Facility Overview: The Academic Mall includes the large lawn (including an area known as The Grove) in the center of campus, the sidewalks surrounding the lawn, and the McCombs Student Center flagpole area. It serves as the informal outdoor gathering place for students, faculty and staff. Large and small campus events are scheduled on the Academic Mall.

Scheduling Contact: Assistant Director of Student Activities – 863-1874

Scheduling Priorities
Priorities for facility use are as follows:
General access for Southwestern students, faculty, and staff must be maintained on the Academic Mall. Certain areas may be restricted during University Events.

Multiple events can be scheduled on the Academic Mall because of the size and nature of the venue.

Campus groups holding events on the Academic Mall are encouraged to include the entire campus community.

Requests by groups unrelated to Southwestern University will be considered on an exceptional basis only during the summer. The event cannot prohibit access to Southwestern students, faculty, and staff to the Academic Mall area.

See General Facilities Use Policy for regulations applicable to ALL University facilities.

Regulations Specific for Use of the Academic Mall
1. Requests to use the Academic Mall must be approved by the Director of Student Activities for student events or by the Director of University Events for all other events.
2. Events on the Academic Mall must be held between the hours of 8:00 am and 11:00 p.m.
3. Events involving the amplification of sound must have set-up approval from the Director of Student Activities for student events or from the Director of University Events for all other events. Events involving amplified sound may not be scheduled when the sound will conflict with events in surrounding buildings.
4. A list of electrical equipment and requirements (volts, amps, etc) must be submitted to the Academic Mall scheduler at least 30 days in advance of the event. The Scheduler must submit the request to the appropriate Manager of Facility Maintenance Operations prior to final approval of the event request.
5. Tents, stages, furniture, food trucks, fixtures or other structures cannot be set-up on the Academic Mall without approval. Locations of such structures should be determined based on access to electricity (if needed), sound projection, safety and with consideration of the landscape and irrigation. All tents must be frame tents with barrels at the base. No stakes can be used to erect or secure structures.

6. Any structure or material covering the grass can be in place only for a limited time period to avoid damaging the grass. Time limit will be set based on time of year.

7. Set-ups for an event on the Academic Mall cannot block access to buildings on the perimeter of the Academic Mall nor block sidewalks.

8. When rental equipment is involved, the rentals must be picked up as soon as possible (the same day or the next morning).

9. Vehicles of any type are not allowed to park on the grassy areas of the Academic Mall for an extended period of time. Delivery vehicles may use the sidewalks to get as close to their destination as possible. If it is necessary to drive a vehicle onto the grassy area to unload, staff from the Grounds Department of Physical Plant must be present to direct driver and avoid irrigation system. **Weather conditions may prohibit access.**

10. Fountains are not to be tampered with. Nothing (including people) is allowed in the fountains.

11. The consumption, possession, or distribution of controlled substances (other than alcohol) is not permitted on the Academic Mall.

12. The consumption, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages is only permitted with the written permission of the Associate Vice President and Dean of Students for student events or from the Vice President of University Relations for all other events.

13. Student events that involve food service should follow the guidelines found in the Student Organization Handbook; catering services for all other events must be approved by the Director of University Events.

14. Users are responsible for clean-up immediately following the event. All decorations and debris should be removed from the area immediately.

Exceptions to this policy must be approved by Associate Dean of Student Life with consultation from the Manager of Custodial and Grounds Services.