

## **Copyright Infringement Policies and Sanctions (Including Computer Use and File Sharing)**

Northwest Career College prohibits unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, using the institution's IT system. These activities may subject you to civil and criminal liabilities if you participate. This behavior is considered unprofessional and is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the institution's Student Conduct Policy, including verbal or written warnings or dismissal from the institution.

### Summary of Civil and Criminal Penalties for Violation of Federal Copyright Laws

The Institution requires its students to respect the rights of others, including intellectual property rights. The federal Copyright Act (17 U.S.C. § 101, et seq.) prohibits the unauthorized making and distribution of copyrighted material. Violations of the Copyright Act, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, may subject students to civil and criminal liabilities. These liabilities include, but are not limited to, actions by a copyright owner to recover actual damages, profits, or statutory damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and federal criminal charges that may result in fines and imprisonment.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or "statutory" damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For "willful" infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys' fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504,505.

Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense. For more information, please see the Web site of the U.S. Copyright Office at: [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov).