

Information Technology (IT) Acceptable Use Policy for Faculty, Staff and Students

It is the policy of the College that faculty, staff and students shall use technology within the scope of duties and academic work assigned and all applicable state and federal laws. The transmission of pornographic information across the internet is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and Tennessee State Law and is strictly prohibited. Additionally, no member of the College community may, under any circumstance, use Lane College computers or networks to libel, slander, bully, or harass any other person.

Information technology (IT) has the ability to distribute and examine a vast array of material with unprecedented speed. One requirement however, remains constant: all information technology use must fully respect the rights of the college and IT community members. This Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is designed to guide faculty, staff and students in the acceptable use of network and information systems provided by Lane College. More importantly, it is meant as an application of principles of respect using Lane College computer resources, other computer users, and for the medium itself.

The Lane College community is encouraged to make innovative and creative use of information technologies in support of education and research. Consistent with other college policies, this policy is intended to respect the rights and obligations of academic freedom as well as to protect the resources of the college.

The campus network is an open network and therefore cannot protect individuals against the existence or receipt of material that may be offensive to them. Those who make use of electronic communications are warned that they may come across or be recipients of material they find offensive. Those who use email and/or make information about themselves available on the Internet should be forewarned that the college cannot protect them from invasions of privacy and other possible dangers that could result from the distribution of personal information. IT and network facilities of the college are finite and limited. These facilities should be used wisely and carefully with consideration for the needs of others. When used appropriately, these tools can enhance dialog and communications. When used inappropriately or unlawfully, these tools can infringe on the rights of others. Current use of IT parallels familiar activities in other media and formats and existing college policies already provide guidance. Using electronic media in the place of standard written correspondence, for example, does not fundamentally alter the nature of the communication, nor will it alter the guiding policies. College policies, which already apply to freedom of expression, privacy and related matters, apply to electronic expression as well. This IT Acceptable Use Policy addresses circumstances, which are new or at least unfamiliar in the IT arena and augments rather than replaces other applicable college policies.