

Mount St. Joseph University

HEOA Compliance Policy

Peer-to-Peer (P2P) File Sharing Policy (Revised August 2016)

Introduction

H.R 4137, the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), is a reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. It includes provisions that are designed to reduce the illegal uploading and downloading of copyrighted works through peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing. These provisions include requirements that:

- Institutions make an annual disclosure that informs students that the illegal distribution of copyrighted materials may subject them to criminal and civil penalties and describes the steps that institutions will take to detect and punish illegal distribution of copyrighted materials.
- Institutions certify to the Secretary of Education that they have developed plans to “effectively combat” the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material.
- Institutions, “to the extent practicable,” offer alternatives to illegal file sharing.
- Institutions identify procedures for periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the plans to combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials.

This document outlines the Mount St. Joseph University’s plan to comply with these requirements.

Annual Disclosure

We view education as the most important element in combating illegal sharing of copyrighted materials at Mount St. Joseph University. We use a wide variety of methods to inform our community about the law and the University’s response to copyright infringement claims:

- In order to use college computing resources, all members of the Mount Community endorse a Responsible Use Agreement.
- A [Policy on Copyright Compliance](#) is included on several pages of the institution’s web site. Included on this page is a summary of possible penalties for violation of federal copyright laws.
- Possible penalties for unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing are described in the Student Life Standards and Disciplinary Policy section of the [Student Handbook](#).
- Every fall the library offers to all sections of CORE 115, a required course for freshmen, a presentation on copyright, plagiarism, and illegal peer to peer music file sharing.

Plans to “Effectively Combat” the Unauthorized Distribution of Copyrighted Material

The University currently utilizes a Paloalto Networks firewall as a network protection device. We significantly restrict the amount of bandwidth available to certain P2P protocols for the University as a whole.

Annually, during the week following spring break, a message to students will go out from the ISS department informing students about university policy related to the use of copyrighted material and the steps the University will take to enforce its policies.

Offering Alternatives to Illegal File Sharing

The University is continually looking to enhance access to the legal resources. We are in the process of exploring a partnership with OARnet, which would enable us to provide high speed access to Netflix and Google's multimedia resources.

Procedure for Periodic Review

The Associate Vice President for Campus Technology and the Director of Library Services will annually review the effectiveness of the Mount's efforts to combat unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials. If necessary, the Mount's efforts and policies will be revised to remain in compliance.