

October 3, 2016

Dear Student,

The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 requires all colleges and universities to inform students of the possible consequences of copyright infringement as outlined by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).

### **How the DMCA Affects Wake Forest University**

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act protects the rights of owners of copyrighted digital material. By providing students online access to the Wake Forest University's computing network(s), including Internet access, the University is considered an Internet Service Provider (ISP). The DMCA requires an ISP to expeditiously respond to complaints it receives of copyright infringements over its networks.

### **Potential Legal Penalties for Federal Copyright Law Violations**

Violation of the DMCA can result in severe civil or criminal penalties. University action taken to stop copyright violation, including disciplinary measures, does not protect the individual infringer from civil or criminal prosecution from the copyright owner or the authorities.

### **Illegal Music Downloading Complaints Filed by Entertainment Entities**

Most copyright infringement cases reported to Wake Forest Information Systems are associated with illegal music downloading. Other common types of copyright infringement cases at Wake Forest involve the illegal downloading or sharing of movies, videos, and software including gaming software.

### **Risks Associated with Illegal File Sharing**

Using peer-to-peer file sharing programs that share copyrighted material such as music, movies and software put you at risk of obtaining viruses, spyware or other malicious software that can corrupt your computer and damage your data. Peer-to-peer file sharing programs include Popcorn View, Popcorn Time, Vuze, uTorrent, BitTorrent, LimeWire, BitComet, FrostWire. You may be subject to campus disciplinary action and possible civil litigation by copyright holders or criminal prosecution.

### **Wake Forest Response to Receipt of Copyright Infringement Notification**

Wake Forest verifies the information in the copyright infringement notification and contacts the user to address the issue. Failure to comply with the Information Systems Security request may result in the suspension of your access to the Wake Forest University computing systems. Information Systems may notify the Office of Judicial Affairs.

### **Legal Alternatives for Downloading**

Visit the Wake Forest Information Security Web site (<http://infosec.wfu.edu/copyright.html>) for a list of legal sources for downloading copyrighted digital materials.

Thank you for taking this matter of copyright seriously. For more information regarding copyright, you may send your questions to the Wake Forest Information Security Team at [infosec@wfu.edu](mailto:infosec@wfu.edu).

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