



Copyright Infringement & Compliance Policy

Hope International University (HIU) respects the rights of copyright owners and seeks to comply fully with U.S. Copyright Law.

As an institution of higher education, Hope International University values academic inquiry and desires to encourage intellectual creativity by providing broad access to academic information while promoting respect for the intellectual property of others.

U.S. Copyright Law contains many gray areas. This [Copyright LibGuide](#) provides HIU administrators, faculty, librarians, students, employees, and others with a standard approach for addressing complex copyright issues as they relate to the use of copyright protected works in the classroom, library and course management system at HIU. [The Copyright LibGuide](#) provides a summary of U.S. Copyright Law, information on Fair Use, the TEACH Act and other copyright related matters. Copyright compliance at HIU is a distributed responsibility and those wanting to use copyright protected works should consult the [Copyright LibGuide](#) for information on obtaining copyright permissions. Other HIU copyright and intellectual property policies may complement this policy by providing guidance on copyright issues beyond materials used in the classroom, library and course management systems.

This policy points to practical advice and procedures on copyright related matters; however, it is not a substitute for legal advice, and proper legal advice should be obtained when necessary.

Summary of 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 substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement. Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or “statutory” damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For “willful” infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys’ fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505. Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense. For more information, please see the website of the U.S. Copyright Office at www.copyright.gov.