

# Lander University Movie Screening Policy

## Purpose

This policy establishes guidelines for the public performance and screening of motion pictures at Lander University. The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with U.S. copyright law, protect the University and its community from legal liability, and provide clear expectations for students, student organizations, faculty, and staff who wish to show films on campus.

## Scope

This policy applies to all motion picture screenings held on Lander University property or sponsored by Lander University entities, including but not limited to: - Student organizations and clubs - Academic departments - University offices and programs - Residence halls and common spaces - Campus-wide or open-to-the-public events

This policy applies regardless of whether admission is charged.

## Definitions

**Public Performance:** Any showing of a motion picture outside of a private residence, or any showing that is open to individuals beyond a normal circle of family and friends.

**Motion Picture:** Any audiovisual work, including feature films, documentaries, television programs, streamed content, or short films.

**Public Domain:** A work that is not protected by copyright and may be used without permission; however, individual elements within a public-domain work (such as music or underlying literary works) may still be copyrighted.

## Policy Statement

All motion picture screenings at Lander University must comply with applicable copyright laws. Showing a film in a public or campus setting generally requires permission or licensing from the copyright holder, unless a specific legal exemption applies.

Ownership of a DVD, Blu-ray, digital file, or streaming subscription (e.g., Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu, Crunchyroll, etc.) does not grant the right to publicly perform a film.

## Licensing and Permission Requirements

### 1. Commercial Films:

- Most commercially produced films require a public performance license to be shown on campus.

- Licenses are typically obtained through authorized licensing agencies or distributors (such as Swank Motion Pictures).
- 2. **Streaming Services:**
  - Films streamed from personal or institutional streaming accounts may not be shown publicly unless the service explicitly grants public performance rights.
- 3. **Public Domain Films:**
  - Public-domain films may be shown without a public performance license.
  - Event organizers are responsible for ensuring that all elements of the version shown (including music, narration, restored audio, or added content) are also in the public domain or properly licensed.
- 4. **Educational Exemption:**
  - Films shown as part of face-to-face classroom instruction may qualify for an educational exemption under U.S. copyright law.
  - This exemption does not apply to extracurricular events, social programs, residence hall screenings, or entertainment-based showings.

## Responsibilities

**Event Organizers:** - Confirm whether a film requires a public performance license. - Secure all necessary licenses or permissions prior to advertising or screening the film. - Use only approved and legally obtained versions of films.

**Advisors and University Departments:** - Assist student organizations in understanding and complying with this policy. - Verify that required licenses have been obtained when approving events.

**Campus Offices:** - Offices responsible for event approvals may require proof of licensing before authorizing a film screening.

## Enforcement

Failure to comply with this policy may result in: - Cancellation of the event - Loss of event privileges - Disciplinary action in accordance with University policies.

## Questions and Assistance

Questions regarding movie screenings, licensing requirements, or copyright compliance should be directed to the Department of Campus Engagement prior to planning or advertising a film event.

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*This policy is intended to support responsible programming while ensuring legal and ethical use of copyrighted materials at Lander University.*