

	Policy Number: 1235	
	Policy Category: <i>Information Technology Policies</i>	
	<i>Acceptable and Responsible Use – Information Technology</i>	
	Policy Summary: <i>This policy establishes the boundaries and acceptable and responsible use of College’s computing and communication resources.</i>	
	Approval Date: <i>03/25/24</i>	Effective Date: <i>Upon Approval</i>
Policy Owner: <i>Vice President, Finance and Administration</i>	Scheduled for Review: <i>Spring 2029</i>	

Policy Statement

College-owned computing equipment, networks, services, and resources are provided for the purpose of conducting College-related activities and are therefore considered College property. The College, as owner of such property, has the right to access information on the system stored, sent, created, or received by students, alumni, faculty, or staff including electronic mail, as it deems necessary and appropriate. While the College values the importance of individual privacy and endeavors to balance that value against the needs for institutional security and for compliance with legal and institutional standards that allow the College to provide campus-wide support, individual users should not expect privacy when using shared information systems.

Users are obligated to protect College computing systems from illegal or damaging actions, either knowingly or unknowingly. This policy provides description of unacceptable uses of College computing resources and how to report violations; however, the College may at any time make determinations that particular uses are and are not appropriate.

Use of Prescott College Information Technology resources, including the network, is considered an agreement to abide by this policy.

1. Use of information technology resources is limited to research, instructional, or administrative purposes only. Computing resources may not be used for commercial purposes or personal gain. Use of computer services for any commercial purpose, partisan political purpose, personal undertaking, or for any unlawful purpose is prohibited.
2. Users must uphold laws and ethics while using Prescott College computing resources.
 - Comply with laws governing copyrighted materials. Making, distributing, storing, or using unauthorized duplicates of copyrighted material, including software applications, proprietary data, and information technology resources is prohibited. This includes illegal file sharing of entertainment (e.g. music, movies, and video games) files in violation of copyright laws.

- Borrowing, lending, falsifying, allowing, or facilitating the unauthorized access to use of College computing resources by a third party is prohibited. This includes violating the terms and conditions of software license agreements for software distributed by the College by giving, lending, selling, or leasing such media or software to others for their own use. Users should assume that all College supported software is proprietary and may not be copied.
 - Using College computing resources to gain or attempt to gain unauthorized access to computing resources either inside or outside of the College is prohibited, including obtaining user IDs and/or password(s) or impersonating another person on a computing resource.
 - Using electronic media to harass or threaten other persons, or to display, design, copy, store, draw, print, or publish obscene language or graphics is prohibited.
 - Intercepting or attempting to intercept or otherwise monitor any communications not explicitly intended for the user, without authorization, is prohibited.
 - Copying, reading, accessing, using, misappropriating, altering, publishing, or destroying computer files, data, documents, or other files of another individual or attempts to do so, without the permission of that individual or authorized administrator is prohibited.
 - Users must follow all Prescott College policies, including but not limited to communications, marketing and publishing regulations when utilizing computing resources.
3. Users must participate in computing security measures of the College.
- Users shall protect computing credentials, and never share passwords with others, including IT personnel.
 - Users shall relinquish college-issued computing equipment for the purpose of required repairs and security measures.
 - College network systems and devices are regularly scanned for security purposes. Attempting to circumvent or subvert system or network security measures is prohibited.
 - Creating or propagating malware or viruses is explicitly prohibited.
4. Users must protect the functionality of the College's IT systems.
- Intentionally or recklessly abusing, monopolizing, or misusing computing resources which cause damage, system interruptions, resource degradation, or harassment to other persons is prohibited.
 - Actions or attempted actions that degrade or disrupt resource performance, security, or administration operation including, but not limited to, intentionally introduction any computer virus or similar disruptive force into any computer resource is prohibited.
 - Repeatedly or purposefully engaging in activities which can be reasonably expect to, or do, unreasonably tax computing resources or go beyond their intended or acceptable use is prohibited.
 - Attempting to alter the Prescott College computing infrastructure is prohibited. Users must not install or alter wiring, or extend or retransmit the network, or connect any computing or networking components (including, but not limited to, bridges, routers, DHCP servers, wireless access points, and hubs) on the College network without prior approval is prohibited.
5. Users with authorized access to internal College data have additional duties.
- Users who have a role that includes access to student information must protect the student information. Records containing information directly related to a student are confidential and protected from public disclosure by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. Employees must access only information to which they have been given authorized access or is publicly

available, and may not disclose or distribute student information in a manner inconsistent with federal and state law and College regulations.

- All legally restricted, regulated and confidential information must be kept secure. Current best security practices are to be utilized when sending or receiving this data including encryption, authentication and, when away from campus, via a Virtual desktop. Employees may not forward such information to personal email accounts, nor store or transport restricted and confidential data on removable storage devices. Any exceptions shall be documented and approved by the Vice President, Finance and Administration or their designee.
- Employees are to consult Information Technology and Institutional Research before integrating data.
- Employees in certain roles, such as Information Technology personnel, those with access to health or financial records, those who create new identities within the system, and users of specialized hardware, software, databases, or data must follow all computing training and protocols provided for their roles.
- Employees in supervisory roles are responsible for ensuring supervisees have the appropriate training for their role related to what type of data the employee accesses and any protocols that are required.

Definitions

Reason for Policy

To ensure that all users of Prescott College information technology resources are aware of rules and protocols related to these resources.

Responsibilities

For following policy:	All employees, students and guest users
For enforcement of policy:	Director, Information Technology
For oversight of policy:	Deputy Chief Operating Officer
For procedures implementing the policy:	Director, Information Technology
For notification:	Policy Librarian

Procedures

Cross Referenced Policies

Revision History
