



COMPUTER LABORATORY AND INTERNET POLICY STATEMENT

The internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. The key concept underlying the Internet is interconnectivity – which permits unparalleled access to an array of communication and information resources. The Computer Laboratory is the primary access point for this technology on the Five Towns College campus. The network may, however, be accessed at several other points on campus.

It is the policy of Five Towns College to provide access to the Computer Laboratory and the Internet to all qualified members of the College community in a manner that fosters academic freedom and recognizes the responsibilities of individual users. Individuals may become qualified by successfully completing a mandated curriculum or by demonstrating such skills as shall be required by the Systems Administrator.

With this technology at their disposal, the College recognizes that members of the community will also have access to material which may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of an academic setting. Although Five Towns College does not physically restrict access to such sites, use of the campus computer facilities must be undertaken responsibly. Remember, use of the College computer facilities is not considered "private."

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of governmental agencies and regional state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Acceptable Use

The purpose of the Internet is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the United States, by providing access to unique resources and creating the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of your access and/or account must be in support of education and research, and consistent with the mission, goals, and objectives of Five Towns College. Accessing another organization's network must comply and be consistent with their rules and regulations too. Transmission of any material in violation of any governmental regulation is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, racism or hate, and material protected by trade secret. Use of the Five Towns College network for commercial activity, or for product advertising or political lobbying is also prohibited.

2. Privileged Use

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in immediate cancellation of those privileges. In addition, future access may be denied. Each individual who receives access and/or an account is responsible for and usage associated with such account. Therefore, under no circumstances should your account password be shared with anyone. Five Towns College retains sole discretion to determine appropriate use of campus Internet facilities; its decision shall be final.

3. Network Etiquette

You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
- Do not reveal your personal address or telephone number, nor may you reveal those of students or colleagues.

- Electronic mail (e-mail) is not private. The College has access to all mail you send or receive, and may review it from time to time. Users *have* no expectation of privacy.
- Do not use the network in a way that would disrupt the use of same by others.
- Any illegal hacking or other activity which fosters the spread of computer viruses will subject you to expulsion from the college and further legal action.

4. Warranties

Five Towns College makes no warranty of any kind, whether express or implied, for the Internet service it provides. The college will not be responsible for any losses you suffer. Five Towns College specifically denies responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information received through this service.

5. Security

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you become aware of any security breach or weakness on the network or internet, you agree to notify the System Administrator immediately. In addition, you agree not to demonstrate the breach or weakness to others. You agree to be responsible for the actions of those to whom you do demonstrate such breach or weakness. Attempts to log on as a system administrator will result in cancellation of your privileges and may subject you to further disciplinary action, including expulsion.

In no event shall Five Towns College be liable for any indirect, special or consequential damages or lost profits arising out of your use of the network, nor shall it be liable for the accuracy or correctness of the data or information contained on any electronic device or medium.

6. Vandalism

Vandalism includes, but is not limited to, facilitating computer viruses; hacking; impersonating a system administrator; attempting to harm, destroy, or interfere with data, the proper functioning of the system, or the Internet; and physically damaging any computer or peripheral piece of equipment. Such conduct shall result in cancellation of privileges and may result in expulsion from the College. In addition, such conduct may subject the offender to criminal prosecution.

7. Ambassador

The manner in which you conduct yourself, whether in person or electronically over the internet, is a reflection upon you and upon Five Towns College. As such, you are expected to conduct yourself in a manner consistent with your affiliation with the College. Any conduct which casts the College in a bad light, or which demeans the integrity of the College, its students, faculty or staff, or which subjects it to public criticism is strictly prohibited.

Violation of any of these guidelines is grounds for disciplinary actions.