

## Television Programs.

Copyright rules are the same for movies, i.e. face-to-face classroom instructional use does not need a license, etc. If a license is needed for a television program, it must be obtained from the studio. In addition, for instructional purposes the college may record a broadcast transmission and keep the copy up to 45 days. For more information on this "off-air recording" of broadcast TV, see [www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/policy/9-24-85.html](http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/policy/9-24-85.html)

## How to Obtain TV Licensing

Determine which studio (Paramount, etc.) owns the rights. Contact the studio for licensing rights. The big studios may have a policy of not licensing any noncommercial displays. This does not mean they agree not to enforce their rights, only that they decline to issue licenses when small amounts are involved.

## General Information

If you are planning to show a title you may need some form of proof that licensing has been acquired before facility arrangements can be confirmed. If you have questions about the nature of the use, please contact one of the following individuals:

### Any Student Activities Staff Member

### Jim Holmes, Instructional Media Center Mgr

For more information regarding copyright laws and their application, please visit the Motion Picture Licensing Corporation web site:  
[www.mplc.com/aboutLaw.php](http://www.mplc.com/aboutLaw.php)

The guidelines presented in this document are designed to inform the end user of their responsibilities under applicable copyright law and the Reed College Honor Principle. Any questions regarding responsibilities should be directed to one of the individuals listed above.

## This brochure is one in a series on achieving effective campus involvement

- who's who at Reed
- budgeting
- contracting
- event planning
- funding
- publicity
- student activities programs and resources
- showing movies on campus

# guide to Showing movies on campus

how to navigate licensing

**For more information**, please stop by the student activities office in the Student Center, call us at 503-788-6692, or email [student-activities@reed.edu](mailto:student-activities@reed.edu)

**REED**

Student Activities Office  
The Student Center  
503-788-6692  
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## Showing Movies on Campus

To ensure that Reed College is in compliance with existing copyright laws pertaining to the use of video materials, the following guidelines have been established. If you plan to use some form of recorded materials, identify the nature of the use below and your responsibilities.

### Face to face, instructional classroom use

In this instance, use of any previously recorded video material that is part of a systematic course of instruction is appropriate. **No need to seek licensing.**

### Required viewing outside of classroom

Viewing of a particular title required for a particular class, i.e. it is part of a systematic course of instruction, is appropriate. Viewing of such a title should take place in a classroom or similar place devoted to instruction, such as a school library or auditorium. Some titles may be presented within a residence facility if it is part of a systematic course of instruction, i.e., the language houses. **No need to seek licensing.**

### Workshops or training programs

If a title is used as part of an advertised workshop or training session, a public performance **license is required** from the copyright owner.

### Entertainment use

Any use of previously recorded materials in a public space, such as a classroom or meeting room, **requires a performance license** from the copyright owner.

Viewing in a residence hall lounge or room is not considered a public screening, and thus is **not subject to licensing**, unless the event is advertised or a fee for entry is charged.

## How to Obtain Movie Licensing

Here are some of the major companies that distribute movies for public viewing:

Swank MP	<a href="http://www.swank.com">www.swank.com</a>
Criterion Collection	<a href="http://www.criterionco.com">www.criterionco.com</a>
New Yorker Films	<a href="http://www.newyorkerfilms.com">www.newyorkerfilms.com</a>
Wellspring	<a href="http://www.wellspring.com">www.wellspring.com</a>
Media Rights	<a href="http://www.mediarights.org">www.mediarights.org</a>

While most movies you buy don't include licensing, there are some educational film companies that do sell the rights when you buy the videos:

Bullfrog Films	<a href="http://www.bullfrogfilms.com">www.bullfrogfilms.com</a>
Media Rights	<a href="http://www.mediarights.org">www.mediarights.org</a>
Doc. Edu, Resources	<a href="http://www.der.org">www.der.org</a>
Women Make Movies	<a href="http://www.wmm.com">www.wmm.com</a>
Video Data Bank	<a href="http://www.vdb.org">www.vdb.org</a>

### What about foreign films?

The United States is signatory to several international treaties that give the owners of rights in foreign films the same kind of rights as a U.S. owner. The owners of rights in a foreign film can enforce their rights in the U.S., so if a film is foreign, you still must abide by copyright law.

### How old does a movie have to be before it passes into the public domain?

The laws on copyright notice, copyright registration and copyright term are complex and have changed over the years. A few rules can be stated simply. Works first published in the U.S. before January 1, 1923 are now in the public domain. Works published in the U.S. between January 1, 1923 and December 31, 1977 without a proper notice of copyright are also in the public domain. Works published in the U.S. between January 1, 1923 and December 31, 1963 for which the copyright registration was not renewed are also in the public domain. For other categories, check out: [copyright.cornell.edu/training/copyrightterm.pdt](http://copyright.cornell.edu/training/copyrightterm.pdt)

## Are the rules any different for documentary films?

No, the rules are the same. However, the owner of rights in a documentary film may be more likely to give permission than a major studio.

### What if these movie distributors listed don't own the license?

If a license cannot be obtained from one of the distributors, you need to figure out who owns the rights. There is an online database at the Copyright Office that is easy to use for works registered after 1978: [www.copyright.gov/records](http://www.copyright.gov/records) And the Library of Congress: [www.catalog.loc.gov](http://www.catalog.loc.gov) If the work was first registered before 1978 and is not in the LOC catalogue, the search must be performed on the paper records in the Copyright Office. This can be done by the Copyright Office or by private firms. Contact the Student Activities Office for assistance.

### How long do searches take?

If you know the year the work was registered (usually the same as the year it was published) the search can be quite efficient, less than one hour. If the searcher is obliged to go through multiple catalogues, it will take longer. As noted before, works registered after 1978 are searchable online.

### What if a search is unproductive?

If the owner of the rights cannot be found or is unresponsive, this does not mean that no license is required or that no one will ever enforce the copyright. In this case, the only safe option is not to show the film.