

Student Union Sound Policy

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Overview

SUNY Old Westbury's primary mission is to serve as an academic institution. The production of sound, either amplified or non-amplified, in conjunction with an outdoor event or speech activity should not disrupt educational activities and other college business. Outdoor events which use amplified sound equipment are prohibited on the university campus, except under guidelines, procedures, and policies specified in this policy.

Music, speakers, fairs, festivals, celebrations and other activities serve to contribute to the quality of campus life. However, the use of amplified sound shall not disrupt the central academic mission of the college.

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards for the control of noise pollution within and around the Student Union to reduce the making and creation of excessive, unnecessary, or unusually loud noises and to secure, protect, and promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the college community.

Time, Place and Manner

Approved events may have amplified sound if the following conditions are met:

- The event will not interfere with a scheduled event.
- Noise levels shall not exceed 50 dBA (decibels) during academic terms inside the building or 80 dBA on the weekends, measured 50 feet from the speakers/sound amplifying equipment.
- Table spaces can only have amplified sound to enhance their space. The sound level should not go above 65 dBA three feet from the source of the sound.
- The event cannot start before 8 a.m. on any day and shall conclude by 10 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday and midnight Thursday-Saturday.
- Campus officials including, advisors, event organizers, and campus police can ask for the sound level to be lowered at any time regardless if the requirements are being met. No outdoor events with amplified sound shall be scheduled between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

When final examinations are held, no events involving amplified sound shall be scheduled. No exceptions shall be granted during this period, which starts on the first day of finals and runs through the last day of scheduled finals.

Monitoring and Compliance

The responsible person shall use an appropriate sound measuring device for compliance during the event and to enable the College to respond to complaints immediately.

The point of contact/host shall be available throughout the event to ensure compliance with this policy. If at any time the amplified sound exceeds the limits stipulated in this policy or reasonable conditions,

the point of contact/host shall be asked to reduce the volume. If the sound level exceeds 85 dBA for 60 seconds when measured at 50 feet, a warning shall be given to lower the volume.

College officials have the right to require amplification systems to be turned down, or off entirely if it is determined the sound level is too high or inappropriate. Failure to respond immediately may result in the cancelation of the event.

Exceptions

In rare cases, organizations may request an exception to policy. Student organization/club requests for exceptions may be submitted for consideration with a reservation request to the Student Union Operations and Events Manager and the Center for Student Leadership and Involvement. The both the Student Union Operations and Events Manager and the Center for Student Leadership and Involvement shall review the exception request. If approved, the Student Union Operations and Events Manager and the Center for Student Leadership and Involvement shall submit the justification for the exception to the Dean of Students.

All requests for exceptions must be submitted at least 30 calendar days in advance.

The type of sound requested, the time of the event and the location to classrooms, outdoor instructional area, and residence halls shall be taken into consideration before any exception is granted. Exceptions are not simply granted upon request.