



INDECENCY AND OBSCENITY POLICY

- If it isn't on this list, it does **NOT** mean you can say it.
- If you **THINK** you can't say something, **DON'T**.

The seven dirty words that you CANNOT say on the radio.

1. Sh*t
2. P*ss
3. F*ck
4. C*nt
5. M*therf*cker
6. C*cks*cker
7. T*ts

Additional words you cannot say on-air:

1. B*tch
2. P*ssy
3. Tw*t
4. Fart
5. Turd

It is a violation of the federal law to air obscene programming at any time. It is also a violation of federal law to air indecent programming or profane language during certain hours (6 a.m.-10 p. m.). Congress has given the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) the responsibility for administratively enforcing these laws. The FCC may revoke a station license, impose a monetary forfeiture or issue a warning if a station airs obscene, indecent, or profane material.

Obscene Broadcasts are prohibited at all times.

Obscene material is not protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution and cannot be broadcast at any time. The Supreme Court has established that, to be obscene, material must meet a three-pronged test:

- An average person, applying contemporary community standards, must find the material, as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest.
- The material must depict or describe, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by applicable law.
- The material, taken as a whole, must lack serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

Indecent Broadcast Restrictions:

The FCC has defined broadcast indecency as “language or material that, in context, depicts or describes, in terms patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards for the broadcast medium, sexual or excretory organs or activities.” Indecent programming contains patently offensive sexual or excretory material that does not rise to the level of obscenity.

The courts have held that indecent material is protected by the First Amendment and cannot be banned entirely. It may, however, be restricted in order to avoid its broadcast during times of the day where there is no reasonable risk that children may be in the audience.

For more information visit:

<http://www.fcc.gov/guides/obscenity-indecency-and-profanity>

If Vaquero Radio were to air “serious literary, artistic, political or scientific material” that might offend listeners, the material must be preceded by a warning message. Airing the material would be the decision of the station manager and is not made by the students on an individual basis. We also recognize that many words have become common in today’s vocabulary. Casual swear words are not to be aired on Vaquero Radio.

Sanctions:

Obscenity and indecency cases will be judged on a case-by-case basis. On-air personalities repeatedly using obscene or indecent language will be suspended from their on-air duties for a length of time to be determined by the Radio Faculty Adviser and Student Media Director. Airing indecent recorded programming will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Summary:

Be careful of what you say and what you may imply by what you say. Any questions regarding content should be brought to the station manager in advance. If there is even a slight chance of it being offensive, seek judgment from the station manager. Finally, please realize that rulings are subject to change, and because of its importance we will work to keep you up-to-date on the issue. Remember that when you are on the air, you are also representing the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.