

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

These guidelines are to assist with the interpretation and administration of the *Acceptable Use Policy for Information Technology Resources*. They outline the responsibilities each student and employee assumes when using information technology resources.

The purpose of information technology resources is to provide educational resources for Wallace Community College students and employees. Access to these resources is a privilege and must be treated with the highest standard of ethics. The College expects all students and employees to use information technology resources in a responsible manner, respecting the public trust through which they have been provided, the rights and privacy of others, the integrity of the facilities and pertinent laws, and College policies and standards.

This policy outlines the standards for acceptable use of Wallace Community College information technology resources, which include, but are not limited to, equipment, software, networks, data, and telephones.

This policy applies to all users of College information technology resources, including the faculty and staff, students, guests, organizations, and individuals accessing external network services, such as the Internet via College facilities. Violation of this policy may result in suspension or revocation of user privileges, administrative discipline, or immediate termination of the violator's relationship with Wallace Community College and could lead to criminal and civil prosecution.

Acceptable use of the College Internet connection provided via the Alabama Research and Education Network (AREN) is also governed by this document. Any activity that is not listed here that violates local, state, or federal laws, or violates the AREN *Acceptable Use Policy* is also considered a violation of the Wallace Community College *acceptable Use Policy for Information Technology Resources*.

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

Use of College information technology resources is permitted based on acceptance of the following specific responsibilities and the understanding that computer use may be monitored.

Use only information technology resources for which you have permission. Example: It is unacceptable to...

- use resources you have not been specifically authorized to use;
- use your own personal computer (laptop), PDA, or any wired or wireless device to connect to the network;
- use someone else's account and password or share your account and password with someone else;
- access files, data, or processes without authorization; and
- purposely seek out, exploit, or seek to exploit security flaws to gain system or data access.

Use information technology resources only for their intended purpose. Example: It is unacceptable to...

- send forged e-mail;
- use electronic resources to harass or stalk other individuals;
- send bomb threats or hoax messages;
- send chain letters that may interfere with the system's efficiency;

- intercept or monitor any network communications not intended for you;
- use computing or network resources for commercial advertising or other commercial purposes;
- attempt to circumvent security mechanisms;
- use privileged access for other than official duties;
- use former privileges after graduation, transfer, or termination; and
- use network resources to download news, music, graphics, or other communications not related to College activities.

Protect the access and integrity of information technology resources. Example: It is unacceptable to...

- knowingly release a virus that damages or harms a system or network;
- prevent others from accessing an authorized service;
- attempt to deliberately degrade performance or deny service;
- corrupt or misuse information;
- alter or destroy information without authorization; and
- engage in spamming (sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large group of people).

Respect the privacy of others. Example: It is unacceptable to...

- access or attempt to access another individual's password or data without explicit authorization;
- access or copy another user's electronic mail, data, programs, or other files without permission;
- use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language;
- continue sending e-mail messages to someone after being told to stop; and
- post derogatory information or statements about a person.

Abide by applicable laws and College policies and respect the copyrights and intellectual property rights of others, including the legal use of copyrighted software. Example: It is unacceptable to...

- make more copies of licensed software other than the license allows;
- plagiarize works that you find on the Internet; and
- deliberately upload, download, distribute, or possess pornographic material.

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

System administrators and providers of College information technology resources have the additional responsibility of ensuring the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of the resources they are managing. Individuals in these positions are granted significant trust to use their privileges appropriately for their intended purpose and only when required to maintain the system. Any private information seen in carrying out these duties must be treated in the strictest confidence, unless it relates to a violation or the security of the system.

Although information technology providers throughout the College are responsible for preserving the integrity and security of resources, security sometimes can be breached through actions beyond their

control. Users are urged to take appropriate precautions such as safeguarding accounts and passwords and promptly reporting any misuse or violations of the policy.

VIOLATIONS

Every member of the College community has an obligation to report suspected violations of the guidelines above or of the *Acceptable Use Policy for Information Technology Resources*. Reports should be directed to the department responsible for the particular system involved. Reported violations will be addressed in conformance with published College policy.

Wallace Community College is provided access to the Internet as a member of the Alabama Research and Education Network, which is supported by the Alabama Supercomputer Authority. Therefore, any users of the Internet are to be made aware of the *Acceptable Use Policy* of the Alabama Supercomputer Authority for full compliance of this policy.