

COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT & ILLEGAL FILE SHARING-POLICIES

Intellectual properties include properties include copyrights, trademarks, patents and trade secrets covered by copyright law. Copyright infringement (or copyright violation) is the unauthorized, prohibited use to reproduce ideas information without any intention of paying for it.

For electronic and audio-visual media, unauthorized reproduction and distribution is also commonly referred to as piracy. Besides, unauthorized downloading of movies, music and software is damaging the economy.

When students are found guilty of an academic offense, a penalty will be assigned ranging from a warning to a suspension or expulsion from the institution.

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. 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, please see the Web site of the U.S. Copyright Office at: **www.copyright.gov**.