



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW ORLEANS

ADMINISTERED BY: Office of Student
Affairs

Policy No: AP-SA-08.1

TITLE: Use of Amplified Sound on
University Property

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

CANCELLATION:

REVIEW DATE: Spring 2027

PURPOSE

This policy governs the use of amplified sound on University of New Orleans property to ensure such use does not disrupt academic activity, university operations, or the surrounding community, while supporting free expression and campus events. The University is committed to the preservation of the lawful, free expression of ideas, including political views and freedom of expression, subject only to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions.

AUTHORITY

Act 584 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, codified at 17:3399.31(I) through 3399.41 ("Louisiana Campus Free Expression Law").

RELATED POLICIES

AP-SA-02.9 Freedom of Expression

DEFINITIONS

Amplified Sound: Any sound that is broadcast through electronically amplified equipment or sound that is electronically enhanced through devices such as loudspeakers, stereos, bullhorns, or similar equipment.

Student: any person who is enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis in a public postsecondary education institution.

Student Organization: an officially recognized group at the University of New Orleans or a group seeking official recognition comprised of enrolled students.

UNO Affiliates: Students, as defined above, and/or University of New Orleans employees, consisting of all full and part-time faculty and staff.

Unaffiliated Persons/Groups: groups or persons who are not university students and/or University employees.

GENERAL POLICY

The University of New Orleans deems the free and open inquiry into all matters fundamental to the mission of higher education and is committed to the preservation of the lawful, free expression of ideas, subject only to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions. (See AP-SA-02.9 Freedom of Expression)

This policy applies to all individuals or organizations that use or reserve space on property owned, leased or controlled by the University.

The University established this policy as a resource to ensure that the use of university facilities and property does not hinder student education, academic activities, campus work and student life environment, scheduled events or university functions.

This policy governs the use of Amplified Sound on property owned, leased or controlled by the University of New Orleans. It does not apply to naturally occurring sounds or to unamplified sounds such as traffic or construction noise. This policy does not specifically address occupational noise exposure standards, administered through Environmental Health & Safety Office.

Use of Amplified Sound

Use of amplified sound outdoors requires an approved space reservation and advance written approval by the Office of Events and Protocol. (See AP-SA-02.9 Freedom of Expression)

Personal devices (e.g., Bluetooth speakers, stereo) may be used informally, provided they do not disrupt university activities or the learning environment.

Permitted Hours for Outdoor Amplified Sound with Approval

- Sunday to Thursday: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Friday to Saturday: 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Exceptions: Sound checks of up to 30 minutes may be scheduled outside these hours with approval. These limits do not apply to official university events.

Sound Level Restrictions

Amplified Sound, whether as part of an approved event or via a personal device, is prohibited if it interferes with University activities and operations.

- Sound that reaches **85 decibels or higher** inside adjacent indoor facilities is presumed disruptive and may be subject to enforcement action. Lower sound levels may be determined to be interfering with University activities and operations, depending on location, context, and duration.
- Amplified sound may not exceed **65 decibels** at the nearest campus property boundary.
- Event organizers must be prepared to measure sound levels and adjust as needed. All organization will use the guidelines set forth herein to minimize the effects of Amplified Sound on the neighboring community.

EXCLUSIONS

Exceptions to this policy in cases of special circumstances, tradition, or benefit to the University community will be considered. Any individual, group, department, or entity planning to use Amplified Sound that has the potential to violate this policy must receive an approved exemption from the Office of Events and Protocol prior to the use of Amplified Sound.

Certain factors inherent to athletic competition and recreation activities (including but not limited to weather delays, injuries and situations involving overtime or extra innings) make it impossible for the athletics and recreation event organizers to fully comply with this policy. Nonetheless, those event organizers shall make every effort to schedule games, matches and other events within the time frames set forth above, and to use the guidelines set forth herein to minimize the effects of amplified sound on the neighboring community.

COMPLIANCE

The use of Amplified Sound that is in violation of this policy is strictly prohibited. If the university determines that the use of Amplified Sound violates AP-SA-02.9 or AP-SA-08.1, university administration will intervene and require the individuals or group using the Amplified Sound lower it, move to another location, or suspend use of Amplified Sound.

Students and employees in violation of any of the above restrictions will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with applicable university policies, the Student Code of Conduct, and Human Resources employment policies. Students, employees, and members of the public in violation of any of the above and/or Louisiana state laws may be detained by law enforcement and trespassed from university property.

Noise complaints regarding sound on campus must be made to University Police and University Events who will evaluate, in conjunction with appropriate University official, whether the Amplified Sound is in violation of this policy.

- Amplified sound is prohibited if it disrupts academic instruction, residential life, staff work, or university operations.
- Violations may result in termination of sound privileges, relocation, or cessation of the event.
- Failure to comply with policy enforcement may result in disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct or removal from campus.

Report an incident of disruption to constitutionally protected speech

To report an incident of disruption of public speaking, distribution of literature, or other constitutionally protected speech: <https://uno.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting>.

For incidents that require police, fire, or medical staff to respond:

Report to UNO Department of Public Safety by calling 504-280-6666 or call 9-1-1 in the case of emergency.

ENFORCEMENT

Any complaints regarding violations of this policy by UNO employees should be reported to the Office of Human Resource Management. Complaints regarding violations by students should be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. Complaints regarding violations by other individuals should be reported to the UNO Police. In accordance with law, UNO Police are authorized to issue citations to individuals who violate this policy.

It is the responsibility of supervisors to facilitate and enforce compliance among all employees under their supervision. Contract managers are responsible for ensuring that temporary and permanent contract employees comply with this policy. All members of the UNO community are expected to identify and address those in violation of the Use of Amplified Sound on University Property policy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy E. Johnson".

Kathy E. Johnson, PhD
President
University of New Orleans