



Auburn University HEOA Compliance Plan

This document outlines the steps that Auburn University will take to comply with H.R. 4137, the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA).

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) includes provisions to reduce the illegal uploading and downloading of copyrighted works through peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing. Specifically, HEOA requires institutions to:

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

Annual Disclosure

Auburn will use a variety of methods to inform students about copyright laws:

- Auburn University’s [Appropriate Use of Copyright Material Policy](#) provides information and guidelines of copyright laws.
- Incoming students who attend Camp War Eagle are presented “Survival Guide: A Student's Guide to Computing at Auburn University”² which includes a section on copyright compliance and lists the link to AU’s IT Policy website.
- Each year in October, during Cyber Security Awareness Month, the Office of Information Technology has a poster and awareness campaign designed to inform students about copyright violations and illegal downloading.
- Auburn University’s [AU Wi-Fi Acceptable Use Policy](#) includes a section on copyright compliance, illegal downloading, and a link to AU’s copyright policy.

- Effective Summer Semester 2011, this plan will be published in printed editions of The Tiger Cub which is the official handbook of Auburn University. This plan will also be included in online editions of The Tiger Cub (<http://auburn.edu/tigercub>) beginning July 2010.*
- Each Fall Semester, Auburn University students will receive an email from the Office of Vice President of Student Affairs that explicitly informs students that the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials may subject them to criminal and civil penalties and describes the steps that AU will take to detect and punish unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials.

Disciplinary actions taken against users who engage in illegal downloads of copyrighted material

When AU receives a complaint that a user is redistributing copyrighted material:

AU's Designated Agent (D.A.)

- Contacts the individual and notifies him/her of the complaint.
- Requests that the individual
 - Remove any illegal, unauthorized material from the computer
 - Remove any P2P file-sharing material from the computer
 - Reset his/her Auburn University account password
 - Notify the D. A. in writing (email is satisfactory) that these steps have been completed and that he/she will not download copyrighted material illegally or without authorization while a student or employee at Auburn University.
- The D. A. refers the individual to a website that explains the law and the issues with regard to copyright.
- The D.A also tells the individual that a second complaint will be immediately referred to the Office of Student Affairs or the employee's departmental supervisor, as appropriate.

If the individual does not respond within 7 days, the D.A. sends another notice indicating that there is a serious problem with the user's account and asking for a response within 48 hours. The D. A. also notifies the individual that the lack of a response will result in restrictions being placed on the individual's account.

If the individual about whom the complaint was received does not respond to the second notice or does not satisfy the actions prescribed above, the D.A., will notify

- the Office of Vice President of Student Affairs, if the individual is a student. The Office of Student Conduct will review evidence, and charge the student with the violation of the Student Code of Discipline to resolve the matter. (For more information on the process, see the Student Code of Discipline.)
- the department supervisor, if the individual is an employee.

Plans that "effectively combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials" by users of the network

Auburn University uses several technology-based deterrents to combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials:

- The University blocks all commonly known P2P ports at the network's border firewall.
- The University currently blocks all known P2P incoming and outgoing traffic utilizing an Intrusion Prevention System appliance placed at the network perimeter.

Alternative online sources for copyrighted materials

There are many legal sources for copyrighted material such as music and movies. Educause offers an updated website of Legal Sources of online content at <http://www.educause.edu/legalcontent> .

Reviewing Effectiveness

Beginning in 2011-12 and periodically thereafter, Auburn University will survey community members to assess the extent to which the University's anti-piracy messages are reaching them. We will analyze the impact of our technical efforts to combat illegal file sharing, and other aspects of our plans to combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials.