

COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT POLICY AND SANCTIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Institution respects intellectual property rights and ownership. Vantage College strictly enforces a policy of zero tolerance for copyright infringement and illegal file-sharing, and to comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

COPYRIGHT PROTECTION

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. Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner. These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work. In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement.

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF FEDERAL COPYRIGHT LAWS

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.

In addition, an infringer may be subject school sanctions ranging from losing network usage rights to dismissal from the school.