

APPENDIX F – AMPLIFIED SOUND

1. "Amplified sound" refers to sound whose volume is increased by any electric, electronic, mechanical, or motor-powered means. Shouting, group chants, and the playing of acoustic musical instruments are not considered amplified sound.
2. Essential to fulfilling UTRGV's mission is an innovative and accessible educational environment that promotes student success. UTRGV has a significant institutional interest in creating and maintaining an academic atmosphere that advances UTRGV's mission – where class meetings in their settings are not disrupted; where students can have quiet areas in which to study; and where social, recreational, development, and educational programs can occur without disruption. The rules in this Appendix F are tailored to serve this significant institutional interest.
3. Advance permission is required to use amplified sound on campus. Academic or administrative units, UTRGV-affiliated individuals and organizations, and members of the public may use amplified sound only in the outdoor areas designated below on weekdays, subject to the rules in this Appendix F and ADM 02-300 Speech, Expression, and Assembly:
 - a. Student Union Lawn (Brownsville campus): Amplified speech and acoustic, non-amplified music are permissible with an approved reservation. Amplified music may be approved under circumstances deemed by UTRGV to not be disruptive to other authorized activities occurring in and around the area. Amplified music is permissible during University-sponsored events such as Charreada, Best Week Ever, or other similar events.
 - b. Main Courtyard (Brownsville campus): Amplified speech and acoustic, non-amplified music are permissible with an approved reservation. Amplified music may be approved under circumstances deemed by UTRGV to not be disruptive to other authorized activities occurring in and around the area.
 - c. Chapel Lawn (Edinburg campus, area behind the Chapel, between the Student Union, Interdisciplinary Engineering & Academic Building, and Physical Science Building): Amplified speech and music are permissible with an approved reservation, when the proposed event is determined not to be disruptive to other authorized activities occurring in and around the area.
 - d. Quadrangle (Edinburg campus, Quad North and Quad South): Amplified speech and acoustic, non-amplified music are permissible with an approved reservation. Amplified music may be approved under circumstances deemed by UTRGV to not be disruptive to other authorized activities occurring in and around the area. Amplified music is permissible during University-sponsored events such as Homecoming Week, Best Week Ever, HESTEC, or other similar events.
 - e. Science Sundial (Edinburg campus): Amplified speech and acoustic, non-amplified music are permissible with an approved reservation. Amplified music may be approved under circumstances deemed by UTRGV to not be disruptive to other authorized activities occurring in and around the area.

- f. Troxel Lawn (Edinburg campus): Amplified speech and music are permissible with an approved reservation, when the proposed event is determined not to be disruptive to other authorized activities occurring in and around the area or to residents of Troxel Hall.
 - g. University Center Circle (Edinburg campus): Amplified speech and music are permissible with an approved reservation, when the proposed event is determined not to be disruptive to other authorized activities occurring in and around the area.
4. UTRGV may designate additional areas for use of amplified sound at its discretion. The Department of Athletics may use amplified sound in outdoor locations under its control (e.g., Fieldhouse Courtyard, Fieldhouse front mall, UTRGV Baseball Stadium, and other facilities) for its events without need for permission under this Appendix F.
5. Any event or activity determined to be disruptive to any authorized UTRGV activity may result in permission for use of amplified sound being immediately revoked. If UTRGV determines that it is unworkable to schedule two or more simultaneous events using amplified sound in different spaces at the same location, UTRGV may refuse to schedule simultaneous events.
6. During a voting period for an election held under the Texas Elections Code, amplified sound within 1,000 feet of a campus building in which a polling place is located is prohibited, if the amplified sound is for the purpose of making a political speech or for electioneering for or against any candidate, measure, or political party.
7. Administrative units managing designated outdoor areas for amplified sound may prescribe rules concerning scheduling, acceptable sound levels, the location of amplified-sound devices and directions in which they are pointed, and other rules to facilitate the use of amplified sound areas, to mediate any conflict with UTRGV functions and other nearby activities, and to manage environmental impact. All such rules shall be viewpoint-neutral, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory, clearly stated in writing, and published on a website or otherwise made readily available in writing at the chief administrative office of the unit.
8. Requests to use a weekday amplified sound area must identify the particular area requested and a particular time. Requests must be made via Ad Astra for registered faculty and staff organizations and administrative and academic units, and via VLink for registered student organizations. Members of the public should contact Facilities Planning & Operations to request use of a particular area. Properly completed requests will be approved, unless the application must be disapproved under rules promulgated under the authority of this Appendix F or ADM 02-300 Speech, Expression and Assembly, or under another applicable UTRGV policy.
9. Administrative units may limit the number or frequency of reservations for each individual or organization to ensure reasonable access for all individuals and organizations desiring to use amplified sound on weekdays.

10. Individuals and organizations using amplified sound are responsible for maintaining a passageway for pedestrians that is adequate to the volume of pedestrian traffic passing through the area.
11. With advance permission, academic and administrative units, UTRGV-affiliated individuals and organizations, and members of the public may use amplified sound in the common outdoor areas of campus (including the areas designated in Section 3 of this appendix) on weekends.
12. If amplified sound is authorized for an event on a Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evening after regular business hours, the sound must be turned off by 1:00 a.m. on the following day. If amplified sound is authorized for an event on a Friday or Saturday evening, the sound must be turned off by 2:00 a.m. the following day.
13. Academic or administrative units and UTRGV-affiliated organizations may reserve space in UTRGV's limited public forum for events using amplified sound. The academic or administrative unit managing the space may limit or prohibit sound that would be disruptive outside the room. Reservations may be required. Rules concerning the use of facilities are found in ADM 10-301 Facility Use.