

Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) Peer-to-Peer File Sharing Requirements

The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) includes three requirements for addressing illegal peer-to-peer file sharing of copyrighted material by those using college and university campus networks.

The requirements are:

- Make an annual disclosure to students describing copyright law and campus policies related to violating copyright law.
- Certify to the Secretary of Education that the institution has plans to effectively combat unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material
- “To the extent practicable,” offer alternatives to illegal file sharing

Jefferson College complies with these requirements as follows:

- Publishes warnings online, in print, and in presentations that students who violate copyright laws may be subject to disciplinary action by the College as well as prosecution under state and federal guidelines.
- Our Student Services team annually discloses this information to students through distribution of a brochure that defines copyright law, details college rules for file sharing, and lists legal alternatives for acquiring copyrighted materials.
- The Student Handbook clearly addresses file sharing and copyright use.
- Information Technology utilizes network bandwidth-shaping technology to prioritize and monitor network traffic. We limit the amount of bandwidth available to Peer-to-Peer applications but we do not filter such applications since much of the traffic is legal.

Alternatives to Illegal File Sharing

Educause maintains a comprehensive list of legal downloading resources which may be viewed from the following URL.

<http://www.educause.edu/focus-areas-and-initiatives/policy-and-security/educause-policy/issues-and-positions/intellectual-property/legal-sources-onli>

Members of the Jefferson College community are encouraged to use these legitimate sources of digital content.