



Campus Administrative Policy

Policy Title: Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources

Policy Number: 5001 Functional Area: Information Technology

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Applies to: CU Anschutz
 CU Denver

A. Introduction

Sets forth the University's policy with regard to use of and access to CU Denver and CU Anschutz (“the university”) IT Resources including university account use, privacy, computer and network security, legal and ethical use, networking and computing conduct, and software and intellectual property use. Further includes the steps the university may take should this policy be violated.

This policy applies to all users of the university IT resources (including faculty, staff, students, and sponsored accounts) whether affiliated with the university or not, and to all uses of those resources, whether on campus or from remote locations.

Information Strategy and Services (“ISS”) at the university is charged with the acquisition, development, and maintenance of computers, computer systems and networks. These Information Technology (IT) resources are intended for university-related purposes, including direct and indirect support of the university’s instruction, research, clinical and service missions; university administrative functions; student and campus life activities; and the free exchange of ideas within the university community and among the University community and the wider local, national, and world communities.

The use of network, computing, and other technology resources at the university is a privilege. It is the shared responsibility of all users, including faculty, staff, and students to use these resources in an efficient, ethical, and legal manner.

This policy may be modified as deemed appropriate by the university. Users are encouraged to periodically review this policy as posted on the [CU Denver | Anschutz Policies and Guidelines web site](#).

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C. General Rules

Users of University IT resources shall comply with federal and state laws, university rules, regulations and policies, and the terms of applicable contracts including software licenses while using university IT resources. Users who engage in electronic communications with persons in other states or countries or on other systems or networks may also be subject to the laws of those jurisdictions and the rules and policies of those other systems and networks. Users with questions as to how the various laws, rules and regulations may apply to a particular use of university computing resources should contact the University Counsel for more information.

Users are responsible for ascertaining what authorizations are necessary and for obtaining them before using university IT resources. Users are responsible for any activity originating from their accounts which they can reasonably be expected to control. In cases when unauthorized use of accounts or resources is detected or suspected, the account owner should change the password and report the incident to the appropriate account administrator, unit information security manager, and/or dean, director, or department chair. Users must understand that disclosing their account credentials to cybercriminals may result in personal losses that that they are ultimately responsible for.

D. Policy Statement

As a condition of use of university network and computing resources, every university IT resource user agrees:

1. Account Use

- a. Users shall utilize their accounts only for the purposes specified by the account grantor.
- b. Users shall not use any other individual's credentials or attempt to access an account when authorization has not been granted for them.
- c. Users shall not attempt to alter or avoid account access controls for computing systems.
- d. Accounts and passwords may not, under any circumstances, be used by persons other than those to whom they have been assigned by the account administrator.
- e. Users shall not share/disclose their account passwords with/to others.

2. Privacy

- a. Users shall not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, hard drives, passwords or credentials, or any type of data belonging to other users unless specifically authorized to do so by the data owner or by the University.
- b. Users should always avoid violating others' privacy by;
 - 1) Tampering with security provisions.
 - 2) Attempting entry to non-public hosts.
 - 3) Sharing login credentials with others.

3. Computer and Network Security

- a. Users shall not attempt to alter, delete, or avoid computer audit controls and accounting log files.
- b. Users shall not attempt to bypass computer and network controls.
- c. Users shall not use university IT resources to infiltrate other systems, or damage or alter the software components of the systems.
- d. Users should avoid overuse of resources as defined by ISS. Resources include;
 - 1) Network bandwidth,
 - 2) Network file storage,

- 3) Printers,
 - 4) Wireless networks (WiFi), and
 - 5) All other CU Denver | Anschutz IT resources.
- e. Users must conform to campus standards for antimalware/endpoint protection. Exceptions are only allowed if ISS authorizes exclusions in writing due to unique and extraordinary circumstances.
 - f. Users shall not implement their own network infrastructure without explicit written permission by ISS. This includes, but is not limited to, network devices such as hubs, switches, routers, network firewalls, DHCP servers, DNS servers, email servers or relays and wireless access points. Users must not implement alternate methods of access to university IT resources such as wireless access points (WiFi) and virtual private networks (VPNs).

4. Legal and Ethical Use

Users shall not:

- a. Abuse, harass, intimidate, threaten, stalk, or discriminate against others through the use of computing resources;
- b. Send obscene, abusive, harassing, or threatening messages to any other individual.
- c. Misrepresent oneself or others through electronic communication, including email.
- d. Engage in physical or cyber vandalism or mischief that incapacitates, compromises, or destroys university IT resources.
- e. Download or save obscene, pornographic, or otherwise offensive documents, images, videos, or other files onto their work computer.

IT resources are not to be used for personal commercial purposes, non-university business, or for personal financial or other gain. Occasional personal use of university IT resources for other purposes is permitted when it does not consume a significant amount of those resources, does not interfere with the

performance of the user's job or other university responsibilities, and is otherwise in compliance with this and other university policies, including without limitation the university's policies on outside activities and use of university trademarks and names. Further limits may be imposed upon personal use in accordance with normal supervisory procedures concerning the use of university equipment.

Users *shall* follow all university ISS policies, ethical standards, and all local, state, and federal laws related to computing.

5. Network and Computing Conduct

- a. Users should avoid violating others' privacy. In addition, tampering with security provisions, or attempting entry to non-public hosts and/or data without written approval from the university Security Principal.
- b. Disruptive use of university IT resources is not permitted.
- c. Users should avoid excessive use of resources, controlled or otherwise. For example, university workstations/computers, servers, graphics devices, printers, and networks, both voice and data, are resources that must be shared in an equitable manner.
- d. Users may not use any IT resource to gain unauthorized access to remote computers or to impair or damage the operations of university computers or networks, terminals, or peripherals. This includes blocking communication lines, intercepting or sniffing communications, and running, installing, or sharing malware.

6. Software and Intellectual Property Use

- a. Users should avoid violating others' privacy, tampering with security use of copyrighted software must be in compliance with vendor license requirements. Obtaining proper licensing for software that is not provided by the university is the responsibility of the user, as is the proper maintenance of such licenses and any associated software licensing fees.
- b. Users shall not violate vendor software copyright and

authorized use policies. This includes using, duplicating, or distributing licensed software and documentation without the express written permission of the original copyright owner.

- c. Users shall not install and use:
 - 1) File and/or music sharing programs,
 - 2) Video and/or audio streaming programs that are playing non-campus mission related content,
 - 3) Other programs that violate the ethical, efficient, and productive use of the campus internet resources.

E. Responsibility and Action

Violation of this policy or other university information technology policies can result in revocation of computing privileges as well as corrective and/or disciplinary action.

Information Strategy and Services (ISS)

ISS is responsible for interpretation and guidance regarding this policy. ISS also reserves the right to take additional action against violations of these policies. ISS may also refer suspected violations of law to appropriate law enforcement agencies for further investigation or action.

Other Responsible Parties

Other offices, departments, schools, etc. may be responsible for campus compliance and enforcement of this policy to take further action against violations. Other responsible parties include but are not limited to The Office of Regulatory Compliance, Human Resources, University Counsel, Student Affairs, and the Office of the Chancellor.

Users who violate this policy may be subject to other penalties and disciplinary action, including expulsion or dismissal, under applicable University or Board of Regents rules, regulations, policies, or collective bargaining agreements. Other responsible parties may also refer suspected violations of law to appropriate law enforcement agencies for further investigation or action.

The university may suspend, block, or restrict access to an account when it appears necessary to do so:

1. to protect the integrity, security, or functionality of university or other IT resources;
2. to comply with legal or contractual requirements;
3. to investigate alleged or potential violations of law or policy including, without limitation, state, federal, or local law, or university or Board of Regents rules, regulations, policies, or collective bargaining agreements;
4. to investigate any asserted, threatened or potential complaint or grievance filed or credibly alleged pursuant to law or university or Board of Regents rules, regulations, policies, or collective bargaining agreements, or subject of law enforcement review or investigation;
5. or to protect the university from liability or disruption.

Notes

1. Dates of official enactment and amendments:
June 17, 2006: Adopted by IT Governance Committee and IT Cabinet
March 1, 2014: Revised
July 1, 2019: Revised
2. History:
September 26, 2018: Modified to reflect a 2018 Campus-wide effort to recast and revitalize Campus policy sites into a standardized and more coherent set of chaptered policy statements organized around the several operational divisions of the university. Article links, format, and University branding updated by the Provost's office.
July 1, 2019: Reviewed as part of the spring 2019 semi-annual review process. Minor clarifications made. Statement prohibiting download of pornography and other offensive materials added.
March 2026: Updated campus and office naming.
3. Initial Policy Effective Date: June 27, 2006
4. Cross References/Appendix: N/A