

Annual Statement Regarding Copyright and P2P File Sharing

This annual statement is a reminder to City College students and employees of the college's Copyright policy and of Federal laws regarding copyright infringement.

The copyright policy of the college is:

City College's staff, faculty and students are expected to comply with U.S. Copyright Law, Title 17 of the United States Code, and to respect the intellectual property rights of others. Those who disregard the copyright compliance guidelines of the College place themselves at risk for possible legal action and may incur personal liability. Employees of the College who direct or require others to copy or distribute copyrighted material in any format including, but not limited to books, movies, music, paintings, photographs, and software, have a responsibility to discourage copyright infringement, and to inform those copying or distributing copyrighted material to do so in compliance with U.S. Copyright Law.

Infringements of the copyright laws (including P2P file sharing) will be viewed as a violation of the Student Conduct Policy. As such, the student is subject to the disciplinary sanctions of the Student Conduct Policy. Please refer to the City College Handbook for the complete Student Conduct Policy.

Peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing technologies have some legitimate uses. However, often P2P technologies are used in activities that violate copyright laws. In addition, P2P file sharing can consume large amounts of network space and negatively affect regular business activities. As a result, the college makes every effort through filters, firewalls, and user privilege settings to block illegal P2P file sharing.

Under Federal law, there are both civil and criminal penalties for copyright infringement. Civil law allows the copyright owner to collect actual damages or "statutory" damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. Criminal penalties are up to five years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines.

The City College library maintains a list of legal options to avoid copyright infringement. This information is available on the City College Library Resources website or by contacting a City College librarian.