

Copyright, Plagiarism and Illegal Downloading

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) which was enacted in August of 2008 includes provisions regarding unauthorized file sharing on campus networks. Colleges and universities in the U.S. are required to do the following:

1. Annually publish a statement that:
 - discloses to its students that unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials may subject the students to civil and criminal liabilities;
 - disclose a summary of the penalties for violation of the Federal copyright laws; and
 - disclose a description of the institution's policies with respect to unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing
2. Create, implement and publish a plan to combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials by network users.
3. Offer alternatives to illegal downloading.

The steps that Alverno takes to comply with the HEOA, including links to legal downloading sites, can be viewed at <http://www.alverno.edu/techserv/studenttechlinks/copyright/>.

In addition, the Library maintains a webpage on their site with [guidelines](#) for faculty and staff. Students with specific concerns should contact a librarian for assistance.

Legal sources for downloading are available at <http://www.educause.edu/focus-areas-and-initiatives/policy-and-security/educause-policy/issues-and-positions/intellectual-property/legal-sources-onli>.

Not only is Alverno committed to complete compliance to the HEOA, but Alverno College believes in the power of education. Therefore, we feel that education is the best way of combating the issue of illegally sharing copyrighted materials.

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