Programming Standards

Our channels feature everything from live studio shows to documentaries, music performances and alternative news commentary.

If you have an Open Signal series, each of your program’s episodes is guaranteed three airings—one on each of our channels, in recurring time slots. (Unless more than half your pre-produced series was produced outside of Portland—then it will only get two airings.)

If you submit content without having a series, your program will air at least five times on our channels, but without a regular time slot.

To ensure that we can play your content, please make sure it adheres to the following standards:

1. It does not contain commercial content (advertising, calls to action, pricing info).
2. You have the necessary clearances for the copyrighted material you’re using.
3. It doesn’t start or end with black video, bars, or tones.
4. It has a 29.97 fps frame rate.
5. It’s in MPEG-2, H.264, or .mov format.
6. The aspect ratio is 4:3 or 16:9 (1920 x 1080i, 720 x 1280p, or 720 x 480).
7. Video bitrate is 15-20 Mbps and audio bitrate is 192 kbps/48kHz.
8. RMS should be -10 dB and peak should be -6 dB.

Please contact Open Signal Programming if you have any questions, at distribution [at] opensignalpdx.org.

You can find more in-depth guidelines in the Community Producer Handbook.