



Aquinas College Compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) Peer-to-Peer File Sharing Requirements

H.R 4137, the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), is a reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. It includes provisions that are designed to reduce the illegal uploading and downloading of copyrighted works through peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing. These provisions include requirements that:

- Institutions make an annual disclosure that informs students that the illegal distribution of copyrighted materials may subject them to criminal and civil penalties and describes the steps that institutions will take to detect and punish illegal distribution of copyrighted materials.
- Institutions certify to the Secretary of Education that they have developed plans to “effectively combat” the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material.
- Institutions, “to the extent practicable,” offer alternatives to illegal file sharing.
- Institutions identify procedures for periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the plans to combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials.

Annual Disclosure

Consistent with our educational principles, we view education as the most important element in combating illegal sharing of copyrighted materials at Aquinas. We use a wide variety of methods to inform our community about the law:

- In order to use College computer resources, all members of the Aquinas Community agree to an [Acceptable Use Policy](#) that includes a section on copyright compliance.
- A posting will be published on The Moose (The Aquinas Online Student Union) during the first week of the fall semester.
- Posters are mounted in the main student computer lab and elsewhere to discourage illegal file sharing.

Plans to “Effectively Combat” the Unauthorized Distribution of Copyrighted Material

We currently use PacketShaper to prioritize network traffic and block P2P traffic.

As a member of the Aquinas Community, you have many resources to help protect your privacy, your personal computer, and your good standing at Aquinas.

Respect for copyright and intellectual property is an important aspect of academic integrity. Information about our [Integrity Statement and tutorials](#) are available online as part of The Grace Hauenstein Library's Website.

They also provide a [Copyright Website](#) where you can learn how to use other people's materials appropriately and a [Plagiarism site](#).

Alternatives to Illegal File Sharing

Educause maintains a [comprehensive list of Legal Downloading Resources](#). Members of the Aquinas community are encouraged to take advantage of these legitimate sources of digital content.

Reviewing Effectiveness

Compared to our peers, Aquinas receives remarkably few (averaging less than one per year) peer to peer file sharing takedown notices. We will continue to monitor these notices to watch for unexpected increases that would require additional measures. We will review this policy and make adjustments as needed.