

Bridgewater State University's Response to the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2009

This page will serve as an ongoing and updated document from the Division of Information Technology to inform the community of matters pertaining to copyright infringements and the Higher Education Opportunity Act.

The Division of Information Technology will block all peer-to-peer applications traversing the University network destined for the internet starting in July, 2010. Using peer-to-peer applications to transmit any infringing copyrighted material violates Federal Law and the Acceptable Use Policy of Bridgewater State University and will result in University disciplinary actions as well as civil and criminal liabilities. If you have a legitimate academic or business need to use a peer-to-peer application please submit a ticket with the BSU HelpDesk at Ext. 2555 (508.531.2555 from off campus) or ITSupport@bridgew.edu.

In addition to University disciplinary actions, one who shares copyrighted materials with those on the internet may be subject to civil and criminal liabilities as well as penalties for violation of Federal Copyright Laws with fines up to \$150,000.

The University's effectiveness of its technology-based deterrent will be subject to periodic review and testing to ensure compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) (Public Law 110-315).

The three main components of the HEOA are:

To effectively combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including through the use of a variety of technology-based deterrents

An annual disclosure that includes institutional policies surrounding copyright infringement and any civil or criminal penalties associated with the transmission of copyrighted materials.

Offer alternatives to illegal downloading or peer-to-peer distribution of intellectual property.

Please see the informational links below for the University's copyright policy, copyright law and other relevant information:

[Public Law 110 - 315 \(Higher Education Opportunity Act\)](#) (pdf)

[Bridgewater State University's Copyright Policy](#)

[The Maxwell Library's Guide to Copyright Information for Print-Based Material and Computer Software](#)

[How Bridgewater State University Responds to Allegations of On-Line Infringement of Copyright](#)

[Public Law 105 – 304 \(Digital Millennium Copyright Act\)](#) (pdf)

[Copyright Law of the United States \(Title 17 of the United States Code\)](#) (pdf)

Legal alternatives to sharing copyrighted materials:

[List of legal downloading resources from Educause](#)

The Division of Information Technology would like to remind all campus users that if there is any doubt to the legitimacy of free downloaded materials to please contact the copyright owner to ask permission before using it.