

## **Copyright Infringement Policy**

Computers located in the student study areas, media areas and other locations throughout the campus that are designated for student use may ONLY be used for academic pursuits assigned by an instructor. It is against school policy for students to copy or share any copyrighted material. This includes unauthorized peer to peer file sharing. It is prohibited for students to use the school's information technology systems for these activities.

Copyright infringement is prohibited by the Institute which follows the federal regulation on this issue (excerpt below):

Summary of Civil and Criminal Penalties for Violation of Federal Copyright Laws Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code).

These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work.

In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement. 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.

For more information, please see the Web site of the U.S. Copyright Office at [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov), especially their FAQ's at

In addition to the Civil and criminal penalties above the Institute can take disciplinary actions against students who use the school's technology systems for unauthorized peer to peer file sharing, illegal downloading, or distribution of copyrighted material. These disciplinary actions can take the form of a written warning permanently placed in a students' file, up to six months' suspension and/or permanent dismissal.