

COPYRIGHT PROTECTIONS - BP 8.5

Legal Authority: NCGS 115D-20

Approval: April 19, 2011

Revision:

Copyright Protections

The Board requires all students, staff, and faculty members to comply with federal copyright law. Copyrights must be protected because they promote the creation, publication, and use of original works of the intellect. Copyright principles include both the exclusive rights of copyright owners to determine and control the uses of their works (in not-for-profit as well as commercial contexts) and certain exceptions to those exclusive rights, including the doctrine of fair use. Copyright is legal protection for creative intellectual works, which is broadly interpreted to cover just about any expression of an idea. Text, graphics, art, photographs, music, and software are examples of types of work protected by copyright. Under the copyright laws, reproduction without permission for educational purposes is allowed in only very limited circumstances.

Students, staff, and faculty members may use all or part of a copyrighted work only if (a) the user has the copyright owner's permission, or (b) the user qualify for a legal exception (the most common exception is called fair use). Use of a work is defined for copyright purposes as copying, distributing, making derivative works, publicly displaying, or publicly performing the work.

Copying, distributing, downloading, and uploading information on the Internet may infringe the copyright for that information. Even an innocent, unintentional infringement violates the law. Violations of copyright law that occur on or over the College's networks or other computer resources may create liability for the College as well as the computer user. Accordingly, violation of this Policy shall require disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and termination.

The President is authorized to implement those Administrative Rules necessary to ensure compliance with this Policy.

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