



Washtenaw Community College

Higher Education Opportunity Act Annual Copyright Compliance Disclosure

All members of the WCC community are expected to comply with federal copyright laws. Unauthorized use of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file-sharing, is illegal and may result in civil and criminal penalties.

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 <http://www.copyright.gov>, especially their FAQ’s at <http://www.copyright.gov/help/faq>. (From the U.S. Department of Education)

In addition, the College expects its community members to abide by WCC’s *Terms of Service* (<https://www.wccnet.edu/services/account/terms-service>), as well as copyright and fair use guidelines (<http://www4.wccnet.edu/copyright>). Failure to comply may subject users to disciplinary actions as detailed in the *Terms of Service*, including but not limited to network access restriction.

WCC Richard W. Bailey Library provides licensed resources (http://www.wccnet.edu/resources/library/findarticles_databases) to the college community for on-campus and off-campus access. Other legal sources of copyrighted material are readily available.

Examples include:

- Educause’s Legal Sources of Online Content (<http://www.educause.edu/legalcontent>)
- Cornell University’s Legal Sources for Online Music and Videos (<http://www.cit.cornell.edu/policies/copyright/music.cfm>)
- Motion Picture Association of America (<http://www.mpa.org>)

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