

Computer Ethics Policy

The American College of Greece is committed to free and open inquiry and discussion, fair allocation of College resources, and the provision of a working environment free of needless disruption. To advance these goals, ACG has adopted policies on computer usage that are summarized here.

- American College of Greece computers and computer networks are to be used only by persons authorized by the College, and only for College purposes. College purposes include the educational programs of the College, as well as its research, administrative, and outreach activities. Use of College facilities for other purposes requires prior authorization.
- No one shall knowingly endanger the security of any College computer or network facility, nor willfully interfere with others' authorized computer usage.
- No one shall use the College's communication facilities to attempt unauthorized use, nor to interfere with others' legitimate use, of any computer or network facility anywhere.
- No one shall connect any computer to any of the College's networks unless it meets technical and security standards set by ACG's Information Resources Management administration.
- All users shall share computing resources in accordance with policies set for the computers involved, giving priority to more important work and cooperating fully with the other users of the same equipment.
- No one without specific authorization shall use any College computer or network facility for non-College business.
- No one shall give a computer password to an unauthorized person, nor obtain another person's computer password by any unauthorized means whatsoever. No one except the system administrator in charge of a computer is authorized to issue passwords for that computer.
- No one shall engage in, encourage, or conceal from authorities any "cracking," unauthorized tampering, or other unauthorized use or deliberate disruption of computers.
- No one without specific authorization shall read, alter, or delete any other person's computer files or electronic mail, even if the operating system of the computer permits them to do so.
- No one shall copy or use software or data in violation of copyright laws, license agreements, or the basic requirements of academic honesty.

- No one shall create, install, or knowingly distribute a computer virus, "Trojan horse," or other surreptitiously destructive program on any College computer or network facility, regardless of whether any demonstrable harm results.
- No one without proper authorization shall modify or reconfigure the software or hardware of any College computer or network facility.
- Users shall not place confidential data into computers without protecting it appropriately. The College cannot guarantee the privacy or authenticity of computer files or electronic communications unless special arrangements are made.
- Users shall take full responsibility for messages that they transmit through the College's computers and network facilities and shall obey the policies of discussion forums in which they participate. Laws and rules against fraud, harassment, obscenity, and the like apply to electronic communications no less than other media.
- Those who publish World Wide Web pages or similar information resources on College computers shall take full responsibility for what they publish; shall respect the acceptable-use conditions for the computer on which the material resides; shall obey all applicable laws; and shall not publish commercial advertisements without prior authorization. References and links to commercial sites are permitted, but advertisements, and especially paid advertisements, are not. Users shall not accept payments, discounts, free merchandise or services, or any other remuneration in return for placing anything on their web pages or similar facilities.
- Users shall comply with the regulations and policies of newsgroups, mailing lists, and other public forums through which they disseminate messages.
- Those who administer computers and network facilities shall perform their duties fairly, in accordance with College policies, and shall refer all disciplinary matters to appropriate authorities through the VP for Information Resources Management.
- Electronic mail (e-mail) is intended for communication between individuals and clearly identified groups of interested individuals, not for mass broadcasting. No one without prior authorization shall use the College's facilities to distribute the same or substantially the same e-mail message to more than one person without prior evidence that they wish to receive it, nor to distribute chain letters (messages asking the recipient to distribute copies further). The American College of Greece reserves the right to discard incoming mass mailings ("spam") without notifying the sender or intended recipient. For its own protection, the College reserves the right to block all Internet communications from sites that are involved in extensive spamming or other disruptive practices, even though this may leave College Computer users unable to communicate with those sites.

(*) The original source of this document was developed by The University of Georgia and academic institutions are encouraged to adapt it to their own needs.