

HEOA Compliance Plan for Muskingum University

In order for Muskingum University to comply with the file sharing provisions of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) it is necessary to have a written plan. This document represents that written plan and is divided into three sections; Deterrents, Discipline, and Communication.

Deterrents

In order to deter students from sharing or downloading copyrighted material, Computer & Network Services (CNS) will monitor network activity on a regular basis, specifically watching for high usage. It has been found that unusually high usage can often be attributed to illegal file sharing. If this is discovered students will be advised of their activity and asked to cease and desist their sharing or downloading. Continued abuse will result in referral to the Student Life Office for possible disciplinary action. If a student is referred for judicial action, they will experience the temporary termination of network connectivity, until the situation is resolved.

As an additional deterrent, we will continue to respond to any copyright infringement notifications. The definition of response is that we will identify the offending student and forward the notification to the student, along with information indicating the illegal nature of their activity.

Discipline

The University has a student code of conduct in place and will hold students responsible through that process for the majority of situations involving students. Whether it is high usage or copyright infringement notices, the CNS staff may choose to document a student with the Student Life office for abuse at any time. Upon receipt of a third notification or a third case of high usage a student's network connection is terminated, pending the outcome of a judicial hearing on campus. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to, required viewing of a presentation on copyright infringement, fines and/or limited access to internet on campus. Continued infractions could result in suspension from the institution.

Communication

We have provided a web page (<http://www.muskingum.edu/home/cns/resnet/PeerToPeer.html>) on the issues surrounding peer-to-peer file sharing. Additionally, in order to meet the requirement that we inform students of the issues surrounding copyright infringement, the CNS staff will develop a comprehensive publicity campaign to be implemented with the assistance of Student Life with the purpose of increasing awareness about The Statement of Computer Ethics, located in the Muskingum University Student Handbook. The publicity campaign will include an email to be periodically sent to all students outlining their responsibility with regard to copyright infringement.