

CAMPUS LIFE POLICIES - COMPUTER USE

Search 

COMPUTER USE

Upon matriculation each student is assigned a computer account, including e-mail, file storage, and webspace on the central computer system. This account may be used while the student is enrolled at Grinnell College. Suspended and dismissed students do not have access to the computer systems.

Each student is expected to be familiar with the "Academic Computer Use Policies" located on the ITS web page. The following policies have been extracted from this document.

HOME
ADVERTISING AND SIGNS
ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUGS
CARD SYSTEM
COMPUTER USE
CONTRACTS
DINING HALLS
ELECTRONIC DEVICES
FINANCIAL AID POLICIES
FORUM AND HARRIS POLICIES AND GUIDELINES
GUEST POLICY
HARASSMENT
HEALTH RECORDS AND POLICY
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS
KEYS
LIBRARY POLICIES
LOST, UNCLAIMED AND ABANDONED PROPERTY
PHOTO RELEASE
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES
ASSAULT SAFETY
SCHEDULING EVENTS
THE CONCEPT OF SELF-GOVERNANCE
SEXUAL MISCONDUCT
SMOKING
SOLICITORS
STUDENT FUND-RAISING PROJECTS
VEHICLES

ACCOUNT ACCESS

- 1. In general, no person may use, or attempt to use, any computer accounts other than his or her own assigned account. The negligence or naivete of another user in revealing an account name and password does not confer authorization to use the account.
- 2. In general, no account owner or manager may lend his or her accounts to another user.
- 3. A user should only access, or attempt to access, files in his or her own accounts, or files which have been made accessible to him or her, or files which have been made publicly accessible by the file owners.
- 4. Each account owner or manager is responsible for all computing activities involving that account, and is held liable for account misuse.
- 5. Any exception to the access policies stated above must be approved by the Director of Information Technology Services.

PROPER USE OF COMPUTING RESOURCES

- 1. Grinnell College's computing resources may not be used for any activity that is contradictory to the educational goals of the College.
- 2. Grinnell College's computing resources may not be used for any activity that violates the College's policies on academic honesty.
- 3. Grinnell College's computing resources may not be used for any activities that intimidate, threaten, or harass individuals, or that violate the College's policies concerning relationships between college constituencies. These activities include, but are not limited to, using computing resources to store, print, or send obscene or threatening messages.
- 4. Grinnell College's computing resources may not be used for profit-making or commercial purposes, unless special arrangements have been made with the College.
- 5. Grinnell College's computing resources may not be used for partisan political activities.
- 6. No person may possess or use programs that violate or hamper another person's computing resources. Examples include programs that attempt to control PCs, obtain another user's password, acquire another user's files, circumvent system security measures, crash the computer system, or actions that intentionally or unintentionally flood a person's electronic mail account with messages.
- 7. The use of private computer games, except as they relate to course work involving programming assignments, is not allowed on college owned computers.
- 8. Every user is expected to use the computing facilities in a manner that does not infringe upon use of those facilities by other people and that does not waste soft resources such as computer time and terminal time, or hard resources like paper, disk space, and documentation materials.

No person, organization, or group may send unsolicited, electronic mass mailings or otherwise transfer unsolicited materials to other users en masse unless they follow the policy "Distribute Information via E-mail Messaging" on the ITS website.

Use of Mathlan

The following policies of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science supplement Grinnell's Academic Computer Use Policies.

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Department of Computer Science set the policies presented in the section. They apply only to the Mathematics Local-Area Network (MathLAN). When MathLAN equipment is used to access outside equipment, either in the College or at other sites, then all ITS policies apply as well.

If you violate these policies, a MathLAN administrator can deactivate your account, and the College can take other disciplinary actions against you, as described in Section V.C of the College's Academic Computer Use Policies.

Passwords

In order to maintain the security of the MathLAN, we strongly recommend that students regularly change their passwords.

Priorities

We distinguish four categories of computer use. In descending priority, they are:

- 1. academic work for courses in mathematics, statistics, and computer science;
- 2. other scholarly work sponsored by faculty members in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Department of Computer Science.

- 3. academic work for courses in other departments and scholarly work sponsored by other faculty members; and
- 4. other appropriate uses consistent with the educational goals of the College.

When the demand for equipment in the laboratory or computer-equipped classroom exceeds what is available, users engaged in activities of lower priority must yield to those requiring the equipment for projects with higher priority.

When a class has reserved the laboratory or computer-equipped classroom, only members of that class are permitted to use the reserved room during class time. Students not in the class may, upon consultation with the faculty member running the class, receive permission to use the reserved room.

Shared Resources

Since MathLAN is a network, a user has the capability of running processes on several workstations at once. It is inappropriate for one user to interfere with the processing of others who may be running jobs of equal or higher priority. Similarly, it is inappropriate for a user to run jobs that generate so many messages over the network as to degrade processing for other users. It is also inappropriate to remote log-in or telnet to a laboratory workstation on which another member of the community is currently working.

The workstations on faculty desks are for the use of the faculty members. You may not run processes on a faculty workstation without permission from that faculty member or a MathLAN administrator.

Account Sharing

The Grinnell College Academic Computer Use Policies discuss sharing of accounts in sections III.A.1 and III.A.2:

- 1. No person may use, or attempt to use, any computer accounts other than his/her own assigned account. The negligence or naivete of another user in revealing an account name and password does not confer authorization to use the account.
- 2. An account owner may not lend his/her account(s) to another user.

We realize that you may need to share accounts when working together on a laboratory, and permit such use. However, that should be the limit of sharing. In particular, no student should use an account unless its owner is present.

Particular Applications

Interactive Communication Software - You may use interactive communication software on MathLAN computers, subject to the guidelines in Part III of the College's Academic Computer Use Policies. However, you may not run chat agents (bots) or set up a proxy server without the permission of the MathLAN administrator.

Games - According to the above policies, games running on MathLAN and played by individuals fall within priority 4, unless game programs are specifically assigned as part of a course or are part of a project under faculty sponsorship. Thus, you may play computer games on MathLAN provided that (1) others are not waiting for workstations for academic purposes, (2) the running of the game will not generate processes on machines used by others, and (3) the game does not significantly interfere with the message load over the network.

Since multiplayer games involving the internet utilize the all-campus router, such games are explicitly prohibited by ITS policy.

USE OF LICENSED SOFTWARE

- 1. No user is allowed to store or use private copies of licensed software, except that provided by ITS, on any Grinnell College computer system unless the user provides ITS with a copy of a license agreement allowing such possession.
- 2. Stolen or bootleg copies of software are not allowed on any Grinnell College computing system.
- 3. No user may copy, or attempt to copy, any proprietary or licensed software provided or installed by ITS. The college subscribes to the 1987 EDUCOM and ADAPSO guidelines on microcomputer software. A copy of those guidelines, "Using Software: A Guide to the Ethical and Legal Use of Software for Members of the Academic Community," is available for free at Information Technology Services and on the ITS web page.

OWNERSHIP OF SOFTWARE

All software programs and associated documentation developed using ITS computing facilities and/or stored on a college computing system is the property of Grinnell College. Any exception to this policy must be arranged with the Director of Information Technology Services.

VIOLATIONS OF COMPUTING POLICIES

The college may take disciplinary and/or legal action against any individual who violates computing policies. College disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, suspension of computer privileges.

Suspension of computer privileges at Grinnell College is defined as no usage on any college computer system, including, but not limited to, the Macintoshes, PCs, group accounts, NT and electronic mail, with the exception of the library resources in the Grinnell College libraries.

Exceptions to this sanction are considered by Judicial Council upon documentation from a faculty member addressing both of the following points:

- 1. Computer privilege is needed for a particular course in which the student is enrolled and the faculty member teaches. Details on the systems needed and time periods should be included.
- 2. Faculty supervision of the student exercising computer privileges is assured.

Style:	Academics	Admission	Alumni	Athletics	Calendar	Catalog	Comment	Directory	Library	Offices	Students	ITS
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