



University of Western States (UWS) recognizes the use of third-party materials may enhance teaching, learning, and research activities. The university seeks to conform with copyright laws. All university constituents are responsible for complying with copyright laws. Information regarding copyright compliance can be found on the library [copyright resource guide](#).

### **Copyright Violation**

UWS prohibits the unlawful reproduction, display, performance, distribution, downloading, or other use of copyrighted material, in physical or electronic form, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing or uploading copyrighted materials to third party websites. Except those permitted under the Copyright Act, any sharing of copyrighted material without the permission from the owner of the copyright (such as the author or software manufacturer) is a violation of UWS policies, may be prohibited by law, and may be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

Individuals engaging in copyright infringement may be subject to disciplinary actions, in accordance with [Policy 3601 Acceptable Use of Information Systems](#) and [Policy 9001 Student Conduct](#), and may be restricted to access of UWS resources. UWS may refer unlawful activity to law enforcement authorities. Individuals violating UWS copyright policies do so at their own risk, assume all liability, and indemnify the university for any loss or damage resulting from their activities.

### **Civil and Criminal Penalties for Violation of Federal Copyright Laws**

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work. In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading some or all of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement.

A person found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay damages. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505. Willful copyright infringement may also result in criminal penalties.

For more information, please visit the [U.S. Copyright Office](#) website, especially the FAQs section.

### **Disciplinary Actions**

UWS prohibits copyright violations and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of UWS academic integrity standards may result in disciplinary actions in accordance with [Policy 1230 Academic Integrity](#), [Policy 9001 Student Conduct](#) for students, and the UWS employee handbook employees.



**Related Policies:** [Policy 1007 Intellectual Property](#)  
[Policy 1230 Academic Integrity](#)  
[Policy 1605 Use of Copyrighted Works in Education and Research](#)  
[Policy 3601 Acceptable Use of Information Systems](#)  
[Policy 9001 Student Conduct](#)  
[Policy 9009 Student Appeal of a University Decision](#)

**Keywords:** conduct, copyright, disciplinary, downloading, file sharing, misconduct, plagiarism, violation