



OP 91.310: OUTDOOR AMPLIFIED SOUND

PURPOSE

To provide uniform guidelines to ensure appropriate times and noise levels are recognized and observed for outdoor events facilitated by registered student organizations and university departments. In accordance with University policy OP 91.304, outside amplified sound is not permitted except in those circumstances described in this policy.

POLICY

The university realizes the privilege to enjoy outdoor entertainment and programs must be weighed against the basic need of students and other residents of the university community to enjoy an atmosphere free from excessive noise. The university allows outdoor amplified sound on campus under the following conditions designed to minimize distractions from the educational purpose of the university and unwarranted disturbance of residents of the university community.

PROCEDURE

1. Weekends

On-campus, outdoor events with amplified sound will typically be the weekends of home football games during the fall semester and typically six weekends during the spring semester. The spring weekends, one of which will be Super Bulldog Weekend, will be set no later than the end of the first week of class of spring semester. A committee comprised of a representative from the Dean of Students Office, the Colvard Student Union, Student Association president, a Provost representative, and others as deemed necessary will determine the dates

2. Weekdays

Outdoor amplified sound during the week will typically be on Thursday evening from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. Exceptions for special campus-wide events may be made by the above committee. Specially approved weekday outdoor concerts, or other amplified sound events must typically end by 10 p.m. Weekday events with outdoor amplified sound that are held adjacent to classroom buildings may be held to different time constraints and sound levels.

3. Times

The times during which outdoor amplified sound will typically be allowed on approved dates are as follows:

- a. Thursday: 8 p.m. until 11 p.m.
- b. Friday: 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. Saturday
- c. Saturday: 10 a.m. until 1 a.m. Sunday
- d. Sunday: 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

4. Sound Levels and Location

The following guidelines regarding sound levels and locations must be adhered to at all times and may be adjusted by the Dean of Students Office as deemed necessary to preserve the ability for the university to conduct normal business or a special event:

- a. The standard approved sound level permitted for outdoor amplified sound is typically 100 decibels.
- b. Different locations, such as those adjacent to academic buildings and residence halls, may determine the volume, speaker placement, and any other component of the event.
- c. Events planned during normal classroom hours may be considered on a case by case basis.
- d. The Dean of Students Office reserves the right to lower the volume to a more appropriate level at their discretion.
- e. Athletic games (sounds originating from athletic venues) and MSU band practices are excluded from this policy.

5. Organizational/Departmental Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the registered organization or university department facilitating the event to monitor the sound level. Complaints received by University Police Department will be relayed to the individual in charge or the organization sponsor. If the sound level is not managed properly, after one warning the event may be stopped by university officials. All requests for events with amplified sound must be submitted a minimum of 10 business days in advance of the scheduled event.

REVIEW

The Vice President for Student Affairs is responsible for the review of this operating policy every four years or as needed.

REVIEWED BY:

/s/ Regina Hyatt
Vice President, Student Affairs

05/01/2026
Date

/s/ Tracey N. Baham
Associate Vice President, Institutional Strategy & Effectiveness

05/04/2026
Date

/s/ Joan Lucas
General Counsel

05/04/2026
Date

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Mark E. Keenum
President

06/22/2026
Date