



Copyright Policy

Copyright is legal protection for creative intellectual works, which is broadly interpreted to cover almost any expression of an idea. Text (including email and Web information), graphics, arts, photographs, video and other media types, music, and software are examples of types of works protected by copyright. The creator of the work, or sometimes the person who hired the creator, is the initial copyright owner.

Copyright infringement (or copyright violation) is the unauthorized or prohibited use of works covered by copyright law, in a way that violates one of the copyright owner's exclusive rights, such as the right to reproduce or perform the copyrighted work, or to make derivative works

It is against policy for any student, faculty, staff member, consultant, contractor or other worker at the institution to copy, reproduce, share, or distribute any software, music, games, or movies on institution computing equipment except as expressly permitted by a software license or with the written consent of the copyright holder or as otherwise permitted under federal law.

Willful infringement may subject a student or employee to discipline and can impact the privilege to use information technology resources at the institution. Uploading or downloading works protected by copyright without the authority of the copyright owner is an infringement of the copyright owner's exclusive rights of reproduction and/or distribution. Even an innocent, unintentional infringement violates the law.

Anyone found to have infringed a copyrighted work may be liable for statutory damages for each work infringed and, if willful infringement is proven by the copyright owner, that amount may be increased for each work infringed. In addition, an infringer of a work may also be liable for the attorney's fees incurred by the copyright owner to enforce his or her rights.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or "statutory" damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For "willful" infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys' fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505.

Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense.

For more information on United States copyright law, please consult the U.S. Copyright Office's website at <http://www.copyright.gov> .

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