

WOBC HISTORY

WOBC was first established in 1949 as KOCN, the Oberlin College Student Network, which made its first broadcast November 5, 1950 at 590-AM. The first broadcast originated from a building located at 32 East College Street that was later demolished to allow the construction of the Oberlin Inn. When construction of the Inn began in the mid-1950s, the radio station moved to the garage behind Grey Gables, a building on West College Street that was later demolished to construct the Mudd Center. The station's call letters changed from KOCN to WOBC in the early 1950s to comply with new call-letter standards.



During this period, studio equipment and broadcast electronics were built by Oberlin College students, save the purchase of used turntables and microphone. The AM signal was broadcast directly to dormitories over a network of wire and transmission boxes attached to electrical poles in town. In 1953, the station acquired a teletype machine as a result of a sponsorship deal with Lucky Strike which provided news updates. During the first two decades of the station's operation, programming consisted largely of classical music, news, jazz and popular music. WOBC began broadcasting at 88.7-FM in 1961. The studio remained at the garage behind Grey Gables until 1964 when the station moved to its current location in Wilder Hall.