



Visual Media Policy

No. 8205

Policy Effective Date:
1/19/1988

Last Revision Date:
12/3/2024

Policy Owner:
Frances Keene

Policy Author: (*Contact Person*)
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Affected Parties:
Undergraduate
Graduate

1.0 Purpose
2.0 Policy
3.0 Procedures
4.0 Definitions
5.0 References
6.0 Approval and Revisions

1.0 Purpose

The following policy pertains to the showing of visual media of all forms by recognized or registered University groups.

1.1 Background

At the recommendation of the Commission on Student Affairs, University Council took action in 1988 to amend the Films Policy at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). This policy is set forth not to condone the showing of visual media that are generally recognized as obscene or pornographic, but to fulfill the highest aspirations of a university as an open intellectual marketplace where all ideas and ideologies can be sampled and tested. Although some of the ideas may not be particularly attractive or wholesome, censorship would endanger vital intellectual freedom.

2.0 Policy

1. All officially recognized University groups shall have the opportunity to present visual media of any nature at Virginia Tech. This policy is subject to any applicable federal and state laws; for example, federal copyright laws and state obscenity laws.
2. Visual media shall not be subject to review by any board or administrative body.
3. All advertising for the showing of visual media must clearly indicate the sponsoring organization and the rating of the movie, or a system for monitoring the admission of minors must be in place at the showing's entrance.
4. The sponsoring organization will be responsible for verifying student identification at the entrance, if applicable. A Virginia Tech ID will be sufficient but not necessary to admit a student.

3.0 Procedures

4.0 Definitions

5.0 References

6.0 Approval and Revisions

Approved January 19, 1988 by the President, Paul E. Torgersen, following action by the University Council on January 4, 1988.

Annual review January 8, 1990. No changes necessary.



Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

- Revision 1
Section 2, #3. Added “a system for monitoring the admission of minors must be in place at the door.”
Approved April 19, 2002 by Vice President for Student Affairs, Landrum L. Cross.
- Revision 2
Changed references to "film" throughout to "visual media"
Approved January 21, 2015 by Vice President for Student Affairs, Patricia A. Perillo
- Revision 3
Technical update providing clarifying language.
Approved December 3, 2024 by Vice President for Student Affairs, Frances Keene.