warning is saying that you can't show the video outside your home.** Nearly all of the movies you borrow from the Library, rent or buy are intended for home use and cannot be shown in a public setting.

What is a public showing?

Many student groups think, "Our event's free, so we should be able to just show the video." The issue is not whether you charge admission, but whether you show the video in a public setting. **The definition of a public showing of a movie, according to copyright law, is to "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."** Advertising your event or holding it in an open space like the oUWTpost or Carwein Auditorium would constitute a public showing.

How do we get permission to show a movie?

Getting permission to show most popular, mainstream movies is fairly simple, but make sure you do it early in your planning process. It takes time and, in most cases, money. The price for showing a movie can be up to \$100 or more, depending on the size of the group and the movie's popularity. For rare or international films, the process can be complicated because the copyright holder may not be immediately apparent.

Contact the movie distributor and obtain permission to show the film. Many titles are available from the following sources:

- **SWANK Motion Pictures, Inc.**
www.swank.com
- **Criterion Pictures, USA**
www.criterionpicusa.com
- **Kino International**
www.kino.com/theatrical/
- **New Yorker Films**
www.newyorkerfilms.com/nyf/non-theatrical/nr_n.htm

When you contact the distributor, be prepared to provide the following information:

- Your name and the name of your organization
- Where and to whom you will show the film
- How your organization will pay for the rights to show the movie
- Contact information for your organization
- Whether or not you need a copy of the film

Once you have obtained permission, the Manager of Student Life must receive written verification from the distributor. If you plan to show a movie from the Library, the librarian responsible for the Media Collection also needs a copy of the letter. Form letters are available at Student Life and the Media Collection for this purpose.

Are there any films that don't require permission for public showing?

The Library owns a small number of films that were purchased with Public Performance Rights. Videos with Public Performance Rights usually can be shown as long as you don't charge admission. Often these works are documentaries purchased from independent distributors, and have not had a major release in movie theaters. In other words, although many of these videos are excellent, you may have never heard of them.

Because the UW Libraries Catalog does not identify works with Public Performance Rights, Media Collection staff can help you find them. The Library has created a Web page that gives some basic instructions (*www.tacoma.washington.edu/library/media/about/ppr.htm*). If you would like assistance finding videos, feel free to make an appointment with the Media Collection staff at *taclibav@u.washington.edu*.