Use of Copyrighted Works, 3.05

Chapter 3: Academic

Responsible Office: Academics
Applies to: Faculty, Staff, and Students
BOT Approved: 11/18/2025

Policy:

Violation of copyright law is strictly prohibited. Works protected by copyright may not be copied, displayed, performed, distributed, or modified unless explicit permission is granted by the owner(s) or a legal exception applies.

Guidelines:

I. Definitions: N/A

II. Copyright Act of 1976

Copyright is the legal protection granted under the Copyright Act of 1976 that gives creators exclusive rights to their original works. These rights include the ability to copy, display, perform, distribute, and modify the work. Any use of a copyrighted work without the owner's permission—or without a legal exception—is a violation of copyright law.

III. Responsibilities

The linked procedures are provided to educate and inform faculty, staff and students about the copyright law, the Fair Use Guidelines, the four factors used to determine fair use, and provide other information which is relevant to comply with this law. Faculty, staff and students who willfully disregard the copyright law do so at their own risk and assume all liability.

IV. Violations

Violations of this policy may lead to sanctions through the applicable College disciplinary process. Violators may also be subject to legal sanctions including federal prosecution and private lawsuits.

References:

The U.S. Copyright Office http://lcweb.loc.gov/copyright/

Related Policies or Procedures:

4.01 Student Code of Conduct

5.5 Disciplinary Action and Due Process

History:

	Date:	Reason:
Issued:	01/20/04	Original policy was reviewed and approved by Board of Trustees
Revised:	11/18/2025	

This policy and / or procedure provides operating principles for Human Resources issues at Rhodes State College. It supersedes any prior policy covering specific subject. This policy and/or procedure may be suspended, modified or cancelled as determined by the College. This policy and/or procedure does not create a contract of employment, nor is it a condition of employment between the College and its employees.