

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 website of the U.S. Copyright Office at www.copyright.gov.<http://www.copyright.gov/>

Peer to Peer file sharing: Students authorized to utilize the institutional electronic equipment for purposes of conducting research, practical work, writing essays, doing homework assignments or in any general use of the equipment for course related work, are strictly unauthorized to copy or distribute any copyrighted material and any violations will subject the individual violator (staff member, non-staff member or student) to civil and criminal liabilities. The first violation will be punished by removing any authorized privileged use of any institutional equipment, if the violation includes the use of individually owned equipment, the individual will not be allowed to bring in his/her personal equipment into the school premises. Second violation the staff member may be terminated or the student may be expelled from school. This decision will be taken by the school administration. The institution conducts annual evaluations of the procedures in place to prevent any violations of copyrighted materials observing the need of the students to have access to the institutional network. The institution will keep a log summarizing violations reported and disciplinary actions taken.