

Excerpted from Laws, Policies, Practices and Procedures

7. Intellectual Property Issues

As an academic community of scholars, Simmons College adheres to the belief that intellectual property rights must be respected and honored. Under Simmons's policies, we aim to ensure the fair and appropriate use of copyrighted materials. This is both a legal and an ethical obligation that all members of the Simmons community should observe.

Simmons College has policies to govern intellectual property issues and faculty members should be familiar with each.

- Simmons College Intellectual Property Policy

The Intellectual Property Policy provides both a framework for understanding ownership of intellectual property rights, as well as the guiding principles used by the College Intellectual Property Committee to evaluate ownership issues that may arise. It also highlights how to seek review and the procedure for review by this Committee. The Policy covers traditional works, works involving minimal College resources, works involving exceptional use of College resources, directed works, sponsored or externally contracted works, works created by staff employees considered works made for hire, works by independent contractors, and student works.

For details, including definitions of these works, please see:

<http://simmons.edu/offices/counsel/ipo.php>

- Simmons College Invention and Patents Policy

The Invention and Patents Policy applies to all members of the Faculty and staff, as well as students performing work on a contract which the College or a member of its faculty or staff has with a governmental agency or non-governmental sponsor. The Inventions and Patents policy outlines the rights of these groups with respect to their inventions and what rights belong to the College. Any member of the faculty, staff, or students (as outlined above) who conceives of an invention involving more than incidental use of College resources must report it to the Simmons College Fund for Research Committee, which will determine the College's interest in the invention.

For the full policy, including a definition of "incidental use," please see:

<http://simmons.edu/policies/index/docs/inventionandpatentsd.pdf>

- Simmons College Copyright Policy

The Copyright Policy outlines the requirements of copyright law and is intended to assist the Simmons community in their use of materials for teaching and research that others have produced. Copyright protection also extends to reproducing media, music, or other copyrighted material through peer-to-peer filesharing networks, without permission of the copyright holder. The policy also outlines exceptions that apply to academic uses of copyrighted works, which include (1) fair use, (2) the Face-to-Face Classroom Teaching Exception; and (3) the TEACH act.

For the full Policy, including detailed information on these exceptions, please see:

<http://simmons.edu/policies/index/docs/copyright.pdf>

- Simmons College File Sharing Policy

The File Sharing Policy seeks to educate the Simmons Community about permissible and impermissible uses of file sharing in accordance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. This federal law contains provisions to reduce illegal peer-to-peer file sharing. The Policy expressly prohibits the illegal uploading and downloading of copyrighted works, and defines illegal use.

For the full File Sharing Policy, please see:

<http://www.simmons.edu/technology/full-file-sharing-policy.php>

- Simmons College Acceptable Computer and Network Use Policy

The Acceptable Computer and Network Use Policy governs the use and expectations for all users of Simmons College computer and network resources. The Policy defines Simmons's technology resources as intended for educational, scholarly, and College business uses. Prohibited uses and consequences for prohibited use are also outlined in this Policy.

For the full Acceptable Computer and Network Use Policy, please see:

<http://www.simmons.edu/technology/full-acceptable-use-policy.php>