

ANTIOCH COLLEGE
“POLICY FOR ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTING RESOURCES”

The primary purpose of Antioch College’s computing resources is to enhance and support the educational mission of Antioch College and its units. These resources include microcomputers, workstations, and multi-user computer systems, as well as local area networks and connections to other computer networks and the Internet.

All students, faculty and staff are responsible for using Antioch’s computing resources in a safe, effective, ethical, and lawful manner.

Note: Logging onto or otherwise connecting to the campus network, systems, or accounts implies acceptance of this policy.

The intent of this statement is to give an overview of acceptable and unacceptable uses of Antioch’s computing resources without exhaustively enumerating all every possible use and misuses. This statement is intended as an addition to existing policies concerning academic honesty and the use of facilities. The predominant goal of this policy is to promote honesty, respect for individuals and respect for both physical and intellectual property. All expectations regarding academic honesty and professional ethics extend to assignments completed in electronic form. It is never permitted to use another person’s computer authorization for any purpose or to provide your own authorization to another. It is never permitted to access someone else’s work without explicit permission. It is not permitted to engage in any activity that would harass others or impede their work. All members of the campus community are required to adhere to all copyright laws. As part of the Internet community, employees and students connecting their computers to the Antioch network must take reasonable precautions against viruses.

While Antioch makes every effort to maintain the security of its systems, no guarantee of privacy can be made for electronically stored information or e-mail. Users of institutional computing resources also should be aware that the institution reserves the right to inspect information stored on its systems when there is reasonable cause to suggest a violation of the institution’s policies. Furthermore, Information Technology Services (ITS) actively monitors and scans its network for unauthorized network devices and services such as network switches and wireless access points.

Standards of ethics and behavior while using computing resources should follow such standards as outlined in other Antioch College handbooks and policy documents. Disciplinary procedures for violations will follow standard institutional procedures and may result in curtailment of network privileges.

The items below constitute examples of acceptable and unacceptable use:

Acceptable Use

- Use consistent with the mission of Antioch College and its units.
- Use for purposes of, or in support of, education and pertinent academic research.
- Use related to administrative and other support activities considered consistent with the mission of Antioch College and its units.
- Personal communications as long as these do not interfere with the mission of the institution, infringe on the time of staff or students, or overload system or network resources.

Unacceptable Use

- Use of Antioch College computers or networks that violates federal, state, or local laws or statutes.
- Providing, assisting in, or gaining unauthorized or inappropriate access to Antioch College’s computing resources.

- Use of Antioch College computers or networks for unauthorized or inappropriate access to systems, software, or data at other sites.
- Installing on the network unauthorized network devices and network services such as wireless access points, Internet address resolution servers, file or communications servers, hubs, routers, and switches.
- Use of Antioch College's systems or networks to copy, store, display, or distribute copyrighted material in any medium, or to prepare derivative works of such material, without the express permission of the copyright owner, except as otherwise allowed under copyright law.
- Installation of software on Antioch-owned computers that is not either in the public domain or for which legal licensing has not been acquired by the individual user or the institution via ITS or another department.
- Activities that interfere with the ability of others to use Antioch College's computing resources or other network-connected services effectively.
- Activities that result in unauthorized access to or the loss of another's work.
- Connecting one's personal computer to Antioch College's network without active and current anti-virus protection.
- Distribution of obscene, abusive, or threatening messages via electronic media such as e-mail or instant messaging.
- Distribution of chain letters or broadcasting to lists of individuals in a manner that might cause congestion of the network.
- Use of Antioch College computers or networks for commercial use or profit-making enterprises except as specifically agreed to with the institution.
- Use inconsistent with the acceptable-use policies of the Ohio Private Academic Libraries (OPAL) consortium, Ohio Library Information Network (OhioLINK), the Library Division of the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) or the Ohio Academic Research Network OARnet.

Antioch College Internet Peer-to-Peer File-Sharing Policy Supplement to the Policy for Acceptable Use of Computing Resources

In recent years, Internet peer-to-peer file-sharing programs have made it easy to download and share music, movies, and software files. This has become a problem for Antioch College and other institutions because it encourages behavior that violates copyright law and because it causes Internet traffic congestion.

In dealing with these issues, Antioch College will by policy and procedure:

- Ensure for all users adequate and equitable access to the Internet for academic purposes and personal communications.
- Respect our community's rights to privacy and confidentiality, freedom of speech, and academic freedom while using the network.
- Educate the network-user community on the technical, legal, and ethical aspects of copyright and intellectual property.
- Uphold copyright law as spelled out in the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act and elsewhere. The act defines copyright and fair use in the digital age.

Antioch College's Policy for Acceptable Use of Computing Resources prohibits "use of Antioch College's systems or networks to copy, store, display, or distribute copyrighted material in any medium, or to prepare derivative works of such material, without the express permission of the copyright owner, except as otherwise allowed under copyright law." In addition to sanctions by the institution, copyright violators could be subject to felony charges under state and federal law and may be sued by the copyright holder.

Under copyright law, unless you have express permission from the copyright holder to engage in the copying, downloading, and sharing of files, you are in violation of the law. Peer-to-peer programs have no provision to acquire permission. In practice, therefore,

their use for downloading music and movies may put you in violation of Antioch College's policy and the law.

Peer-to-peer file-sharing programs have legitimate uses for sharing information over the Internet. In addition, the Internet has allowed the democratization of the music industry, allowing musicians to distribute their works and gain audiences not possible before the Internet. However compelling they are, these arguments in no way absolve file-sharing users from the need to follow copyright law and respect intellectual property ownership.

Antioch College's ITS does not intend to block peer-to-peer file-sharing programs, nor does it monitor the content of network traffic. However, ITS does monitor traffic patterns in order to guarantee acceptable network performance for all users. If ITS becomes aware of policy violations or illegal activities in the course of investigating network congestion or determining problems, it will investigate by inspecting content stored or shared on its network.

Antioch College's acceptable use policy also prohibits "activities that interfere with the ability of others to use Antioch's computing resources or other network-connected services effectively." This may apply to peer-to-peer file-sharing programs irrespective of copyright violations, as these programs consume huge amounts of network resources.

Violators of copyright law as well as those impeding network access by others may merit disciplinary action. The ITS office will provide information on alleged violations to the Dean of Students office if the matter involves students or the Human Resources office if usage violations involve employees. Drawing on our Statement of Community Standards, we expect employees and students to recognize when their behavior is harmful to others or the College. The network access is considered community property and destruction of its ability to function or putting the College at risk due to violation of copyright standards are subject to the following possible actions:

1. A warning to stop the harmful or illegal activity.
2. Continued violation: Referral of the case to Community Standards Board or mediation or Human Resources or Dean of Students whose actions may include suspension or dismissal.
3. Refer the matter to the civil authorities (i.e., report the matter to the police).

Approved by AdCil: March 22, 2005