

Rules Regarding the Use of Amplified and Projected Sound

The Department of Public Safety has established rules regarding the use of Amplified and Projected Sound as outlined in the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Regulations Regarding Use of University Property.

As noted in the University of Rhode Island's Mission Statement, the University of Rhode or "URI") is committed to high-quality education, community engagement, and solving the world's most important challenges. The management of Amplified and Projected Sound is paramount to meeting that mission by maintaining a campus that allows for the continued and uninterrupted operations of the institution to meet this mission.

1. Applicability

All users of University Property

2. Definitions

Amplified and Projected Sound. Any sound that is electronically amplified or projected through the use of equipment such as amplifiers, speakers, megaphones, or other sound systems. Projected sound also includes the use of acoustic instruments like trumpets, trombones, violins, air horns, drums or other percussive instruments, and other similar implements that can produce sound at disruptive levels.

University Property. Property belonging to the State of Rhode Island and held in trust by the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees; property held by the University of Rhode Island or any of its component units in its own name; and property owned by third parties but assigned to, occupied by, or managed by the University or any of its component units.

2. Amplified and Projected Sound Conditions

Sound Levels. Sound levels that are disruptive to the education environment, such that they may interfere with classes or other University activity, are prohibited. In general, sound levels, particularly Amplified and Projected Sound, must not exceed 85 decibels (dB) at a distance of 50 feet from the source. Requests for sound levels exceeding this limit require additional permission and must be submitted Assistant Vice President of Public Safety. Noise restrictions inside the residential halls must follow stated policies per the housing agreement.

Times. Amplified and Projected Sound levels must be maintained at all times at a volume that does not interfere with University Operations. Amplified and Projected Sound is permitted on campus but must minimize any disruption to academic activities, residence halls, and public spaces. Amplified and Projected Sound is allowed below the above-specified levels except during Quiet Hours prior to final exams. These quiet hours are in effect 24 hours per day each semester, beginning at 11:59 p.m. on the last day of classes through 11:59 p.m. on the last days of finals. Sounds levels during quiet hours should generally remain below 70 decibels.

Events. The use of Amplified or Projected Sound with levels greater than the above-specified level is allowed with prior written permission by the Assistant Vice President of Public Safety or as specified in a contract (with a third-party for example). Permission may be granted (or sound levels may be restricted) based on a specific location and the nature of other activities occurring at the same time or location.

Enforcement. Failure to comply with any request to reduce volume that is in excess of the approved limit may result in appropriate disciplinary measures depending upon the circumstances of the incident, including the immediate cancellation of the remainder of an ongoing event or gathering.

Exceptions. These rules do not apply to the use of Amplified and Projected Sound for the following: University Athletics and Athletic events including practices, games, and other athletic activities; University events sponsored by the Offices of the President, Provost, Vice President of Student Affairs (i.e., Welcome Days / Open House programs, Orientation, First Night, etc.); Homecoming, Family Weekend, Commencement activities; the University Marching and Athletic Bands (for official, organized practices and performances as directed by the band director or their designee).