

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
FACILITIES USE POLICY**

SUBJECT: Sound Amplifying Equipment

POLICY OF: Board of Regents:
Excerpt from UWS 18.11(5)

DATE: June 1976; updated June 2019

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
UWS 18.11(5), Wis. Adm. Code**

(5) SOUND AMPLIFYING EQUIPMENT.

(a) In order to permit the use of sound-amplifying equipment on university lands, if needed for the dissemination of ideas to large audiences, but to prevent its use from interfering with university functions which inherently require quiet, the following provisions shall apply:

1. No person may use sound-amplifying equipment on any lands without the permission of the chief administrative officer, except as provided in par. (b).

2. In granting or denying permission, the following principles shall govern:

a. Except in extraordinary circumstances, permission may be granted to use the equipment only during the following hours, 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. every day, and only when the equipment is more than 50 feet from and directed away from any classroom building, residence hall, library or building being used as a study hall.

b. An applicant for permission shall have the burden of establishing the need for amplification to communicate with the anticipated audience. In particular, the applicant must show that the audience can reasonably be anticipated to include at least 250 people.

c. An applicant for permission shall have the burden of establishing that the volume and direction of the sound from the equipment will minimize interference with other activities.

3. Any request for the permission required by this section must be submitted in writing to the chief administrative officer at least 24 hours prior to the intended use of the sound-amplifying equipment and must be signed by a student or employee of the institution where the equipment is to be used. The request shall contain:

a. The proposed hours, date and location where the equipment is to be used.

b. The size of the anticipated audience and the reasons why the equipment is needed.

c. A description of the proposed equipment which includes the manufacturer, model number, and wattage.

d. The names of the owner of the equipment and of any person or persons, in addition to the person signing the application, who will be responsible for seeing that the equipment is operated in compliance with the terms of the permit and the provisions of this rule. The chief administrative officer may require the presence of additional persons if said officer believes this is necessary to ensure compliance.

(b) Permits issued by the chief administrative officer shall not be required for the use of university sound-amplifying equipment used with the permission of the university employee having control of the equipment for authorized university classes, research, or meetings in university buildings, or for university sponsored academic, recreational or athletic activities, or for crowd control by authorized university officials.

(c) For the purpose of this section, "sound-amplifying equipment" means any device or machine which is capable of amplifying sound and capable of delivering an electrical input of one or more watts to the loudspeaker.